

21 July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Outwood Academy Bydales

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End of Term Newsletter – Summer 2017

What a term! I write to thank you as ever for your continued support of our academy and learning environment over the last academic year. I have no doubt that with parents, staff and students working together so closely, we have managed to further raise expectations of what our talented young people can achieve. It is a privilege to lead the academy; it is such a supportive and friendly community, where everyone is committed to working together for the benefit of all. Our vision to simply 'work hard' and 'be nice to people' resonates around the building, and visitors always comment on the studious atmosphere in the academy. We continue to develop both academic and personal skills, aiming to build resilience, confidence, dedication and willingness to support others in our young people. We hope students can learn from their occasional mistakes, and ensure that they have the ability to become fantastic co-workers in the future. We continue to build on the values and work ethic that you have instilled in your sons and daughters, and together improvements continue at a pace at Outwood Academy Bydales. I am sure you will agree our staff are incredibly passionate about putting 'Students First' through good teaching, coupled with willingness to give time and support outside the classroom, both academically and across other Enrichment activities. I have appreciated you writing to me with thanks to individual members of staff, particularly parents of Year 11 leavers, and it has been particularly moving when passing on your kind words. Thank you too for your support of our high standards. It is working, and in one academy year we have seen a 10% increase in the number of students joining the academy, including a 50% increase in the size of the Year 7 coming in September!

I mention a few of our most recent events below.

Year 8 Outward Bound Graduation Residential

Students from Year 8 celebrated the end of their academic year, and the move onto their GCSE courses, over the weekend of 30 June - 2 July 2016. Their Outward Bound Residential took place at Dukeswood House Activity Centre in Hexham, and involved students challenging themselves with a huge range of activities, overcoming fears and working in teams to encourage each other to push themselves to new limits. A number of staff, myself included, also overcame some fears of heights and high speeds, particularly in the 3G swing! It was a genuine team effort all weekend, students and adults alike. Each year students are rewarded for consistently good effort grades throughout Year 8, proving they have the right commitment and attitude towards their studies, and are indeed ready to move into Year 9 and begin their formal GCSE qualifications. Well done all on your exemplary attitude and approach, and of course to numerous support staff and teaching colleagues who gave up their time over the weekend to make the experience so memorable. You can read more about the Residential and see photos via our website news item here: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/blog/news/2020>

Year 8 Graduation Ceremonies

Fantastic Graduation ceremonies for Year 8 took place on the 28 and 29 June. The events saw family, friends and younger peers from local primary schools celebrating with our committed, hard-working students who have proven they are ready to start their GCSE studies. It was a fantastic atmosphere, and students enjoyed the opportunity to wear gowns and mortar boards. They also concentrated hard walking across the stage, shaking hands, maintaining eye contact and not tripping! Student Voice Hospitality Committee students were on hand to serve cakes and drinks; fantastic art and 3D work was on display from a talented Year 8, and many musical numbers were also performed by students, including the full year group on stage and on percussion! Thank you to everyone who made the occasions such a success. Photos are more detail are here for both days: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/blog/news/2016> and <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/blog/news/2018>

Year 11 Leavers' Assembly Breakfast

It was a wonderful occasion on Monday 19 June when we welcomed our incredible Year 11 back to school, to celebrate with a special Leavers' Assembly and Leavers' Breakfast. Despite the blistering heat, 147 students, 95% of the year group, made the effort to come in at 9.30am to say goodbye to their classmates, teachers and support staff. Mr Burton, Learning Manager and his team worked hard to make the occasion so special. Students watched presentations of 'good luck' messages from staff, alongside Mr Burton's painstaking (and painful!) video of photos of students as they have moved through their five years with us! A full English breakfast was served to all students, at round tables in the main hall, as a thank you from us all for their inspirational dedication to their studies, and their support and contribution to the school community, for the benefit of younger students. They will be a tough act to follow, but their obvious commitment to working hard, has pervaded the academy. Teachers and support staff were able to join students over both the break/VMG periods, to sign shirts and leavers' books, and also to share both good luck and thank you cards with each other. There is a news item and photos here: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/blog/news/1993>

Year 11 Leavers' Prom

We had a fantastic evening with Year 11 on the 22 June, celebrating the end of their studies at Outwood Academy Bydales, as they move onto post-16 education. There was a huge turnout of students, reflecting their similar commitment to all the support opportunities offered during an extremely busy year, where on average 150 (97% of the year) attended 7.30am revision breakfast sessions ahead of morning GCSE sessions. Everyone looked absolutely stunning as they arrived in all manner of different vehicles, and a special mention goes to Beth Gumsley-Wright who arrived by motorcycle and leathers, and then morphed into her prom dress in front of a stunned audience of parents, students, families and staff! Special awards were revealed, and in a moving ceremony, Charlie Amos received 'Georgina's Star for Strength', for his resilience in overcoming considerable adversity. For more about the event and photos visit: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/blog/news/1995>

Year 7/8 Drama Club Performance

Parents and families of our talented Year 7 and 8 students were entertained on the evening of Wednesday 28 June, during our first ever Drama Club performance. The group meets each week on a Monday for an Enrichment Session 2.30pm-3.30pm supported by Miss Thompson. Students were inspired by a single piece of music, 'Time' by Hans Zimmer from the film 'Inception' and came up with the range of performances seen below, involving, dance, movement, mime, still image and more. Brilliant to see confidence, independence, teamwork being developed so well! Have a look here: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/blog/news/2017>

Year 6 > Year 7 Transition Weeks

Students from Year 6 joined us on their Transition weeks from the 17 July, and are settling into Academy life. They have been welcomed into their new VMGs by their peers from all year groups, and have been helped navigating the school site. With the timetable moving up for all Years, we have aimed to ensure that our new students already feel like they have moved into Year 7. They have been busily meeting their new subject teachers, starting new exercise books and getting to grips with our KS3 Curriculum. It was a pleasure to meet Year 6 parents and students at the Transition Evening held on Monday 17 July and give a flavour of the most recent weeks in the school, and answer remaining questions and queries. We have a dedicated page on our website for Transition here: www.bydales.outwood.com/transition This contains useful dates, information, letters and information already shared, and answers to 'Frequently Asked Questions' in the past. There is also a contact form if parents have any additional questions.

Year 9 and Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expeditions

Congratulations to all the students from Year 9 and Year 10 who have completed their two day Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expeditions over the weekends of 8-19 and 15-16 July, traversing the North York Moors. Both weekends were challenging, and took determination and teamwork, especially during the rain and boiling sunshine! Campsites were picturesque and the insect bites and blisters didn't prove too big a hurdle! Conduct and camaraderie were fantastic as ever, and a huge thank you to staff at Guisborough Youth Club who organized and ran both events, and did all the preparation beforehand. We hope to have many Silver, and then Gold students in future years! You can read more here: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/blog/news/2064> and also here: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/blog/news/2040>

Year 10>11 Employer 'Mock' Interviews Day - Wednesday 12 July

We were delighted today to welcome 20 local employers to Outwood Academy Bydales, for our Year 10 (now Year 11!) 'Mock' Interview Day. Students have, over the last few weeks, formally applied for theoretical positions and jobs within a range of sectors. They have then prepared hard, anticipating questions and thinking about how they will be able to sell their strengths, and show they have researched well. The event was about being interviewed, and receiving feedback on how they came across, as well as tips for the future. We are committed to giving students at least four opportunities to engage with employers, to become inspired for future career paths, understand the demands and skills needed in the workplace, and what routes/qualifications are needed after school. We have launched this year, with the support of the national Careers & Enterprise Fund, our 'Future Generation' project now working with over 100 employers in our academies. You can read more about the event and the project here: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/blog/news/2055>

Uniform for new Year 7 students and Trutex Uniform Event

All Year 6 have been measured, and sizes shared with parents. Their free uniform will be available for collection between 10am – 3pm on Thursday 17 August. Year 6 students will be issued with these Outwood items: a blazer, a tie, one pair of trousers or skirt, two white shirts, a PE polo shirt, a PE rugby shirt, PE shorts and PE socks. Please remember that all replacement/spare items purchased over the summer or in the future must be the Outwood versions. These are available online via www.trutexdirect.com using the code LEA00658SC. Items can also be purchased, at a slightly higher price, at Bambini of Guisborough. There is more information about uniform on our website here: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/uniform>

Uniform Reminders (Miscellaneous)

Students are required to wear black shoes that can be polished, rather than boots or canvas/suede shoes. Socks must be plain black. Hair bands/bobbles must be plain black or purple, and should not be worn on wrists when not in use. All students must have a suitable bag to carry books. Any coat worn must be large enough to go over the blazer. Hoodies are not allowed. For PE, students will require trainers without dark soles, and football boots.

Term Dates 2017-2018

These have already been issued to parents but are available on our website here: www.bydales.outwood.com/term-dates Term starts for all students on Tuesday 5 September 2017 promptly at 8.20am for a lesson start of 8.25am. Students should bring their PE kit, in case any timetable changes have been made over the summer. Please do not book holidays during term-time. Attendance at the Academy has never been higher, and the amount of time students spend in school and in lessons contributes hugely to the academic success our young people achieve. There is no 'slack time' and Praising Stars assessments, preparation and indeed GCSE coursework and exams/mocks occur throughout the academic year. I am very grateful to the support we receive from parents in this regard, and for the record 96.6% attendance, up from 95.1% last year.

I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, and enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Wappat
Principal