

July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Summer 2019 Newsletter

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 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.

Uniform Reminders

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that students are required to wear black shoes that can be **polished**, rather than boots or canvas/suede shoes. Socks must be plain black. No jewelry. Hair bands/bobbles must be **plain black or purple**, and should not be worn on wrists when not in use and skirts should be a modest length. 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 permitted.** For PE, students will require trainers without dark soles, and football boots.

Uniform for new Year 7 students and Trutex Uniform Event

Year 6 will be measured in school during transition week, and sizes will be shared with parents. Their free uniform will be available for collection between 10am – 3pm on Tuesday 13 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 Log in/register using the school code LEA00658. 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>

Academy Hardship Policy

Enclosed with this letter is the Academy Hardship Policy, The Hardship Fund is a discretionary source of financial help available to all registered full time Academy students. The aim of the Fund is to help students who have difficulties in paying for:

1. Curriculum trips, visits and year group residential (up to 100% of the cost)
2. Uniform, shoes or sports kit
3. Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies
4. Expenses to attend seminars, interviews or work experience placements
5. Emergency travel expense

The Academy will consider requests for hardship funding from the following groups of students:

- students living alone outside the family home
- students in receipt of free school meals
- students in families with very low incomes
- students with disabilities
- students who are or have been in care/foster care
- students who have been subject to other exceptional circumstances

Your Children may be eligible for grants from our hardship fund if:

- a household income of below £25,000
- a student whose parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/ Child Tax Credit, Income Based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal Credit, who is not entitled to free school meals
- at the decision of the Principal, any student who does not fall under the categories listed above, but consider themselves to be in financial hardship

All applications should be made through the Principal, using the forms in the policy, anyone wishing to apply in regards to uniform must do so before the end of term to enable processing for the new academic year. A copy of the hardship policy is attached.

We have also enclosed a letter from Robertson Facilities Management regarding the increase in meal costs from September 2019. Alongside this we have included a copy of the letter regarding eligibility for free school meals

Term Dates 2019-2020

These have already been shared earlier in the year via social media, but are always on our website here: www.bydales.outwood.com/term-dates Term starts for all students on Wednesday 5 September 2019 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.

We have had much cause to celebrate recently, I mention a few of our most recent events below.

Year 8 Graduation Ceremonies

Fantastic Graduation ceremonies for Year 8 took place on the 1 and 2 July. 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 donuts and drinks; fantastic art and 3D work was on display from a talented Year 8, and a musical RAP written by the students was also performed. Thank you to everyone who made the occasions such a success.

Year 8 Outward Bound Graduation Residential

Students from Year 8 celebrated their move onto GCSE courses, on an outward bound residential at Dukeswood House Activity Centre in Hexham from 3 - 5 July. Students rightly challenged 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 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.

Year 11 Leavers' Assembly Breakfast

It was a wonderful occasion on Thursday 20 June when we welcomed our incredible Year 11 back to school, to celebrate with a special Leavers' Assembly and Leavers' Breakfast. Despite the lovely weather, the majority 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 Mr Burton's painstaking (and painful!) presentations 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.

Year 11 Leavers' Prom

We had a fantastic evening with Year 11 on the 21 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 92% 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 in front of a stunned audience of parents, students, families and staff! Special awards were revealed, and in a moving ceremony, Nathan Dales received 'Georgina's Star for Strength', for his resilience in overcoming considerable adversity.

Year 7/8 Drama Club Performance

Our Y8 students and families were treated to performances by our Y7 and 8 Drama club during our Pathways Evening on Thursday 20th December. Our students performed pieces of work inspired by Physical Theatre company 'Frantic Assembly', composed during their Monday enrichment sessions 2.30-3.30pm. The performances showcased the student's abilities to portray complex emotions through movement alone, to tracks by Twenty One Pilots and Ed Sheeran, to delighted audiences and parents. The students involved did themselves and Miss Bishop proud!

Y9 Assessed Performance Evening

Our Y9 BTEC Performing Arts Students, as part of their formal internal assessment for their course, showcased fantastic performances to an invited audience of friends and family on Monday 24th June. Groups performed various extracts from scripts by John Godber and Willy Russell, to assess their understanding and application of specific performance techniques. The students had also rehearsed in front of Key Stage 3 and 4 students during the day and worked incredibly hard throughout the rehearsal process. Their performances spoke for themselves, with many parents commenting on how wonderful the work created was. Some very proud parents and an even prouder Miss Bishop, Mrs Smith and Mrs Trenholm. Thank you to all students and parents for their support with this wonderful evening.

Year 9 and Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expeditions

Many congratulations to the students from Year 9 and 10 who have recently completed the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions. Our groups were lucky with the weather conditions this year and enjoyed their time walking and camping on the North Yorkshire Moors. Once again students worked well in their teams to overcome any hurdles they encountered, showing great camaraderie and determination. A massive thank you to all staff involved at Guisborough Youth Centre who organised and ran all the training sessions and expeditions. Mrs Waites will be launching the Award to the new Year 9 on our return in September.

Year 10>11 Employer 'Mock' Interviews Day - Wednesday 19 June

We were delighted to welcome 25 local employers to Outwood Academy Bydales on Wednesday 19 June for our annual Year 10 (now Year 11!) Mock Interview Day. Students completed employability and interview preparation lessons throughout the day prior to having their 'mock' interview with a real life employer. The feedback from employers about our students was fantastic and many students said they now felt more confident and prepared for attending any future interviews. Well done Year 10!

Year 10 students have also had the exciting opportunity to attend local college twilight taster days for an insight into College life. Students pre selected courses they wished to 'taste' at Middlesbrough College, Prior Pursglove College and Redcar and Cleveland College. Students met course tutors and took part in session which will support them with their Post 16 decision making and future planning.

Year 9 Careers -work place visits

This term, many of our Year 9 students have added a practical element to their learning by visiting work places which has allowed them to put their knowledge into practice and learn about future career opportunities and routes into these within their subject sector. Engineering visited Tees Components in Skelton and Middlesbrough College's STEM Centre. Art visited Northern School of Art's highly impressive end of year Summer Show. Enterprise and Marketing visited Middlesbrough Football Club and ASDA Logistics, Hospitality visited Gisborough Hall and Sport visited David Lloyd Leisure. These visits were all so successful and students thoroughly enjoyed themselves, we look forward to planning similar ones for the next academic year!

Year 10 GCSE Art and Design exhibition Wednesday 10 July

To celebrate the completion of their GCSE Art course, students and families were invited to view the students work exhibited alongside some drinks and nibbles, it was fantastic to see such a range of inspiring talent,

Year 6 > Year 7 Transition Weeks

We are excited for Year 6 to be joining us for their Transition week from the 15 July, so they can see what academy life is all about. They will be welcomed into their new VMGs by their peers from all year groups, and will be 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 will be busy meeting their new subject teachers, starting new exercise books and getting to grips with our KS3 Curriculum. We look forward to meeting Year 6 parents and students at the Transition Evening on Monday 15 July.

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

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice
Associate Principal