



BYDALES SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

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17 July 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Term Newsletter – Changes to Bydales School from September 2014

I wanted to write to you all following my start at Bydales School for two reasons. Firstly to thank you for your obvious support with regard to the changes we are already implementing to accelerate improvements at the school, following on the excellent work of Mrs James, interim headteacher. Secondly I wanted to give specific information that will hopefully be useful. Many thanks to those of you who have phoned in with questions, as it has helped me construct this newsletter.

End of Summer Term

Term ends for students at 1.30pm on Friday 18 July 2014. This ensures that all students are able to have their lunch. In future, each school term will end at the new school finish time of 2.30pm.

Term Dates 2014-2015

Please find attached a list of the term dates for Outwood Academy Bydales from September 2014, including the PD days when the school is closed to students. Term starts on Tuesday 2 September at 8.20am for a lesson start of 8.25am. Students should bring their PE kit

School Day

We continue to liaise with bus companies to ensure that services are adjusted to accommodate our proposed new school day from Tuesday 2 September 2014. Students should enter the school grounds before 8.20am or will be deemed late. There is no tutor period at the start of the school day; students are registered in each lesson, and start Period 1 at 8.25am promptly.

Period 1	8.25 – 9.25 am
Period 2	9.25 – 10.25 am
Tutor VMG/Assembly	10.25 – 10.45 am
Period 3	11.00 – 12.00 pm
Period 4/Lunch*	12.00 – 1.30 pm
Period 5	1.30 – 2.30pm
Optional Enrichment	2.30 – 3.30pm

Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes for students will be 30 minutes long, but in a staggered way so that queuing for food is kept to a minimum and to allow all students to sit and eat with their friends without rushing. Due to the reduced length of lunchtimes and to fully exercise our duty of care to all students, students will no longer be able to leave the site to eat lunch at home. I will write individually over the summer to the small handful of families affected by this change.

Year 9 & Year 10	12.00 – 12.30 pm
Year 7	12.30 – 1.00 pm
Year 8 & Year 11	1.00 – 1.30pm



Litter and Junk Food

Students have responded well to seeing staff modelling the placing of any found litter in bins, and have happily helped in keeping the site clear of packaging rubbish. It is our expectation that all members of the school community place any litter they see in bins. I am liaising with our site team regarding suitable lids for the existing designer bins that appear to allow the wind and birds to remove rubbish. In September I will write to parents regarding my intention to ban unhealthy food on site, such as crisps, energy drinks and chocolate bars that are contributing to unnecessary litter and poor nutrition in a small minority of students.

School Uniform for current students

All students will receive a free uniform this year, but due to my late start at Bydales some of this is not ready for September, due to supplier capacity. We have chosen to issue the new uniform to students in one bundle, rather than as and when each piece arrives.

All students will ultimately be issued with these Outwood items: a blazer, a tie, one pair of trousers or skirt (girls can decide which), 2 white shirts, PE polo shirt, PE rugby shirt, PE shorts, PE tracksuit bottoms, PE socks.

Year 7 joining Bydales in September will be provided with a full uniform ready for the first day back. The collection date is 27 August 2014 10am – 3pm. Students were measured at Bydales on Friday 11 July and students at John Batty Primary on a trip were measured at their school later that day. If your child was not measured when in Year 6, please contact Donna Brown on 01642 474000.

Years 8 - 11 (current students) will be provided with a full uniform in October. They will be expected to attend school from September in their existing Bydales uniform, but will be issued with a new Outwood tie in the first week back. **Any replacement trousers, shirts and skirts purchased over the summer or in September should be the new Outwood versions, in anticipation of the new uniform being adhered to from October.** The website is www.trutexdirect.com and the LEA code is LEA00658SC. It is only for use where parents of existing students need to urgently order spare Outwood shirts, trousers and skirts. New Year 7 parents can order any spare item. You register with this code (or school name) and your email address.

Uniform (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. 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.

Lockers

Students wishing to have a locker should bring a small padlock and manage their own key. Student locker use is in continued decline, and I am considering where the space they take up might be better suited to, for example, additional ICT suites or 1:1 tuition rooms.

Student Timetables

Many thanks to Year 8 parents and students who have been so supportive regarding the changes we are making to our Curriculum from September. In particular, the response at the short-notice Options Evening and return of forms by the deadline was very much appreciated. Students will be issued with timetables on the first day back, so should bring in their PE kit unless they happen to have that lesson on Tuesday 2 September. Student planners should arrive for the same day.

Bydales Social Media

I have been delighted by the response of parents to our newly launched social media sites. I have always found such devices a vital way to share information quickly, celebrate student and staff successes and promote events happening in school, the local community and with post-16 providers.

We will of course continue to send letters home too. Our current website is being updated at www.bydales-tc.org.uk and this will convert in the autumn to www.bydales.outwood.com We have a Facebook page called 'Outwood Academy Bydales' and our Twitter feed is @OutwoodBydales Please have a look if you are able. I wish you and your family well for the summer, and look forward to working with you closely from September.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Wappat
Acting Principal

