

15 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Christmas 2021 Newsletter

I write at the end of another busy term for students and staff, which was rounded off with a fantastic number of fundraising events organised by Student Voice, Business students, and Tutor groups to support a number of local and national charities.

Students took part in the national 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper day, bake sales for Cancer Research, and the Christmas Hamper collection for our local food bank. I would like to thank you for your support and encouragement to your sons and daughters, as we aim to provide numerous opportunities for them to value the importance of volunteering, charity and community. They are always brilliant at rising to the challenge!

Once again both students and staff have demonstrated their resilience and dedication to learning throughout the challenges we have, again, faced this past term. It continues to be 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.

At the end of the year, in preparation for a successful start in January I have a lot of information to share with you to ensure everyone is well informed, and help reduce any anxieties.

End of Term/Start of Term

The winter term ends for students at 2.30pm on Wednesday 15 December 2021. There will be a staggered start to the spring term on Tuesday 4 January, due to the government expectations regarding the testing programme. You will receive detailed information regarding the testing schedule from Mrs House, Business Manager, via text and email this week.

For all our term dates, please see our website here:

<https://www.bydales.outwood.com/term-dates-and-closures>

As always I would like to provide reassurance that our priority will continue to be the safety of everyone. We will continue to adapt and change to ensure we adhere to the guidelines issued by the government. Our latest risk assessment can be found here:

<https://www.bydales.outwood.com/covid-19>

COVID-19

In line with guidance we are asking all visitors to the academy to take a LFT test prior to visiting the academy. It is our expectation that when we return in January we will return without any further changes to our current COVID arrangements and procedures. If expectations change over the Christmas period I will contact you to inform you of any changes.

SEND (Special Educational Needs)

Mrs Shaw, the SENDCo at the academy has held two parents evenings to meet parents / carers of students with SEND, to discuss progress and support. We hope that the parents who attended found

it useful. Further meetings will take place next term. Mrs Shaw looks forward to meeting and working with many parents / carers when we return next term.

Uniform

Standards and expectations, as I know you would expect, remain high. Students are expected to be in full academy uniform. The vast majority of our students continue to wear our uniform with pride. Please refer to the uniform policy on the website to ensure your child is in the appropriate uniform. Full uniform information can be found here:

[Uniform - Outwood Academy Bydales](#)

Travelling to and from the academy

Thank you for respecting my wishes to park in the designated parking bays on the school site, rather than on double yellow lines or elsewhere, and taking care when pulling out after collecting your children. Please do park to collect students, rather than pulling out into the queue and then stopping suddenly to pick up children, which is then causing frustration to other drivers.

Please do not park:

- on Churchill Drive, which is no-entry, except for resident access, as this makes the crossing which we already staff, even more unsafe where drivers use the road as an illegal cut through.
- on the private path/cycleway opposite the school, is also unsafe and creates unnecessary frustration for residents as their lawns get damaged.

Your support with the above also helps in maintaining positive community relations.

I would also ask for your support with using the turning circle only if you are accessing disabled parking. We have a significant number of students who have to cross at this point and reducing the traffic helps to make it much safer for our students.

We encourage students to walk or cycle to school wherever possible. If your child is cycling to the academy we expect them to **wear a helmet** to ensure they are safe. Students are advised to wear appropriate reflective clothing and bike lights when visibility is poor. Please support us with these safety expectations. All students have received information regarding cycling expectations from Mr Middleton, including information on making sure they have a cycle permit. All students cycling **MUST** have a permit. This was followed with a tutor time project to celebrate road safety week. Parents / carers are advised to take out their own appropriate insurance cover as the academy's insurance does not cover loss or damage to bicycles, including when stored at the academy.

We have changed our end of day dismissal to allow for a staggered exit out of school. Our cyclists are also held back until 2.35pm to allow pedestrians to leave the site first, which has had an impact on safety around Churchill Drive. We have two members of staff on duty on Churchill Drive which has helped with students safely crossing the road on a busy crossing. Residents have recently contacted the school to praise our students' conduct.

If your child travels by public transport please make sure you advise your child of any government expectations, check relevant travel websites.

Positive community relationships are very important to the academy, our students are representing the academy when they are travelling to and from the academy, we have the same high expectations for students when travelling. We expect students to mind their manners and be polite, giving consideration to others, this includes not crowding the pavement restricting the movement of others, appropriate language and volume of conversation. The vast majority of our students demonstrate considerate behaviour at all times and we are very proud of them. All students must

use the crossing to cross the main road and not just cross the busy Coast Road for obvious safety reasons.

No Aerosols

Just a reminder, that absolutely no aerosols (including deodorant and body sprays) are allowed onto the academy site. The carrying and use of aerosols is strictly forbidden, and would result in a C4 at least, and a C5 day in Consequences for repeat offenders. Students who wish to use a deodorant should purchase and use a roll-on variety, for use following a PE lesson or Enrichment sessions for example. This is because we have a number of students with severe asthma who are so allergic to the additives in aerosol sprays that entering a room sometime afterwards, where aerosols have been used, leads to hospitalization. Students have been excellent over the years at understanding this.

Hardship Policy

I would remind everyone about the Academy Hardship Policy. This 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:

- Curriculum trips, visits and year group residential;
- Uniform, shoes or sports kit;
- Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies;
- Expenses to attend seminars, interviews or work experience placements;
- Emergency travel expenses.

Words for the World Competition

To coincide with the European Day of Languages and the UN Climate Change Conference, the MFL department launched a Words for the World competition, inviting students to use their words to show how the world can be a better place.

Climate Control Summit

In September a group of students represented Outwood Academy Bydales at the University of Reading. They undertook important discussions about climate change in education and contributed to the University's virtual Climate Summit. The summit brought together colleagues and schools from all over the world. Our students showed a great level of maturity contributing in a national debate. It was a pleasure to see students from the academy show such enthusiasm, passion and care for our planet.

Duke of Edinburgh

Mrs Waites is pleased with our numbers for the Duke of Edinburgh; we have approximately 80 Year 10 students who are about to complete their Bronze Award. We are beginning the Y9 training and have another 80 students who have applied to take part this year.

Community Engagement

Earlier this month, we supported the Marske Community Partnership with the Christmas Festival. Our students in the choir sang in the evening and we also provided additional car parking, as well as our art department creating banners for the evening.

Careers Fair

In November, we hosted our annual Careers Fair. The event proved to be incredibly successful as we had a wide range of colleges, employers and training providers sign up to provide advice and guidance to our students. It was great to see plenty of students and their parents come along to engage with the exhibitors and gain valuable information to help with their future aspirations.

The Enrichment Programme

Although formal lessons end at 2.30pm, the Academy day does not. Students are able to choose

from a fantastic range of after-school Enrichment activities and clubs led by staff volunteers. The programme includes academic and non-academic subjects and sessions typically run between 2.30 and 3.30pm. In the Autumn term we were able to deliver over 30 enrichment sessions each week, with students able to join in with activities tailored to their Year Groups and areas of study or interest.

I would just like to share with you some of the beautiful work created by the English Explorers poetry group, ran by Mrs Hunter and Mrs Cole

White is:
As innocent as concealing snow
As elegant as a falling feather
As graceful as a ballerina
As free as a cloud.
This is white
- Cole A.Y8

Orange is:
The autumn leaves
Golden syrup
and
ferruginous skies
chestnut geldings,
conkers and tangerines.
- Kate H.Y8

Orange is:
Vibrant life,
energy!
Hope floating.
A memorable day,
never to be forgotten.
- Poppie A.Y8

Blue is:
The endless ocean
Loneliness
A moody sky!
Souls gone by.
- Mrs Cole

Goodbyes

Finally, at the end of this term I would like to say goodbye to colleagues who have left us this term. In October Mrs Edgar Wears, HR Assistant retired, Mr Andrews, Teaching Assistant and Mrs Glover our LRC manager left us. At the end of this term we say farewell to Mrs Yeoman, our head of department for maths, Mrs Clayton, Teacher of Art, Miss Heason Philips our Cover Supervisor and Mrs King, our Educational Welfare Officer. We will miss our colleagues greatly but wish them well in the next step of their journey.

Welcomes

As we say our farewells, we also welcome new staff to the academy. This term we have been joined by Mrs Holland - Principal's PA, Mrs Scholtz - HR Assistant, Miss Fellows - LRC Manager, and Miss Lawn, Mr Smalley, Ms Willet and Miss Richie as Teaching Assistants.

In January, Mr Clayton will be joining the academy as Assistant Principal and Head of Maths. Mr Clayton attended Bydales as a student a number of years ago! Mrs Hassack will be joining the maths department as a Teacher of Maths.

I wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and happy new year.

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice - Principal