

Friday 08 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we welcome all of our students back to the Academy and with the new term now in full swing, I would like to introduce myself to you as the new Principal at Outwood Academy Bydales. My name is Rob McGreal, and it is my enormous privilege to pick up the baton from Ms Rice and lead this excellent school. Originally from the North West, I have lived in Redcar and worked in several schools across Teesside for the last 20 years since qualifying as a maths teacher in 2003. My most recent role was as Senior Assistant Headteacher at Stokesley School in North Yorkshire where I have worked for the last 14 years. I'm now incredibly excited to work in and support my own local community as Principal here at Bydales. The students have made me very welcome this week, and I look forward to continuing to get to know more of them and help them achieve the best they can during their time with us so they can be ready for their next steps in life, whatever they may be.

Our year 7 students have been settling in well and are getting used to making their way around the school site at transition times. It was wonderful to meet them all on Wednesday, they looked incredible in their smart new uniforms, eager to learn and join in! For any new parents / carers, should you have any questions or concerns around your child, please note that your child's tutor, Learning Manager, or subject teachers may not always be available to take your call immediately during the school day due to teaching and learning commitments. Parents should leave a message with Reception and we will endeavour to return all calls within 48 hours.

Our praise and rewards system is already up and running. At Bydales we want to have our first attention to the best conduct. After the end of our first full day with all students back in, over 250 praise points had already been awarded, and we will continue to focus on rewarding excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning.

As part of our welcome back assemblies all students have been reminded of the expectations we have of them with an emphasis on our three main rules of Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible; we have also highlighted the positive behaviours we wish to see in our students around

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school. Behaviours such as kindness, gratitude and an acceptance of others, amongst other prosocial behaviours that we value at Bydales, help to develop a genuine culture of belonging amongst our school community.

Students have also been reminded of our consequences system, further details of which are available in the policies section of our school website as part of the Positive Discipline for Learning and Life Policy. One change introduced this year to make you aware of, is a revert back to C4a after school detentions. C4a after school detentions will now be one hour in length rather than 30 minutes. This is to ensure that we maintain our high standards of behaviour in the Academy, and to act as a real deterrent to students. It has been made clear what sanctions will be given out for, so students know what to do to avoid being issued with one.

One area I would like to draw your attention to is our policy on jewellery and piercings. Please be reminded that no jewellery is allowed to be worn in the academy, with the exception of medical alert bracelets or necklaces. This includes clear studs either in the ears or nose. Students will be asked to remove any jewellery, including nose studs, and refusal to comply will lead to students being placed in our Reflection Room for the day. The same rule applies to false eyelashes. These are also not allowed in the academy and must be removed. Please can you ensure that your son/daughter complies with this expectation and removes any jewellery, piercings or false eyelashes before coming to school.

Finally, we had much to celebrate on GCSE results day in August. The Academy yet again had very strong outcomes, even given the move back nationally to pre-covid grade distributions. Over 80% of all our students achieved at least a grade 4 (pass) in both English and Maths, with over 60% gaining at least a grade 5 (strong pass) in both subjects with some outstanding individual performances you may have read about in our press release. We would like to wish all of our departed year 11 students the very best for their futures.

We've had an excellent start to the new academic year, and I wish to offer a big thank you to both staff and students for how they have welcomed me into the academy. I'm looking forward to the year ahead and continuing to support all of our students to achieve their very best.

Yours sincerely



Mr Rob McGreal
Principal
Outwood Academy Bydales