

April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, I want to thank our students and staff for their fantastic work during this term. Their commitment and contribution to the work of the academy is something they should all be proud of.

Events

This term we have restarted face to face events, and our students have been able to visit the theatre, take part in sporting and academic competitions and to attend the Science Live lectures in support of their GCSE studies. We have welcomed visitors from local colleges and organisations and we have celebrated the achievements of past and present students at our special APT Awards ceremony in March.

I am including some of my favourite images from the events at the end of this letter and would encourage you to visit our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram where we share updates and photographs throughout the year.

GCSEs

As we move towards the GCSE exams, students have been attending revision breakfasts and after-school enrichment sessions and have now completed their mock examinations. We are incredibly proud of their commitment and achievements and we will continue to support their progress with the Easter Revision sessions. The [summer exam timetable](#) can be viewed on our website. I would ask all year 11 parents and carers to continue to encourage attendance at after school enrichment on our return after the Easter break.

Our Expectations

We expect students at Bydales to be friendly, polite, and pleasant young people. We want our community to recognise how fantastic our students are. The vast majority of students consistently meet all expectations, and are a credit to themselves and the academy. We have high expectations for all our students, and we know high expectations equal high standards.

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

There are however some points I want to raise before the Easter break so that we can begin the new term on a positive note ensuring the highest standards consistently for all our students.

Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality is a priority for the academy; absence and lates equate to missed learning which directly impacts on student outcomes and success. Punctuality is a key workplace attribute. There has been an increase in students being late to school. To ensure all our students meet our high expectations and do not miss any learning opportunities, our students are expected to be past the internal green gates by students entrance by 8.23am, students who are late will be issued with a C4b detention.

Damage

In recent weeks we have seen an increase in incidents of anti-social behaviour in the academy that have resulted in unacceptable damage to the school's property and facilities.

As well as awarding sanctions to students, the additional cleaning and/or repair costs are passed to the parents/carers of the students involved. We expect our students to demonstrate pride in their learning environment, as would be expected when they were at home or in a workplace.

Uniform

Our uniform is key to our academy community and identity. Our uniform ensures students present smartly, business like, and ready for work. The image of the academy and our students can be strongly enhanced by the uniform we wear. How students wear their uniform says a lot about who we are. We appreciate the support of parents and carers with ensuring all aspects of uniform adhere to expectations, this helps us with a clear and consistent approach.

You can access full details of our Uniform Policy on the academy website: [Uniform - Outwood Academy Bydales](#). Please note the key expectations:

- Plain black shoes (must be **polishable**)
- Socks/tights- they must be **plain black** with no holes.
- **No jewellery is allowed** except a wrist watch and a Medic Alert necklace or bracelet. Smart watches are not allowed in the Academy. No rings or ear piercings
- Hair must be a **natural** hair colour and bands/bobbles must be **plain black or purple**, and should not be worn on wrists when not in use.
- Nail polish and any type of false nails are **not allowed**.
- **No hoodies to be worn on the academy site and** any coat worn must be large enough to **go over the blazer**.
- **Plain black V neck or school V neck jumper** - sleeves need to be full length.
- All students **must have a bag** that can fit in a planner and an A4 workbook.

Equipment

To ensure our students are ready for learning please provide them with:

- A black pen, a red pen, a pencil, pencil sharpener and eraser, a scientific calculator and a school geometry set (to include a compass, a protractor, a 6 inch ruler and a set square)

- A Collins Pocket English Dictionary (or equivalent)
- A Collins Pocket French Dictionary (or equivalent)

We will continue to reinforce the school's expectations through assemblies and tutor groups, and we appreciate your support in addressing the issues with your child should they arise.

Hardship Policy

I would remind everyone about the [Academy Hardship Policy](#). This fund is a discretionary source of financial help available to registered full-time Academy students who have difficulties in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits and year group residential (up to 100% of the cost)
- 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

I wish all our families a happy Easter break and look forward to seeing your children on our return to school on Monday 25th April.

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice

Principal

