



Outwood Academy Bydales Newsletter

HT 2 - December 2023

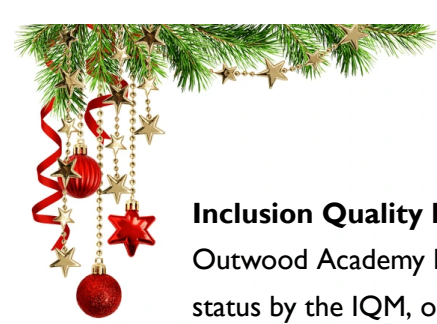
Dear Parent / Carer,

Well, where did that term go? It really doesn't seem like 15 weeks since I first introduced myself to the students in my welcome assemblies in September. An awful lot has happened in that time, (including a visit from Ofsted!) a snapshot of activities from this half term you can see below:

- World Mental Health Day and Anti-bullying Week activities
- Netball, cross-country, football, rugby and athletics competitions
- Year 11 assessments
- Top of the Bench Science Competition
- Dragon Maths competition amongst other Outwood schools where our Y8 team came in first place!
- Remembrance Day Assembly
- Careers Fair
- Duke of Edinburgh Award - Presentation Evening
- Carols at Marske Christmas Fair and The White House in Marske
- Student Voice Elections
- Mary Poppins performances
- Christmas Fair
- Y11 metro centre trip

We have welcomed a diverse range of visitors to the academy with our students participating in events delivered by a British Paralympian, Cleveland police, Redcar College, Prior Pursglove, Middlesbrough College and Sofia Wind Farms.

A busy events calendar is planned for the Spring and Summer terms, including the annual battlefields trip for our history students, and we will share regular updates at the start of the next academic year and throughout each term on our website and social media channels.



Inclusion Quality Mark

Outwood Academy Bydales is pleased to announce that we were recently awarded flagship school status by the IQM, one of only around 100 schools in the country to have achieved this award. The IQM “provides UK schools with a nationally recognised validation of their inclusive practice and ongoing commitment to developing educational inclusion”, and as a flagship school we have committed to furthering our work on inclusion through internal research activities, building on the excellent inclusive practices that already exist in school.

Attendance

Our attendance remains high in comparison to the national average for secondary schools, but we can't take this for granted and continue to encourage you to send your child into school whenever possible; including not taking holidays during term time. The link between attendance and attainment is strong, on average students who attend over 95% of the time achieve 2 grades higher across every subject than those whose attendance is below 90%.

We've been looking at the comments made in the attendance survey that we asked you to complete this term and will be using the feedback from both students and parents to think about how we can improve how we monitor and reward good attendance moving forward.

Year 11 Revision Evening and Mocks

There has been a slight change in the date of the Y11 mock exams scheduled for next term. These will now take place between 19th February 2024 and 1st March 2024, the first two weeks back after February half term; although we may need to extend this a little once the timetable is completed. These mock exams are an important part of students' preparation for sitting their GCSEs in the summer and will replicate what that experience will be like.

To support students with their revision we will be hosting a revision carousel evening on Tuesday 30th January 2024. Further details of this and other support for our Y11 students will follow in a separate communication in the new term, including details of our prom passport and other incentives to encourage regular revision.

Mental Health and Well-being

Within school our Mental Health and Wellbeing programme has been led and supported by our mental health leads Mr Clayton and Mrs Hudson, supported by our staff ambassadors - Miss Bullock, Mr Beacham, Mrs Willett, Mrs Hassack, Miss Dering, Miss Robinson, Miss Ritchie and Mrs Wears. Students can access the Trust's Mental Wellbeing website 24 hours a day



(<https://mentalwellbeing.outwood.com/home>) and speak to their Learning Managers for information on support services. This term we have been training our student mental health ambassadors through the HeadStarters programme. These students recently attended a local event at Middlesbrough Town Hall where they met up with HeadStarters from other schools to share their learning with each other and to celebrate their achievements. The HeadStarters Network will be given the platform and support to work together on a multi-school project to raise awareness of mental health and emotional wellbeing while also helping to shape the future of HeadStart.

School Production

Last week our talented cast and crew performed a stage version of Mary Poppins. The two shows were fantastic, thank you to those of you who came along to watch and a massive thank you to both the students and the staff who dedicated their time to put this show on. We definitely have some extremely talented performers at Bydales!



Public Health South Tees Message

Accompanying this letter is a message sent to all secondary schools in Redcar and Cleveland to be distributed to families right across the authority to highlight the concerns about the number of young people in schools in the area who are collapsing after vaping THC or SPICE in schools. As the legal age to buy vapes is 18 they remain completely banned from the school site and any student caught with a vape will face serious sanctions. The rise in the sale of illegal vapes is a serious concern. We ask that you read this letter and if necessary discuss this issue with your child.

Staffing Changes

Sadly at the end of this term we are saying goodbye to some members of staff, we wish them all well as they start new roles both in and out of education.

Mr Ing - Teacher of Maths

Ms Salahshouri - Teacher of MFL

Mrs Willett - Teaching Assistant



We would like to welcome four new members of staff joining our team in January to start the new term. These are;

Mr Gonzalez - Teacher of MFL

Mr Thomas - Teacher of Maths

Mrs Black - Consequences Coordinator

Mrs Harvey - Cover Supervisor

And finally...

We know that the holiday period is a time of celebration for many but for some people it can be a challenging time of the year. If you or your child need support during the holidays your child's planner contains the contact details for organisations that provide year-round support and assistance (page 11-12). I would like to wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, and enjoyable winter break and look forward to seeing the students back in the academy at 8.20 am on Monday 8th January 2024.

Key Dates and Events

20/12/23 - Praising Stars 2 Reports (All Year Groups)

22/12/23 - PD Day (School Closed to Students)

08/01/24 - Spring Term Begins (School Open to All Students)

09/01/24 - Year 9 Guided Pathways Evening

18/01/24 - Parents Evening 1

***Further events will be shared with you all at the start of the Spring Term**

