

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR THE NEW TERM

Return to School

In a change to previous years, the academy will reopen to students over two days.

- Students in **Years 7 and 11** will return to school on **Wednesday 6 September** at 8.20 am.
- Students in **Years 8, 9 and 10** will return on **Thursday 7 September** at 8.20 am.

Details of the 2023/2024 term dates and closure days can be found at: [Term Dates and Closures 2023/24](#).

Attendance

At Outwood Academy Bydales, excellent [attendance and punctuality](#) is our aim for every child and we set an attendance target of 100% for all students.

Parents and carers play a critical role in helping us promote good attitudes towards attendance. It is important that we ensure that children are present at every opportunity, arriving on time, and are not being taken out of the academy without authorisation. A child's attendance is monitored closely, and we will follow up unexplained absences with parents or carers.

Term time holidays will not be approved and students will be marked as taking unauthorised absence. In these situations, the appropriate attendance management procedures will be followed which may include financial penalties applied by the local authority.

Uniform

Our standards and expectations remain high and students are expected to be in full uniform throughout the year. The uniform policy and guidance can be found here: [Uniform Policy](#). We do not anticipate any changes to the uniform requirements before the new term begins.

Please note the key expectations:

- Plain black shoes (must be polishable)
- Plain black socks/tights with no holes.
- No jewellery is allowed except a wrist watch and a Medic Alert necklace or bracelet. Smart watches are not allowed and students cannot wear earrings or other piercings whilst at school.
- Hair must be a natural colour and bands/bobbles must be plain black or purple.
- Nail polish and any type of false nails are not allowed.
- No hoodies can be worn on site and coats must be large enough to go over the blazer.
- Jumpers should be plain black with a v-neck and long sleeves.
- All students must bring a bag that can hold a planner and an A4 workbook.

For PE lessons there will be different arrangements for specific groups, and students will be informed by their PE teacher what will be required during their first PE lesson. For the first lesson students should bring their training shoes.

Equipment for Learning

To ensure our students are ready for learning please organise for them to have the basic equipment listed below. If students have the majority of their own equipment it will also help to reduce transmission, therefore your support with this would be appreciated.

The basic equipment your child will require when we return in September is:

- A black pen;
- A red pen;
- A pencil and pencil sharpener;
- An eraser;
- A scientific calculator;
- A school geometry set which should include a compass, a protractor and a 6 inch ruler;
- A pocket English Dictionary (Collins or equivalent);
- A pocket French/Spanish/German Dictionary depending on the language(s) studied.

Students may also want to bring in their own whiteboard pen and highlighters. All students will be provided with a planner on their first day. They are expected to have a school bag that is large enough to contain an A4 folder and all of their equipment.

Meal Prices

Our catering services are provided by Robertson FM who have had to increase meal prices in line with current inflation and as agreed with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council. From 1 September 2023 the price of our “Meal of the Day” will increase from £2.96 to £3.28. Pupils entitled to free and universal school meals will not be affected.

The academy offers alternative meal options such as sandwiches, paninis and pasta if students do not want to have the “Meal of the Day”.

Students who have exceeded the funds in their lunch accounts need to ‘clear’ any outstanding lunchtime debts via our Robertson’s catering team. Please take an opportunity to log into your child’s iPay account and check their final balance.

Hardship Policy

In a time when families are increasingly experiencing financial difficulties, I would like to remind parents and carers about the 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

Community Relations

It is important that the academy maintains a positive relationship with the community and residents of Marske. Students play a large part in this relationship and we expect our young people to behave appropriately on their way to and from the academy.

This includes respecting the wellbeing and property of residents, addressing residents in a respectful manner and cycling safely and with consideration for other road and path users.

Students who do not meet the standards we expect will receive sanctions for their behaviour and this may extend to the removal of their cycling permits where they are travelling dangerously or do not follow the restrictions in parts of Marske.

Parents and carers can support our community relationships by driving and parking courteously at the start and end of the school day. Churchill Drive is an access road for residents and should not be used to collect or drop off students. Alternative parking is available in the beach and library car parks a short distance away.