

19th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the final days of the academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents, carers and community partners for their support throughout the year. It has been a very good year for the school following several years of post-pandemic recovery and it is wonderful to see that the school has fully returned to a 'business as usual' model. As you are aware, I joined Outwood Academy Ripon in January 2024 and I remain hugely grateful for the support you have extended during the transitional period. I appreciate that a change in leadership can be a concerning time for parents but I can offer assurance that the transition has been very smooth and feedback regarding the transition has been entirely positive.

As we prepare for the year ahead, I take this opportunity to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our students here at Outwood Academy Ripon. We look forward to celebrating another year of record-breaking GCSE results and we are also delighted to welcome our new Year 7 cohort who join us from no less than 18 feeder primary schools across North Yorkshire. It was an absolute pleasure to visit our Year 6 children in their primary schools before welcoming them to their transition event here in Ripon.

I would like to encourage parents and carers to follow the Academy's social media pages where you can read about the highlights of your child's journey. Outwood Academy Ripon is a very special place to learn and we remain committed to delivering the very best student experience to all of our learners.

[OutwoodAcademyRipon \(@outwoodripin\) / X](#)

and

<https://www.facebook.com/OutwoodAcademyRipon>

Year 11:

We would like to extend our very best wishes to Year 11 who will soon embark on their post-16 journey having engaged exceptionally well with our *Raising Achievement Strategy* in the months leading to the summer examination season. Students benefited from a range of interventions including, weekend masterclasses, a bespoke intervention timetable,

fully-funded breakfast provision, peer mentoring, to name some. Year 11 also enjoyed a wonderful prom earlier this month; we are so proud of them.

We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students back to the Academy on **Thursday 22nd August** to collect their GCSE results. Students can collect results at any time between **09.00 and 11.00** from the Conference Room - signage will guide students to the registration desk. Senior leaders will be available to support students throughout the process.

Ofsted:

Earlier this month, we welcomed Ofsted to the Academy who completed a routine inspection of the school; the first Section 5 inspection visit since January 2016. We are delighted with the outcome of the inspection and thank our community for their unwavering support. I would also like to highlight the exceptional work of staff who remain determined to deliver academic excellence and put students first. I am incredibly proud of our school and the good work of the wider community that has been recognised. I look forward to sharing more information with you when the report is published next term.

Building Renovation:

You may have noticed that we have some building work is taking place at the school. Outwood Academies Grange Trust has generously invested £1.5M in Outwood Academy Ripon to replace various sections of the roof that have been in desperate need of repair for a number of years. The project will take place in three-phases over 3 years. We are also taking the opportunity to replace fixed wiring and the fire safety system over the summer holidays. It is hugely important that we continue to invest in our learning environment to ensure that students have access to a high quality and inspiring environment, thus enabling them to maximise their true potential. I will of course keep you updated on our progress.

Transport Arrangements:

You may be aware that neighbouring provider, Ripon Grammar School (RGS), is making a change to its school day from September 2024 - on Mondays, RGS children will finish at 14.55 rather than 15.55; Tuesday-Friday remains unaffected. **From September 2024, only one bus will be scheduled for 15.00 (on Monday); there will not be a second service at 15.55 on Monday.** The schedule for all other days remains the same. There will be enough space on the bus/es at 14.55 to accommodate all children who require the service from both schools. Staff from both RGS and Outwood Academy Ripon are working in partnership to ensure that the service runs smoothly.

Uniform:

Please remember that school uniform expectations remain compulsory. I have asked Vice Principal, Mr O'Brien, to send you a letter outlining the uniform requirements which can be found here in our policy: [OGAT Uniform Policy V4 Sept 23](#). I must advise that we plan to make a minor change to our policy for implementation in September 2025 - box pleat skirts will be the ONLY style of skirt that students are permitted to wear. You may wish to purchase this style of skirt moving forward.

Staffing:

I take this opportunity to wish a number of colleagues farewell as they leave the Academy this summer: Mrs Payette, Miss Coverdale, Mr Tyrrell, Mrs Kilbane, Mr Lang and Mrs Moseley. We remain sincerely grateful to each of them for their contribution to the Academy and the difference that they have made to the lives of many children. We wish them the very best for the future. In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming a number of new colleagues to Outwood Academy Ripon:

- Mrs Robson - Head of English
- Miss McKenzie-Browne - Teacher of English
- Mr Smith - Teacher of Maths
- Mr Hollowed - Teacher of Maths
- Miss Green - Teacher of Music

New colleagues have already spent some time at the Academy meeting students and preparing for September 2024.

Pastoral Structure:

For clarity, I confirm the pastoral structure for the year ahead. Staff members will provide bespoke pastoral support to students next academic year.

Key Stage 3 Team - Mrs Wilden, Mrs Slater & Mrs Mearns

Key Stage 4 Team- Mrs Whitehead, Mrs Tiffney, Mrs Barron

I am pleased to share that Mrs Warmsley has recently secured a promotion and will continue to work closely with Outwood Academy Ripon as a Youth Mentor for North Yorkshire Youth organisation. She will continue to make a valuable contribution to our school community in her new role.

Returning in September:

All students will return to the Academy on Tuesday 3rd September, 2024. Students should be fully equipped for learning and wearing their full school uniform. Students should arrive at the Academy at normal time; an extended tutorial period has been arranged to distribute timetables and revisit Academy expectations.

I would like to wish you a restful, enjoyable and safe summer holiday. I thank you once again for your support and I look forward to the new academic year with great enthusiasm.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Donohue', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ms R.A. Donohue (M.Ed; FCCT)

Principal