

18 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you the progress we have made and to reflect on the many accomplishments of our academy community. This year has been one which has seen positive progress, perseverance and achievement and I am incredibly proud of everyone involved.

This last week of term will see us continue to maintain our focus on the high expectations, we have as an Academy as well as allowing us to take part in many celebrations. We will continue to work hard until the final lesson of the year, striving to make sure that every second of every lesson counts.

Year 11 and Year 13

We have just said a fond farewell to our year 11 and year 13 students as they move on to the next steps, be that in their future education or careers. We marked this milestone in their educational journey in true Outwood Academy Hemsworth fashion by holding leavers assemblies, celebration events and of course the Year 11 prom, which was a fantastic event. We are incredibly proud of the young people that they have become and would like to thank all of our parents and carers for their support during the time that these students have attended Outwood Academy Hemsworth. We feel certain that they have a bright future ahead of them.

To all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students we would like to say that, it has been a pleasure to witness the dedication and hard work you have demonstrated as you undertook your exams and you have all been an inspiration to the wider Academy community. The efforts put into your studies and the determination shown throughout the exam period exemplified your focus on the excellence we all strive for at our Academy. This resilience and commitment, I am sure will come to fruition in the summer when you receive your results in August and we look forward to being able to share these with you.

Transition

Our new Year 7 cohort joined us for three days last week and it was lovely to see the academy full of the new year group as they prepared themselves ready to embark on their journey with us in September. The students were placed in their tutor groups and had the opportunity to meet their new tutors, along with experiencing a taste of the lessons they will undertake next year and meeting many of their new teachers and peers.

On Tuesday 2nd July 2024 we held our Parents' Information Evening which had a fantastic response with over 200 parents and carers in attendance. This evening provided an opportunity for parents to gather the essential information they needed to know before their child commences here at Outwood Academy Hemsworth in September. I would like to take this opportunity to offer our thanks to Miss Marlow for all of her hard work alongside Miss Lamb in organising our transition events and activities which have been very successful and well received by students.

Careers

We are pleased to showcase our new Academy Careers Website.

Website Link

<https://sites.google.com/hemsworth.outwood.com/oahemsworth-careers/home>

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.

This is a new careers information hub for parents, carers, staff and students.

Our annual 'Classroom to Career' drop down day saw our students immersed in careers-based learning. Y7 completed a 'Just In Time' industrial simulation, Y8 took part in the 'Real Game' which positions students in a career based scenario. Sixteen external providers attended from organisations such as the NHS and WDH in order to facilitate a mock job interview for every Y9 student. Y10 had a Post 16 taster and careers day, sampling life in P16 at OAH as well as having inputs from providers such as Channel 4 and the Ministry of Justice.

Summer Show

Last week saw many of our students perform in this year's Summer Show. Based on the musicals 'We Will Rock You' and 'Matilda', the students involved did themselves proud. It was great to see so many key stage 3 students have the confidence to get up on stage and sing and act to a full house. We certainly had a lot of talent on show which also included a number of students playing musical instruments to accompany the excellent singers and actors. For those of you who attended, I am sure you all enjoyed it and we will all now be looking forward to our next production.

Parents' Coffee Morning

This week it was fantastic to be able to extend an invitation to our parents and some members of our local community to come and join us for our Coffee Morning. We had over 20 parents and members of the local community attend and we used this as an opportunity to take feedback on the things that they felt the academy was doing well, the areas that they would like to see us do more in and the areas they felt we need to develop further. The event finished with a tour of the academy giving people an opportunity to see our classrooms in session. As we move through the next academic year our hope is that our coffee mornings will become a regular feature running each half term and that they will become a cornerstone in our work with parents and the wider community.

Parental Survey

We would really appreciate it if parents would take 5 minutes to complete our latest parental questionnaire. We are really keen to listen to your feedback. The link to the questionnaire can be found here. All parents that complete the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 shopping voucher. [Link to survey](#)

Attendance

We have a full week of learning remaining for this academic year and as such it is imperative that students are in school every day to ensure that they can take part in their lessons and continue the fantastic work that they have been doing throughout the academic year.

As I am sure you are aware, attendance is a key driver in educational success for our students and we expect all of our students to be in the academy every day before the long break over the summer. As we return in September attendance will remain one of our key strategic improvement priorities as we endeavour to close the gap between the Academy and the national average.

Standards

Please continue to encourage your child to ensure that when they leave home for the Academy, they are wearing the correct uniform and have the necessary equipment with them. We have had an increasing number of students arriving without the correct uniform, meaning they are having to use the spare uniform we have. As we approach the end of the academic year there are no changes to uniform expectations and students are expected to be well presented each day.

We have recently written to all parents and carers with some updates to our expectations around uniform for September, please take time to review these prior to our return to ensure that students do not receive unnecessary sanctions.

September return

- **Monday 2nd September 2024** - Inset training day for all staff, students are not expected to attend the academy.
- **Tuesday 3rd September 2024** - Year 7 students only to attend. They should arrive at the Academy by 8:15am and be ready for registration at 8:25am - throughout the day students will be completing their induction into the Academy and working on 'ACE' (Academy Conduct and Expectations) programme modules.
- **Wednesday 4th September 2024** - The Academy opens to all students.

A special thank you to all of those parents and carers who have supported not only their children but the entire academy community. Your involvement, encouragement and support has been crucial in helping our students to achieve their best. We appreciate your partnership and the trust you place in us.

Our dedicated staff, whose tireless work and relentless care for our students, has been the backbone of our many successes this year. Their ability to adapt, inspire and guide our students through their academic and personal challenges has been exceptional. I would therefore like us all to say thank you for your commitment and for creating a nurturing and stimulating environment where our students can thrive.

As we look back through the last academic year, we should rightly celebrate the progress that we have made from the start of the year, acknowledging the collaborative efforts throughout. We have developed a community of learning, growth and mutual support. Everyone has contributed to making this a memorable and successful year and for that we are very thankful.

We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable break and we look forward to continuing our progress together in the coming academic year, building on the strong foundations that we are establishing.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Pape
Principal