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Principal: Jason Rhodes

11 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you as this school term is almost over. I want to share important news about the new year and give you an update on what's been happening at the Academy.

It has been a good start to the academic year since September! We have had many great activities, such as the Christmas play, sports matches, a range of visits, and projects where students have helped the community. This final week is for celebrating student successes, but we will keep focusing on learning right up until the very last day.

The last day of term is Thursday 18th December 2025. This day is also Christmas Jumper day, as well as our Christmas Dinner.

We hope you all get to enjoy some time together during the break and think about all your child has achieved this year.

Working Together for Our Students

I want to thank you for your help and support this year. Your positive replies to our surveys and the high number of you who came to our parent evenings show that we are building a strong partnership. We always have your children's best interests at heart. I will feedback to you in the new year findings from the parent survey.

Our recent student surveys show that pupils feel better about their **wellbeing**, that they feel **safe** at school, and they have a greater **sense of belonging** here. We are proud that our results in all three areas are higher than average. However, we won't stop here; we will continue to improve standards and make your children's lives better.

Getting Ready for the New Year

As we start the new year, here are some reminders to help your child begin the term in a positive way:

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.

It is important that we all agree on the expectations below. This helps us work together to support your child and make sure we keep high standards that will make a lasting difference in their life.

School Uniform and Appearance

We need all students to look smart and tidy to show that they are part of a disciplined and well-organized school. Every student must come to school daily in the correct uniform. This sends the message that our students are proud to belong to our school. We need families to support us with this.

When students forget their shoes, tie or planner and we have to give them a replacement, it costs the Academy a lot of money, especially if these items aren't returned. The success of our swap shop has improved the area during the last term.

A smart uniform helps with discipline, makes students feel better about themselves, and helps them focus on learning instead of distractions. We ask that the full uniform is worn correctly at all times, as listed below, so all pupils can feel proud of how they look.

If students do not follow the uniform expectations, we will help them fix it so they don't face consequences. If they arrive in the wrong uniform, we will lend them items from school to correct it. We will let parents know this has happened so you can help make sure the correct uniform is worn next time. If a student repeatedly wears the wrong uniform, they will face a sanction .

In rare cases, if a medical condition is proven to the school, we will make reasonable adjustments.

Hardship Fund: We have a Hardship Fund to help parents and students who have trouble paying for uniform, shoes, or sports kit. You can find out how to apply for this money in the Hardship Policy on the school website.

Appearance Rules:

- **Nail Polish:** Nail polish and any type of fake nails (including clear gels, acrylics, etc.) are **not allowed**.
- **Jewellery and Make-Up:** The only jewellery allowed is a **wristwatch** and a **Medic Alert necklace or bracelet**. Smartwatches are **not allowed**. If a student plans to get their ears or any other body part pierced, they must do this at the start of the summer holiday, as **no earrings or any other jewellery are allowed to be worn at any time**.
- **Make-Up:** Make-up must not be noticeable; it should be **discreet**. The Principal decides what "discreet" means. Fake eyelashes and henna are also **not allowed**.

Reporting and Attendance

You will have seen from your child's Praising Stars report that we are changing how we report progress. We are celebrating that over **700 E1 effort grades** (for students who work "above and beyond") have been given out this term. That is fantastic!

The reports now also include a progress note, like 'keeping up' or 'falling behind.' It should not surprise you that students with poor attendance often fall into the 'falling behind' category.

I must stress that **good attendance is directly linked to educational success**. Allowing your child to take time off school will only hurt their future, whether that is not getting into college or earning less money in their career later on. We want your child to have the best start in life, just like you do.

Key Dates for the New Year

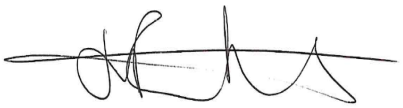
The Academy re-opens for all staff and students on **Monday, 5th January 2025, at 8:20 am**.

Parent Information Events:

- **Year 9 parents/carers** will be invited to the **Guided Pathways (Options) Evening** on **Tuesday 6th January at 3.30pm**. This evening helps them choose their subjects for Key Stage 4.
- **Year 11 parents/carers** will be invited to the **Praising Stars 2 Parents' Evening** on **Tuesday 13th January at 3.00-5.00pm.** Booking information will be shared on the first day we come back.
- **Year 11 students** will start their final practice exams (mocks) on Monday 3rd March, for two weeks.

Finally, I wish you all a relaxing and happy Christmas with your families. I hope the students use this break to be kind and supportive at home. We look forward to seeing what 2026 brings for our community when we open again on **Monday, 5th January 2025, at 8:20 am**.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Jason Rhodes
Principal