Outwood Academy Hemsworth
Wakefield Road, Pontefract, WF9 4AB
Tel: +44(0)1977 624220
Web: www.hemsworth.outwood.com
Email: enquiries@hemsworth.outwood.com
Principal: Mr James Pape

07 September 2026

Attendance 2026/27

Welcome to the new academic year!

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family have had a restful and enjoyable summer. As we begin the new academic year, we are delighted to welcome all our students back to school and extend a particularly warm welcome to those joining our Academy community for the first time.

The start of a new school year brings fresh opportunities, new challenges and the chance for every student to make a positive start. Our priority is to ensure that every young person feels safe, valued and supported, and is able to develop academically, socially and personally. We look forward to working with our students and helping them achieve their very best.

We believe that the strongest outcomes for young people are achieved when schools and families work together. Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting their child's education, and we greatly value your partnership.

One of the most important ways you can support your child's success is by ensuring that they attend school regularly and arrive on time each day. Every school day matters. Regular attendance gives students the best opportunity to keep up with their learning, develop positive relationships with their peers and teachers, take part in enrichment opportunities and build the habits and resilience they will need for their future.

We challenge all of our students to achieve a minimum of 95% attendance. One of the reasons for this is that statistics show that students with 95%+ attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve a grade 5 in English and Maths than students between 90-95%. These chances then fall significantly once a student's attendance falls below 90%.

The new academic year also provides the opportunity for all students to be recognised and rewarded for their exceptional attendance, with an amazing rewards programme on offer. Our rewards-based culture will continue to feature end-of-term attendance rewards trips, Personal Development & Guidance time attendance

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.

competitions,The Hemsworth Attendance Cup, and additional incentives throughout the year. I would love to see all of our students recognised for their amazing attendance in 2026/27, and hope to see as many as possible on our exciting end of term rewards trips - which have included bowling, inflatables assault course, Ninja Warrior and Alton Towers.

Even a small amount of missed learning can accumulate over time. Missing lessons can also mean that students miss important explanations, discussions, practical activities and opportunities to develop their confidence. Good attendance is therefore not simply about being present in school; it is about ensuring that every student has the opportunity to make the most of their education.

We are committed to maintaining positive, open and respectful communication with families throughout the year. If you have a concern, question or information that you feel would help us to support your child, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our team at attendance@outwood.hemsworth.com. Equally, we will keep you informed about your child's attendance throughout the year.

We recognise that there may be times when a student is unable to attend school because they are genuinely unwell or for other unavoidable reasons. However, where absence is not necessary, we ask parents and carers to make attendance a priority and to avoid arranging holidays or other activities during term time.

We will continue to monitor attendance carefully and work positively with families where concerns arise. Our approach will always be centred on supporting students and removing barriers to regular attendance.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support in helping your child make an excellent start to the year. Please encourage them to attend every day, arrive on time, be prepared to learn and take pride in their achievements.

We are excited about the year ahead and all that our students can accomplish. We look forward to working closely with you and building a strong partnership that enables every young person in our school community to flourish.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish all our students a happy, successful and rewarding academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L. Allington
Assistant Principal