



## Outwood Academy Portland

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Principal: Mrs Danielle Sheehan

Our ref: DSH/MGR

27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy and rewarding term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that our students have achieved and experienced in recent weeks. It has been a term defined by pride, kindness and resilience - qualities that we see demonstrated daily across our school community.

### **Trips and Events**

Our students have embraced a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom. Many of our Year 10 and 11 students visited Magdalen College, Oxford, where they were able to experience university life first-hand, raising aspirations and encouraging them to think ambitiously about their futures. Others explored the world of engineering through a visit to Laing O'Rourke, gaining insight into industry pathways and real-world applications of their learning.

Creativity has flourished this term. Students took part in the Worksop Music Festival, proudly showcasing their talents, while our GCSE Drama students visited the Sheffield Crucible to watch The Ladies Football Club, enriching their understanding of their exam texts and performance. Our dancers also represented the academy brilliantly at the Trust Dance Showcase at CAST Theatre, demonstrating both commitment and confidence.

We have also provided powerful and meaningful experiences to deepen students' understanding of the world. The Holocaust 360 immersive experience left a lasting impression, encouraging reflection, empathy and respect. Meanwhile, our SEND students benefited from a careers-focused visit to Idle Valley in Retford, building independence and exploring future pathways in a supportive environment.

Fieldwork and academic enrichment have been key highlights. Our GCSE Geography students travelled to Hornsea to study coastal processes in action, applying their classroom knowledge to real-life contexts. We were also proud to host the Ogden Science Fair, welcoming students from across the Trust to celebrate scientific curiosity and innovation. We are also very excited to announce that team Portland won both the students and the staff competitions with their inventions.



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Year 11 students have shown real resilience throughout their mock examinations and the subsequent results celebration. It was a pleasure to welcome so many parents and carers into school for our mock results evening; your support plays a crucial role at this important stage. We are incredibly proud of the determination our students continue to show as they prepare for their final exams. I would also like to commend those Year 11 students and staff who will be attending Easter school over the break, demonstrating a real commitment to success.

Student leadership and community spirit have also shone through. Our Student Voice representatives contributed thoughtfully at the conference hosted at Outwood Academy City, ensuring student perspectives remain at the heart of our work. House events have brought students together in friendly competition, strengthening a sense of belonging and pride in our community.

On Thursday we said bon voyage to students and staff who set off on the Paris trip. This will be an unforgettable experience, broadening cultural understanding and creating lasting memories.

### **Attendance and sporting achievement**

Attendance remains a key priority, and we have been delighted to celebrate those students who have achieved 100% attendance this term through assemblies, rewards and even an assault course experience (sadly postponed due to the weather). Their commitment is commendable. Similarly, students earning their Ace Silver badge enjoyed a well-deserved movie afternoon in recognition of their sustained effort and positive conduct.

In sport, our athletics team demonstrated great resilience and teamwork at the county event, reaching the final and finishing 5th out of 8 schools, a fantastic achievement against strong competition.

### **Community**

This term has also been marked by kindness in action. We are incredibly proud of Miss Craig and the staff who supported her fundraising efforts for Young Lives vs Cancer. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we donated over 86 Easter eggs to children spending the holiday in hospital. This act of kindness will undoubtedly bring comfort and joy at what can be an incredibly challenging time for those families.

We have also launched the “Out There” project with all students, and it has been fantastic to see such enthusiasm for giving back to the local community. This initiative encourages students to take part in voluntary projects that make a positive difference to the area. I look forward to hearing about the impact our students will have made.

### **Looking Ahead**

We are excited to be expanding our global links, including the opportunity for our current Year 8 students to take part in an international visit next year. Experiences such as these are invaluable in broadening horizons and developing cultural understanding.

We are also eagerly anticipating our Year 9 Graduation. Parents and carers are encouraged to check Praising Stars reports this weekend to see which criteria have been met and whether your child will

graduate with bronze, silver, gold or platinum recognition. This is a significant milestone, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements.

### **Polite reminders**

As we prepare for the new term, I would like to remind all families of the importance of maintaining high standards from day one. Students are expected to attend in full and correct uniform in line with the Outwood Grange Academies Trust uniform policy. This includes wearing the academy blazer at all times, a shirt tucked in with a tie worn correctly, appropriate tailored trousers or box pleat skirt, and suitable black footwear. Students must also be fully equipped for learning each day, including a school bag to carry their pen, pencil, ruler planner and other equipment. Your support in ensuring students meet these expectations is appreciated.

We would also like to remind families about safety around the school site. Please use the designated drop-off zone on Sparken Hill at the top of the car park and avoid entering the staff parking area. Additionally, we ask that you do not drive along the central bus lane/pedestrian walkway on Netherton Road, as this area is heavily used by our students and children from local primary schools.

Students who choose to bring bicycles onto the academy site do so at their own risk. While we encourage healthy and sustainable travel, the academy cannot accept responsibility for any loss, theft, or damage to bicycles. Please be aware that such items are not covered under the academy's insurance policy, and we strongly recommend that bikes are securely locked at all times while on site.

As the term draws to a close, we bid a fond farewell to some of our staff who will be leaving us and moving on to pastures new. They will be greatly missed by both staff and students. We extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to:

- Annie Graham, Music teacher
- Sarah Leonard, MFL teacher
- Maxine Clapham, Maths teacher who will work at both Portland and Outwood Danum as 2<sup>nd</sup> in Department until Christmas

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable Easter break. Encouraging students to balance rest with positive activities whether that be spending time outdoors, engaging in sports, or taking part in local opportunities in Worksop will ensure they return refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

**Danielle Sheehan**  
**Principal**