

Outwood Academy Bydales Newsletter

HT 4 - April 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to my end of Spring term update. As always we have a busy term at Outwood Academy Bydales, with plenty of events happening both in and out of the classroom. A snapshot of trips and events that have taken place this term is shown below, further details can be found on our Personal Development Newsletter:

- Year 8 history trip to Beamish and Y10 to Newcastle University to visit the archives
- Our Sports leaders have supported at several local events
- Netball, football, volleyball, cross country and indoor athletics competitions
- Year 11 mock exams
- Several careers trips including visits to Askham Bryan College, a Health and Social Care day at Middlesbrough College, a Young Women's Film Academy event at The Northern School of Art and a STEM Experience Day at Newcastle University
- Drama trip to Stockton Arc to watch 'Driftwood'
- Outwood Dance Performer of the Year
- Our fabulous school production of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'
- Supporting community events such as Soup and Social Event at The White House in Marske where students helped serve refreshments to members of the local community
- Y11 Iceland Trip with geography
- We held our Y7 science fair and the winning team represented our academy at Outwood Academy Easingwold in the regional final.

And our battlefields trip is currently taking place with our history students! We'll continue to share regular updates on all events and activities through our social media channels.

Consultation

Just a reminder that the previously shared consultation about the length of the school day closes on Monday 28th April 2025 so you still have time to respond if you like to share your views. To clarify, this is a Trust wide consultation and affects all secondary schools within the Outwood Family of Schools. Results of the consultation will be shared shortly after.

Ofsted

You will be aware that we had a full inspection by Ofsted this term following our ungraded inspection last academic year. I had hoped to be able to share the report and the outcome of this inspection

with you before the Easter holiday, but we are still awaiting the draft report and therefore are unable to confirm the outcomes of the inspection with the community. Thank you to those of you who responded to the parent survey.

Praise

We are very close to the 100000 th Praise Point being awarded this year, a fantastic achievement and indicative of the excellent behaviour and effort we consistently see from our students. This term we have also launched our 'Beautiful Book' awards which has seen excellent pieces of work completed by our students displayed in school and postcards and rewards shared with the students. Hopefully you've seen some examples of this on our social media pages. It is lovely to see such dedication to produce work of such quality.

Year 11 Prom & Prom Passport

The Year 11 Prom will take place on Thursday 26th June at Gisborough Hall, details about timings and cost have already been sent out to parents. All Year 11 students and parents have had the details of our passport to prom shared with them this term and have been working towards gaining the 100 points needed to be eligible to attend. Many students have already achieved this total and are working towards the next goal of 150 points to be entered into a draw to win a free prom ticket.

As a reminder, students can earn points by attending school every day, taking advantage of the extra support on offer such as Enrichment sessions after school, holiday revision sessions, breakfast revision before exams and completing their weekly goals on the Tassomai app to support revision. To further encourage students to be as well prepared for their exams as they can be we will offer double points for attending Enrichment for the rest of the year, and for every daily Tassomai goal met over Easter students will earn 1 extra point. That alone is a total of at least 64 points for every student.

We hope that everybody will be able to attend the prom and celebrate their achievements during their time with us at Bydales, but they will have to ensure that they have achieved 100 points. Their total has been shared with them regularly so they know if they are on track or not.

After Easter our Year 11 students will be given a copy of our Exam period timetable detailing extra support in place around exams, for example extra maths masterclasses on the afternoon before the exam the next day. A copy of this will also be shared with parents.

Careers Mark

We are pleased to announce that we were recently reaccredited for the Quality in Careers standard mark. This is an externally verified award which recognises that Outwood Academy Bydales has

been awarded the national Quality in Careers Standard for its careers education, information, advice, and guidance provision. Our assessor who completed the assessment process said:

“It is clear that there is a significant commitment to careers and successful post 16 progression, and a comprehensive programme of support, which is reflected in destination statistics, which show a variety of destinations, including those that are relatively new concepts. There is a strong offer for SEND and vulnerable students and tracking of all Year 10/11 students, which enables the identification of those at risk of a poor transition. In summary, this is a strong submission, and the awarding of the Quality Award is thoroughly recommended.”

Staffing Changes

We don't have any staff leaving us permanently at Easter this year, but Miss Jay will be starting her maternity leave after the Easter holiday. We wish her well with her impending arrival!

Easter Holiday Activities

The Local Authority have asked me to share the link below with you that highlights free activities that are available to families from across the Borough during the Easter holidays.

<https://middlesbroughredcarcouncil.coordinate.cloud/>

And finally...

If you or your child need support during the holidays your child's planner contains the contact details for organisations that provide year-round support and assistance (page 11-12). We have our own mental health and wellbeing website which contains links and resources that you may find useful should you need them (<https://mentalwellbeing.outwood.com/home>)

I would like to wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, and enjoyable Easter break and look forward to seeing the students back in the Academy at 8.20 am on Monday 28th April 2025.

Key Dates and Events

11/04/25 - Last day of term

28/04/25 - Students return to Academy (following Easter Break)

30/04/25 - Parents Evening (KS3 only - details shared with parents via email)

05/05/25 - Bank Holiday (Academy closed to students and staff)

08/05/25 - GCSE examinations begin

20/05/25 - Parent Voice Forum (further details will follow via email)

21/05/25 - Praising Stars 5 reports (all year groups)

23/05/24 - Last day of School (May half term from 26/05/25)

02/06/24 - Students return to the Academy (following May half term)