Outwood Academy Ripon
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Principal: Rachel Donohue, M.Ed; FCCT

30th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Important Health and Safety Notice: Promoting a Fragrance-Aware Environment

I write to seek your support to manage the health and wellbeing of an Outwood Academy Ripon student who is currently managing an undiagnosed medical condition that causes her to experience sudden episodes of collapse and respiratory distress (asphyxiation).

Whilst medical professionals are still working towards a formal diagnosis, the student's parents have kindly given me permission to share this information with you to keep their daughter safe. It is believed that episodes may be triggered by an acute sensitivity or allergy to strong scents, such as **perfumes, aftershaves and aerosol deodorants.**

To ensure that this student remains well and to maintain a secure learning environment for everyone, we are asking for your support. We strongly encourage all students and staff to:

- **Refrain from wearing excessive amounts** of perfume or aftershave.
- **Never use aerosol sprays** (body sprays/deodorants) inside the school buildings or changing rooms.

For most of us, a strong scent is a minor preference or a slight irritation. However, for this student, exposure to these may be a trigger leading to a serious medical emergency. By making small adjustments to our daily routines, we can significantly reduce the risk of her falling ill and ensuring she can attend her lessons safely with her peers.

We intend to emphasise these sensible steps with the students in assembly later this week to explain the situation we are managing with sensitivity, empathy and collective responsibility.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms R.A.Donohue

Principal

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