



## Outwood Academy Ripon

Clotherholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 2DE

Tel: +44(0)1765 604564

: [www.ripon.outwood.com](http://www.ripon.outwood.com)

Email: [enquiries@ripon.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@ripon.outwood.com)

Principal: Ms R.A Donohue - M.Ed; FCCT

Friday 27th March, 2026

### Re: End of term

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are well and looking forward to the Easter break. It has been a successful start to the year and I would like to thank you for your continuous support. We are proud to share that student achievement outcomes continue to improve with a greater proportion of students forecast to achieve GCSE Grade 9-7 this summer and many subjects expected to surpass pre-covid outcomes. In addition, engagement in wider-academy life continues to strengthen with a growing number of students attending extra-curricular activities and attending residential trips. Students have enjoyed a wide range of experiential learning opportunities, including Duke of Edinburgh, Science Fayre, Military Family Week, theatre trips, Brilliant Club workshops and Fundraising February which raised £936.00 to name some.

Next term, we seek to strengthen student experience further with access to a range of enrichments that will be offered both within and outside academy hours. Outwood's '*Out There Project*' will be launched for 2026/27 after Easter led by Mrs.S.Wilson - it will be the ultimate community action challenge! We hope to see as many students as possible involved to support engagement with community life. We remain incredibly proud of our three 2025/26 teams who represented Outwood Academy Ripon last year and we extend huge congratulations to Team *3 Boys 3 Bikes* who scooped silver in the Innovate Category at Outwood Awards Ceremony at Headingley Stadium last month. As silver award winners, the team will enjoy an all-expenses-paid trip to Alton Towers, complete with VIP queue-jump passes, next term.

### Year 11:

We have been delighted with Year 11's engagement with recent mock examinations. Praising Stars reports were published earlier this week so please do take the opportunity to discuss the content with your child. Our *Raising Achievement Strategy* will continue to support

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A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

Year 11 during the Easter holiday period and into next term; learners will continue to have access to holiday masterclasses and a range of resources to support their preparations for the summer exams - these have been very well received so far. Thank you to parents/carers who have been in touch to share this feedback.

### **Attendance & Punctuality:**

Please continue to ensure that your child attends school **every day**. Interestingly, but perhaps unsurprisingly, children attending Outwood Academy Ripon with attendance of 95% or better are forecast to receive at least Grade 9-5 in **ALL** subjects - a powerful indicator of the clear correlation between good attendance and achievement outcomes. Disappointingly, Outwood Academy Ripon has fined 15 families this academic year for unauthorised term time leave or their child's irregular attendance. Thank you to the vast majority of parents/carers who continue to promote the importance of good attendance. Being in school is not only compulsory but a crucial element of your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Sincere thanks to all parents and carers for your continuous support and working in partnership with the team at Outwood Academy Ripon.

Last year, we introduced a revised 'sign-in' system for students who arrived late to school. I am very pleased to share that the new system has seen student punctuality improve significantly. Please remember that students arriving after 08.42 are expected to enter the Academy through the *Student Attendance Service* entrance. The external entrance to *Student Attendance Services* is located next to Main Reception outside Room 33. Students are met by our Attendance Engagement Team who register your child and escort them to their lesson. Should your child be absent, please contact the Academy before 08.30 to report their absence; failure to do so may result in unnecessary communication home or a home visit.

### **Student Support Services:**

We are delighted to share that *Student Support Services* will officially open after Easter; a provision to promote student independence and the importance of taking personal responsibility for learning. *Student Support Services* will be located on the main corridor and will provide a wealth of services including, a stationery purchasing facility, uniform stop-shop, essential communications link (home/school contact), a student finance system and a reprographics facility. The provision is intended to shift 'student traffic' away from Main Reception and provide a student-centred service to promote independence and a 'Post-16 ready' mindset. We are incredibly excited to see the benefits that the new facility offers to all of our learners.

During recent weeks, an increasing number of students have been travelling to/from school using their privately owned electric bicycles, e-scooters and e-skateboards. I must

emphasise that the Academy strongly prohibits the use of these vehicles as a mode of transport to travel to/from school as these vehicles are not currently regulated for use on public land and pose potential safety risks; the Academy is not insured to permit their access onto school site. Thank you for reinforcing this important safeguarding expectation with your child.

**Dates for your diary:**

Y8 Prison Me No Way	23rd April
Y11 GCSE Exam Period	29th April - 25th June (including contingency dates)
Volunteer Recruitment Fair	29th April
May Bank Holiday	4th May
May Half Term	25th May - 29th May
Year 11 Prom	1st July
Careers Day	6th July
Y10 Art Soiree	8th July
Year 6 Transition Event	7th & 8th July
Year 9 Graduation Residential	8th & 9th July
Last day of summer term	Friday 17th July

**Staffing Update:**

As we conclude the spring term, we wish a fond farewell to a number of colleagues:

Mrs.O.Barton - Teaching Assistant  
Miss.B.Garbutt - Teaching Assistant

We wish Mrs.O.Barton and Miss.B.Garbutt the very best for the future and thank them for their service at Outwood Academy Ripon. I also extend sincere thanks to Mrs.H.Kennedy, Teacher of Humanities, who has kindly agreed to support a one year maternity cover at our sister Academy, Outwood Academy Easingwold. We wish her the best of luck and look forward to her returning to Ripon next year.

Next term, we look forward to welcoming:

Mr.R.Johnstone - Educational Welfare Officer  
Miss.L.Winchester - PA to Principal/Office Manager/Clerk to Academy Council.

In addition, I extend sincere congratulations to Mrs.C.Beaumont, my current PA/Office Manager/Clerk to Academy Council, who recently secured the post of Academy Business Manager at Outwood Academy Ripon. I am delighted that she will join our Senior Leadership Team in her new role following the Easter break. I am also pleased to share that SENDCo, Mrs.A.Southern, will return to the Academy after Easter as Head of Creative & Performing Art;

Mrs Southern brings a wealth of expertise within the arts to Ripon - an area we are very keen to strengthen. Mrs.H.Abrahams, recently appointed as Assistant SENDCo, will be the point of contact after Easter. We extend our congratulations to both Mrs.A.Southern and Mrs.H.Abrahams on their promotion.

I confirm the pastoral structure for next term:

Year Group	Learning Manager
Y7	Mr Owens
Y8	Mrs Handyside
Y9	Mrs Mearns
Y10	Miss Slater
Y11	Mrs Johnson (Lead Learning Manager)

**New School Day:**

You will recall that I recently wrote to you outlining the arrangements for the new school day in September 2026. **From Wednesday 9th September 2026, our school day will commence at 8.35am and end at 15.05pm Pupils will be expected on site no later than 8.35am.** Please refer to my letter of 18th March 2026 for further detail. Many thanks to parents/carers who have been in touch. We remain incredibly excited about the benefits and opportunities that the new school day will offer our learners.

Thank you for your continuous support and feedback. We remain available should you have any questions or concerns: [enquiries@ripon.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@ripon.outwood.com). In the meantime, have a wonderful Easter break and I look forward to seeing students return to school at normal time on Monday 13th April, 2026.

Kindest regards,



Ms.R.A.Donohue (M.Ed; FCCT)  
Principal