



Outwood Academy Redcar
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Principal: Mr Lee Johnson
Community Executive Principal: Mrs Gemma Trattles

19 December 2025

Dear Parents/carers

I am writing to you as the end of the autumn term comes to a close with information about the new year and to provide you with some updates from the Academy.

The final week has allowed us to celebrate the achievements of the students, whilst ensuring that we continue to support their learning until the last day of term. Over the term there have been a number of great activities taking place in school, including our sporting fixtures and a range of visits/experiences out of school. We also hosted our SEND coffee morning along with a number of partner agencies which was well attended, the next coffee morning will take place on 27th March, further details will follow in the new year from the Inclusion Team.

We would like to recognise the fantastic efforts of the Year 11 students who put in a considerable amount of effort in preparing for their recent practice exams, they showed exceptional determination and commitment and those students who attended the most enrichments sessions throughout the term were rewarded with the offer of a driving lesson experience on Friday 11 December - which we would like to thank Mr Oakford for arranging this amazing opportunity.

Staffing Updates

Going into the Spring term, I will continue to be based at Redcar supporting Mr Oakford and the Senior Leadership team in the absence of Mr Johnson.

We say goodbye to some colleagues. Miss Tait, our SENCO and English Teacher who has been with the Academy since September 2014, and has been an incredible influence for so many of our young people and their families during this time, leaves us today to pursue her career at another school. We would like to wish her all the best in her new venture and thank her for her service to Redcar and the wider community.

Miss Rutter, Learning Manager and Miss James, Teaching Assistant have also accepted opportunities outside of Outwood and leave today with our thanks for their hard work and our very best wishes.

Miss Robinson, Attendance Officer has secured an internal promotion, and leaves us today to take up a post at Outwood Academy Acklam. We wish her every success in her new role.



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.

A new colleague, Miss Sharman is starting in January as SENDCo and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. We look forward to welcoming her in the New Year.

Uniform

For any families needing to purchase uniform items before January 26, the uniform expectation reminder can be found [here](#). The letter clearly sets out the uniform standards please take some time to read this and if there are any questions, contact the school. Our uniform providers Trutex are currently offering a discount on a number of items and their promotional flier can be found [here](#).

A reminder that on return in January we have these expectations:

- No jewellery. A wrist watch can be worn (not a smart watch) and a Medic Alert necklace or bracelet if required.
- Hair must be a natural colour and bands/bubbles need to be black or purple.
- Nail polish and false nails are not allowed.
- All students must have a bag that can fit a planner and PE kit.

Many families are facing financially challenging times and we would like to remind parents and carers about the [Hardship Policy](#). This fund is a discretionary source of financial help, available to registered full-time academy students who have difficulties paying for:

- Curriculum visits, trips and year group residentials
- Uniform, shoes or sports equipment/kit
- Other materials or equipment required for academic studies
- Expenses to attend seminars, interviews or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expenses.

Praising Stars

All pupils have been issued with their Praising Stars report for this term to bring home. If this has not arrived, please let us know and we will get a new one sent as soon as possible.

Reporting and Attendance

This week your child has been issued with their Praising Stars Report, this can be accessed electronically via the Outwood Portal.

I must stress that good attendance is directly linked to educational success. In last year's year 11, those who attended more than 95% of the time achieved far better than their peers with poorer attendance. Allowing your child to take time off school will only hurt their future, whether that is not getting into college or earning less money in their career later on. We want your child to have the best start in life, just like you do. If your child is too unwell to attend school, call the absence line on 01642 289211 before 8am.

Key Dates

The Academy re-opens for all students on Tuesday 6th January 2025

Parent Information Events:

- Year 9 parents/carers will be invited to the Guided Pathways (Options) Evening on Tuesday 6th January at 4.45pm. This evening helps them choose their subjects for Key Stage 4.
- Year 11 parents evening is taking place on 13 January, booking information will be shared upon our return.

- Year 11 students will start their final practice exams (mocks) on Monday 3rd March, for two weeks.
- Year 9 & 10 parents evening will take place on 28 April 2026.

Support for Families

We understand this time of year can be difficult for families. We want to ensure you are all aware of the support available whilst the Academy is closed, the following [link](#) will direct you to the Outwood Mental Wellbeing Page on our website where a number of support lines are detailed should you feel you are struggling and need help over the festive period.

The [linked](#) poster is displayed around the academy and we are taking this opportunity to share with parents/carers.

I wish you all a relaxing and happy Christmas with your families. I hope the students use this break to be kind and supportive at home. We look forward to seeing what 2026 brings for our community when we open again on Tuesday, 6th January 2026, at 8:20 am.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma Trattles', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Mrs Gemma Trattles

Community Executive Principal