



20 July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly I would like to thank you for all your support and hard work in ensuring our students got the best from Outwood Academy Riverside this Academic year. And what a year we have had. Here are some highlights to name a few...

Events and Activities

In the second week back the whole school went to the Darlington Hippodrome to see Demon Dentist. They watched a wonderful live performance and enjoyed a theatre experience as part of their 'Values' weeks. In October and May we had two very successful culture days, where students were invited to attend school in clothes that they felt best represented and celebrated their culture. Students have been able to watch international sports events including the Rugby World Cup. We've performed live at Drury Lane Theatre, London with Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jason Donovan and an impressive 180 students have completed their first LAMDA exam in Speech and Drama.

We visited Oxford university with the Brilliant Club, spent 3 days on Holy Island on a retreat, and had students complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award expedition.

Students have visited the Dorman Museum, attended Middlesbrough football matches, watched the Mohawks play basketball and received training from them.

Students have been working hard all year and been taking part in many academic competitions including the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge and have attended a Climate Change student voice conference. There have been many wins for our sports teams during their tournaments after school which has led to the school achieving the Bronze School Games Mark. Then most recently we have had a sports day at Middlesbrough Sports Village and did an experience trip to Flamingo Land.

Of course we must acknowledge and celebrate that Outwood Academy Riverside had its first Ofsted and we can officially say we are a 'Good School'. We are delighted with this and will continue to get better every year. I want all students' school experience at Riverside to be special and for them to achieve the very best, so that they are the front runners in the world of work, when they eventually get there. Equally important - I want them to make wonderful memories and have great life skills.

Staff Leaving

We say farewell to a number of our staff this year as they embark on new adventures. Firstly it's just a goodbye for now to Miss Scanlon, Miss Freer and Miss Addison as they begin their maternity leave. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them well at such a wonderful time in their lives. Ms Marrs, Mrs White and Mrs Jones are all retiring this year and will miss them dearly as they enjoy a new chapter. We also say goodbye to Mrs Rankin and Mrs Saleem as they move into new careers from September - they too will be missed and we wish them well. Miss Chapman is heading to Outwood Academy Redcar in a new role as a Pastoral Lead - so isn't too far away and we know she'll be a great addition to their team. And finally we are excited to announce that Mr Mallyon and Miss Tores will be embarking on their teacher training from September - however they will be training with us!! So not really a goodbye after all.

To ensure the best start for all students in September, please read the Essential Information for Students document enclosed with this letter. This information can also be found on our website. Year 7 and 10 students return to school on Wednesday 6 September at 8.20 am and Years 8 and 9 students return on Thursday 7 September.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful and safe summer. I look forward to doing it all again in September.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Brant-Smith', with some overlapping loops and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Melissa Brant-Smith

September Essential Information

Our Riverside family will grow again in September as we welcome 120 new Year 7 students.

- Students in **Years 7 and 10** will return to school on **Wednesday 6 September at 8.20 am.**
- Students in **Years 8 and 9** will return on **Thursday 7 September at 8.20 am.**

Uniform

Our standards and expectations remain high and students are expected to be in full uniform throughout the year.

We do not anticipate any changes to the uniform requirements before the new term begins. Please note the key expectations:

- Plain black shoes (must be polishable)
- Plain black socks/tights with no holes.
- No jewellery is allowed except a wrist watch and a Medic Alert necklace or bracelet. Smart watches are not allowed and students cannot wear earrings or other piercings whilst at school.
- Hair must be a natural colour and bands/bobbles must be plain black or purple.
- Nail polish and any type of false nails are not allowed.
- No hoodies can be worn on site and coats must be large enough to go over the blazer.
- Jumpers should be plain black with a v-neck and long sleeves.
- All students must bring a bag that can hold a planner and an A4 workbook.

Equipment for Learning

To ensure our students are ready for learning please organise for them to have the basic equipment listed below. If students have the majority of their own equipment it will also help to reduce transmission, therefore your support with this would be appreciated.

The basic equipment your child will require when we return in September is:

- A black pen;
- A red pen;
- A pencil and pencil sharpener;
- An eraser;

Students may also want to bring in their own whiteboard pen and highlighters. All students will be provided with a planner on their first day. They are expected to have a school bag that is large enough to contain an A4 folder and all of their equipment.

Hardship Policy

In a time when families are increasingly experiencing financial difficulties, I 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 in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits and year group residential (up to 100% of the cost)
- Uniform, shoes or sports kit
- Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies
- Expenses to attend seminars, interviews or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expenses

Community Relations

It is important that the academy maintains a positive relationship with the community and residents of Middlesbrough. Students play a large part in this relationship and we expect our young people to behave appropriately on their way to and from the academy. This includes respecting the wellbeing and property of residents, addressing residents in a respectful manner and cycling safely and with consideration for other road and path users. Students who do not meet the standards we expect will receive sanctions for their behaviour.

Parents and carers can support our community relationships by driving and parking courteously at the start and end of the school day. The roads near to the school are particularly busy and can become dangerous if over congested. Please choose a suitable pick up point slightly away from the school as to maintain the safety of the roads nearby. Alternatively please walk to meet your child when possible. We also ask that you do not crowd the gate at the start and end of the day as this can make it difficult for our students to enter and exit. It also blocks the sight lines for staff who are on duty.

We also ask that you consider your child's safety when walking to and from school as we would for any school located in the centre of a busy town. Please ensure that they are not walking alone and that they take the safest route to school rather than the quickest.