



Outwood Academy Acklam

Hall Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough, TS5 7JY
Tel: +44(0)1642 818200 Fax: +44(0)1642 850560

Web: www.acklam.outwood.com

Email: enquiries@acklam.outwood.com

Head of School: Mr Chris Palmer

Lead Principal: Mr Graham Skidmore

8 May 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Important Information Regarding a Cyber Security Incident at Outwood Academy Acklam

I am writing to you today with sincere regret to inform you of a recent cyber security incident that has affected our school. We have discovered that our management information system (MIS) has been the target of a cyber attack, and regrettably, an unauthorised third party has managed to copy some of the data held within it. At this moment we believe the data is limited to names, dates of birth, addresses and any parental contact information you have previously provided to us.

Please know that the security of our students' and families' information is of paramount importance to us, and we are deeply sorry that this incident has occurred. We understand that this news will understandably cause concern, and we want to assure you that we are taking this situation extremely seriously and are working diligently to address it.

Upon discovering the breach, we immediately took steps to contain the incident, secure our systems, and launch a thorough investigation with the assistance of specialist cyber security experts. We have reported this breach to the Police, Action Fraud, the National Cyber Security Centre and the Information Commissioner's Office. We are working tirelessly to understand the full extent of the data that has been accessed and to implement all necessary measures to prevent any further unauthorised access.

We want to reassure you that we have always prioritised the security of our network and the data it holds. We have invested in robust security measures and regularly review and update our systems in line with best practices. This attack, however, demonstrates the increasing sophistication and persistence of cyber criminals.



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Our immediate priorities are to:

- Conduct a comprehensive investigation to fully understand the nature and scope of the incident.
- Work with cyber security specialists to further strengthen our existing security measures and protocols.
- Cooperate fully with the relevant authorities.

We understand you will have questions, and we are committed to keeping you informed as our investigation progresses. We will provide further updates as soon as we have more concrete information to share. In the meantime, if you have any immediate concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school at cyber@acklam.outwood.com.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate this challenging situation. The well-being and security of our school community remain our absolute priority, and we are doing everything within our power to resolve this incident and ensure the ongoing safety of our data.

Yours faithfully

Lee Wilson
Chief Executive Officer