



Outwood Academy Newbold

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Community Executive Principal: Mr Darren Smith

Principal: Mr Rob Southern



23rd March 2026

Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of this term I wanted to share with you some thoughts and observations about our academy and the experiences that your sons and daughters have whilst in our care.

I think that it is really important to start this letter by acknowledging the tragic accident that happened within our community this half-term. The death of an ex-student has rocked our children and some of them have struggled to come to terms with the unfairness of one of their friends not being there anymore. The pastoral support that was in place for our children, particularly those in the older years, has been exceptional. We have taken extensive guidance from experts in this area and our learning manager team have stepped-up and ensured that all children have had a shoulder to cry on and a safe space to vent their frustrations. We have been keen to push the power of normality - by keeping as much of the day as normal as possible we are helping the children to control their emotions and channel their grief in a healthy manner. We remain committed to supporting all children for as long as they need it.

While those challenges remain our priority, we also have a reason to celebrate: our student voice group has secured some incredible changes to the academy that will support students for many years to come. Their small victory came in having the sports facilities available for the foreseeable future. It has been a revelation watching up to 200 students a day playing football and enjoying the outside spaces at break time. This was something that our students campaigned for, alongside some parents, over a number of months. I have been delighted with the way in which students have used the facilities and therefore this arrangement will continue.

The enormous change that our student voice has secured is the upgrading of our veranda to increase and improve the outside seating facilities. Our students launched a bid to have an extension built to the covered area on the veranda which will include new seating and a painted environmental mural. The team of students who ran the bid were required to produce written evidence, a video and a presentation which was all sent to a judging panel within Outwood Grange Academies Trust. We were delighted to receive approximately £35000 to make their plans come to life. I am very much

looking forward to seeing the building start in the summer so that students can enjoy these facilities for years to come.

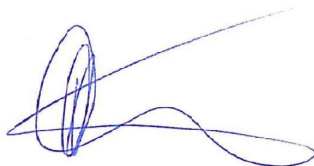
Our students have received their Praising Stars 4 reports today which will demonstrate to you the hard work and immense progress that is happening in our school every day. It is an absolute pleasure to watch lessons and listen to students as they learn, challenge and become articulate members of our school community. Please take the time today to ask your son or daughter questions about their lessons and the topics that they are currently learning about. You are all welcome to come and visit the academy at any point and see us in action - I know that what happens in our school is not normal when compared to schools across the country and I would love it if you were able to visit us and see just how special this school is.

We are closing for the Easter holiday on Friday, March 27th at the normal time of 14:55. Whilst there are some GCSE and A-Level interventions running throughout the Easter holiday I would like to encourage all of our students to spend time with their friends and family in order to come back next term fully refreshed and ready to work hard for the final term of the academic year. As ever at this time of year, I will be travelling to the northern highlands of Scotland and have set my family the challenge of climbing Ben Nevis. I hope that you are able to do things that make you smile and allow you to spend time with the people you love.

We will be returning to school on Monday, April 13th at the normal time. We are not changing any of our expectations and therefore I ask that you are mindful of punctuality, uniform, work rate and behaviour standards. Please encourage your sons and daughters to follow all expectations of the academy.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the academy at events and celebrations in the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,



Rob Southern
Principal