

Outwood Academy Shafton
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Principal: Mrs Alison McQueen

23 April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We are pleased to write to you again to share information about the next stage in your child's Year 9 journey. At the end of this academic year we will be holding our annual graduation ceremony for Year 9. The graduation ceremony will celebrate the hard work of students in this cohort and is a stepping stone to starting GCSEs. We want all students to have the opportunity to graduate.

Students will be awarded a graduation level based on the effort grade they have been awarded in their penultimate Praising Stars report (May half term) **and** great attendance. Last half term, we shared the criteria for a successful graduation in an assembly with students:

- Platinum- An E1 student and great attendance
- Gold- E1's and some E2's and great attendance
- Silver- E1's, E2's, some E3's and great attendance
- Bronze- Mostly E3's and great attendance

(We have included a review of the Praising Stars effort grades at the bottom of this letter)

We have discussed with the whole year group how much we want each and every student to be successful and graduate. The Praising Stars they received at Easter gave an indication as to what graduation level your child could be awarded and a focus to achieve their very best at the next one. It will also allow us to work together to ensure students achieve this graduation level. Graduation monitoring cards will be available to students for effort and attendance to support them during this exciting time.

If your child receives E4s or E5s then they will be monitored for a period of time prior to the final Praising Stars in order to support them towards graduation. However if they do not ultimately meet the criteria they will not graduate with their peers. Graduation is a privilege not a right.

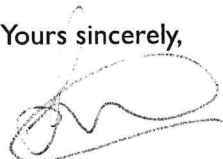
I am sure you will agree that graduating is a very special occasion for our students and we look forward to inviting you to the graduation ceremony in July. We would like to take this opportunity to 'Save the Date' for the **week commencing 6 July 2026**. Students will graduate with their form group on one of the days during this week and we will be able to share further details with you over the coming weeks.



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We are very proud to be responsible for Y9 and excited for the journey the students have ahead this year. We thank you in advance for supporting your child in striving to achieve their very best graduation level and look forward to sharing in their celebration at the end of the summer term. If you have any questions or would like further information please contact Mrs Mann at s.mann@shafton.outwood.com or Mr Jeffries at p.jeffries@shafton.outwood.com

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Mann
Year 9 Learning Manager



Mr Jeffries
Assistant Principal

Effort Grades

E1 extraordinary students

indicates effort that is above and beyond what is expected. Students awarded this grade actively seek additional learning opportunities and enhance the learning of others due to their contribution within lessons.

E2 great students

show a clear commitment to learning. They complete all assigned tasks well and in a timely manner. They are motivated to develop themselves in their learning and their contribution to lessons supports the learning of others.

E3 good (ish) students

Effort in lessons can be inconsistent, you mostly do what is asked and make progress, but could achieve more if you show more motivation in your learning. You complete the tasks set and make contributions in lessons.

E4 underachieving students

You underperform and are capable of much more. You should see the E4 grade as a wake-up call to encourage improvement. A change of effort, attitude or work ethic could dramatically enhance your performance in the subject.

E5 unacceptable

You do not embrace the learning opportunities presented and often miss out due to poor choices. This harms your level of achievement. This grade is an indicator of high level concern regarding effort, attitude and behaviour in lessons.