



Outwood Academy Portland

Netherton Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 2SF

Tel: +44(0)1909 471010 Fax: +44(0)1909 471021

Web: www.portland.outwood.com

Email: enquiries@portland.outwood.com

Principal: Mrs Danielle Sheehan

Our ref: DSH/MGR

18th September 2024

Dear parents/carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to share information with you about the curriculum which we provide, beyond the traditional 25 hours a week learning of the National Curriculum (all of which is shared on our website - to see what your child is learning this half-term please visit:

www.portland.outwood.com/posts/9784)

Re: Supporting Your Child's Wellbeing and Personal Development

At Outwood Academy Portland, we place great emphasis on the wellbeing and personal development of our students, believing that a supportive environment is the key to helping them succeed both academically and personally. Alongside this, we are committed to maintaining strong and effective communication with you, our parents and guardians, to ensure you are kept fully informed of your child's progress and development.

Supporting Wellbeing and Personal Development

Our pastoral care system is designed to ensure that every student has access to tailored support, whether through their form tutor, learning manager, or our wellbeing team from Mr Ahmed, Mrs Archer and our inclusion team who offer a range of interventions. In addition to this, we offer a broad range of activities that enrich students' personal development, including:

- **Assemblies**
- **ACE programme for year 7**
- **Careers guidance**
- **PSHE/Life (personal, social, health and economic education)**
- **SMSC (spiritual, moral, social, and cultural education)**
- **Mental Wellbeing Support/Wellbeing Wednesdays**



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- **Relationship and sex education**
- **Health education**
- **Addressing emerging issues**
- **Commemoration and celebration**
- **Mentors (both staff and student)**

These initiatives help ensure that students are well-prepared for the challenges they face both in and outside of school.

Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom

In addition to the opportunities offered during the school day, we provide a range of activities and programmes that extend learning and development beyond the classroom, such as:

- **After school programme**
- **Trips & visits**
- **Academy representation**
- **Student Voice**
- **Events & performances**
- **Competitions & quizzing**
- **Student ambassadors**
- **Anti-bullying ambassadors**
- **Mental wellbeing champions**
- **Charity work**
- **Praise and graduation (New for 2025!)**
- **Outwood Honours Programme (New for 2025!)**

These activities allow students to build leadership skills, teamwork, and confidence while developing their talents in various areas.

Keeping Parents Informed: Methods of Communication

We understand the importance of effective communication between home and school. To ensure that you stay informed about your child's progress, upcoming events, and achievements, we use a variety of methods, including:

- **Postcards:** Sent home to celebrate achievements and good behaviour.
- **Texts:** Quick updates and reminders about important events or urgent information.
- **Student planners:** A daily tool for communicating homework, key dates, and teacher comments.
- **Letters:** For formal updates on specific matters.

- **Praising Stars reports:** Half termly progress updates on your child's academic and personal development.
- **Portland newsletter:** A regular publication that showcases student achievements, school news, and upcoming events.
- **Open nights:** Events where you can meet staff and learn more about the school.
- **Parent view events:** Informal gatherings (both in-person and online) to discuss how we can continue to improve your child's experience at school.
- **Parents' evenings:** These are critical opportunities to discuss your child's progress directly with their teachers.
 - **Dates for this year's Parents' Evenings:**
 - 7th November 2024
 - 16th January 2025
 - 24th April 2025

Importance of Communication

We know how important communication is for ensuring that your child's experience at school is positive and successful. We strive to respond to all enquiries as quickly as possible and maintain open channels so that you feel confident about your child's education and wellbeing.

If you ever have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Our commitment is to work together with you in ensuring the best possible outcomes for your child.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to continuing our partnership throughout the year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs D Sheehan

Principal