

October 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Thank you for your support over this first half-term of the 2022-23 academic year. It has been fantastic to start a new school year without the disruptions that we have experienced in recent years, with the Covid restrictions lifted, but still implementing the good practice we developed over this time.

All year groups have returned to school with an impetus to be the best that they can be. Clear examples have been Year 7 completing their ACE programme and settling into secondary school life and Year 11 making the mature transitions and preparation for exam year milestones.

As I hope everyone recognises, we put significant emphasis in creating a culture which praises students (and adults in the academy) for the effort they put into making them the successful, well-rounded and educated young people which they aspire to be. It's our vision that praise builds an important sense of belief.

Last year our Year 11 and Year 13 students received the best outcomes our academy has ever seen, despite the challenges the world had seen, and there should be no reason that future year groups do not continue this upward trajectory, opening doors to themselves and their community.

If you don't follow already, our academy social media accounts provide a window into academy life, with pictures and information that share the fantastic achievements of our students every day. Please continue to follow;

Instagram: [outwoodacademyadwick](https://www.instagram.com/outwoodacademyadwick)

Twitter: [OutwoodAdwick](https://twitter.com/OutwoodAdwick)

Recent posts and events have included; Our weekly learning in the classroom round-up films, Weekly star students and overall start student, tutor groups of the week, Year 10 and 11 driving lessons, reading rewards, staff stars, SLT superstars, random acts of kindness rewards, OAA book competition, sports teams and enrichment, attendance awards and our 100% attendees celebration, Praising Stars release day, Year 6 open evening, Year 7 reading and meet the tutor evening, drop everything and read day, 'Hello Yellow' world mental health day, OAA careers fair, the Duolingo leaderboard, trips and visits, upcoming events, and much much more.

Whilst we are proud of academic excellence, we aspire to be much more, a school is a community and a school must have a heart, and we strongly believe that our culture should be about celebrating individual effort and becoming safe, responsible and respectful young people who help each other to go beyond their potential.

Your child may have informed you that we recently carried out student surveys, as we always want to hear their opinions and concerns, especially in respect of being safe, respectful and responsible. We will go into the next half-term responding to their answers and continuing to create a community that everyone would want to belong to.

This first half-term has set us excellent foundations to build on and we look forward to a wealth of upcoming community events in the lead up to Christmas. The items below will support us in ensuring students meet our high standards and expectations, so that our full focus can be on great teaching and learning, and a positive experience for everyone at the academy.

Food vouchers and Household Support Fund

We and the local authority recognise that we remain in challenging times, with rising food and energy costs and undue hardship. We have a duty to support our most vulnerable families within our community. Where before food vouchers were provided through school holidays for students in receipt of free school meals, Doncaster Council will replace this service with single payment to support food and energy costs. This payment will be based on individual families benefits entitlement and number of people / dependents within the household.

Attendance and Punctuality

It has been fantastic to see the rise in student attendance to the academy, post Covid. We strive for all students to have excellent attendance, at least 95%+, as research proves that there is understandably a direct correlation between good attendance and excellent academic outcomes. It was great last week to celebrate such a high percentage of students being rewarded for 100% attendance, and we hope to see the same over the next half-term.

In regards to punctuality, all students must be on-site by 08:15, in readiness for students moving to lessons at 08:20 and lessons underway by 08:25. We are aware of the changes to the public bus services which many students are reliant on. For the vast majority this has not affected punctuality, but we have shared our views and challenges with the service providers and the local authority so that we voice the community's concerns and support our students, especially as we head into the darker mornings.

Enrichment

Over the last half-term we have launched an extensive enrichment programme, with academic, creative and sports clubs running from 14:30 - 15:30, all free of charge. The sessions are inclusive to everyone at the academy. Please support your child in attending enrichment as it is an excellent opportunity to try something new, develop skills and work with others outside of the classroom and our regular curriculum. The enrichment offer can be found here;

<https://academy-sites-files.outwood.com/document/466/file/481cd31db3b2cd8e483bfb4037d36d6c.pdf>

We're always listening to students' ideas for clubs. There is also no commitment to sign up for any length of time (unless Year 11 targeted sessions), and students may try as many as they like by simply arriving at the session.

Uniform and Equipment

We pride ourselves on the standards of academy uniform, as students look extremely smart and wear their uniform with pride in the community. We also ensure they have the correct equipment as part of our 'being responsible' values.

Please, support your child in being prepared for the next half-term with a few key reminders that we're really focussing on.

- As the weather changes, the uniform policy permits a **plain black v-neck jumper** underneath blazers. This must not be branded (with exception to the Outwood logo) and strictly hoodies and sweatshirts are not permitted.
- We have seen a significant increase in the number of students requiring to borrow a **school tie**. It is the students responsibility to have a school tie.
- **Skirts** must be an academy uniform skirt, with the OGAT logo and should not be rolled or modified in any way.

If a student does not have an element of the school uniform they should attend the Student Information Desk (SID) before the start of the school day. They will be able to borrow an item of uniform, a C4 sanction will be given, but then removed when they return the uniform item at the end of the day.

Additional uniform can be purchased from <https://www.trutex.com/> and entering our unique code **LEA00639SC**. There is also now an option to access Pre-loved uniform. In these challenging times please also speak to colleagues at the academy if you require further support.

Jewellery

- Items such as earrings, nose studs, rings, bracelets, necklaces and other jewellery (including clear inserts) are not allowed for health and safety and will be confiscated if seen. The first time jewellery is confiscated it may be collected by the student at the end of the day, if confiscated for a second time it must be collected by an adult.
- Make-up must be very discrete, eyebrows of normal shape and colour, fake eyelashes are not allowed and students will be expected to remove them.
- No nail varnish or false nails

Equipment

- Students must have their **academy planner** with them throughout the academy day. It is a key resource for accessing lessons as it includes their whiteboard, coloured response cards, timetable, diary for recording information, individual subject resources and much more. If a student forgets their planner they will be provided with a temporary 1 day planner for that day and a C4 sanction issued. If this becomes a persistent issue and/or the planner is lost, parents will be expected to purchase a new planner.
- All students must have a **school bag** as part of their uniform expectations. It should be large enough to fit an A4 folder, their PE kit and basic equipment.

Communication

We understand that as parents and carers you value regular communication with the academy, and at times you may need to speak to your child's learning manager or our Inclusion and SEND team. To support your communication, below are the email addresses for these key members of staff

Role	Member of Staff	Email address
Year 7 Learning manager	Ms Addy	e.addy@adwick.outwood.com
Year 8 Learning manager	Mrs Newsome	p.newsome@adwick.outwood.com
Year 9 Learning manager	Mrs Mann	s.mann@adwick.outwood.com
Year 10 Learning manager	Mrs Barnes	l.barnes@adwick.outwood.com
Year 11 Learning manager	Ms Gorton	k.gorton@adwick.outwood.com
Lead Learning manager & Safeguarding	Mrs Richardson	s.richardson@adwick.outwood.com
Inclusion manager	Mrs Simpkin	j.simpkin@adwick.outwood.com
SENCO	Mr Gibson	r.gibson@adwick.outwood.com

Messages can also be sent to our general enquiries at;
enquiries@adwick.outwood.com

We really value your support in upholding our standards and expectations, so that we can put our efforts into fantastic teaching & learning and student experiences. I and our colleagues at the academy look forward to working with you and your children over the next half-term and welcoming you to our community events.

For Year 11 parents, please make a note in your diary of our Post-16 evening on Tuesday 1st November, before they start their GCSE trial assessments from Monday 7th November, and then our student & parents Revision evening on Thursday 10th November.

Students return on Monday 31st October and break-up for the Christmas break on Thursday 15th December. Have a wonderful half-term break.

Yours sincerely

Andy Scruby
Principal