

To the Parent/Carer of:

1 March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted that the Education Office has offered your child a place at Outwood Academy Bydales from September 2016, and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our school community. We appreciate that you want the very best for your child and we will aim to build a close, effective relationship with you that will directly benefit your son or daughter's education.

Bydales School became Outwood Academy Bydales in September 2014. Our students and staff had an incredible first year, within the Outwood Grange Academies Trust (OGAT). The school was recently named in the DfE 2015 Performance Tables as the highest performing school in the Tees Valley for progress made by students, based on previous attainment from primary school. This placed us in the top 3% of similar schools nationally, and third in the whole of the north-east of England. Students also achieved the best progress in their GCSEs within the five Teesside local authorities, in terms of their 'Best 8 Valued-Added' GCSEs, scoring 1026.5. You can look in more detail via this link: <http://tinyurl.com/htwzvyd>

At this stage I would like to draw your attention to our **Evening for New Students and Parents on Monday 4 July 2016 at 5.30pm**. This is followed by **Transition Weeks** which are from **Monday 4 July to Friday 15 July 2016** when Year 6 students will spend time with their peers and tutors and start their Year 7 timetable at the Academy. We always encouraged by the opportunity to ensure students get used to the routines of the school, and thus ensure they have established themselves with their new teachers and subjects, before the summer holidays.

During the summer months, Ms Rice (Vice Principal), Miss Gates (Student Inclusion) and the Learning Manager for Year 7 will be visiting primary schools to meet Year 6 teachers to gather crucial transition information. Colleagues from several of our partner primary schools will also be working alongside Year 6 students at the Academy during these three weeks in July as part of the Transition process.

**IMPORTANT: The main purpose of this letter is to ask you to make contact with me, preferably by email, so I have the quickest means of communication with you from now on. It would also be very helpful if you could confirm to me that your child will be taking his or her place at Outwood Academy Bydales and that we have your correct details.**

Please could you do this by sending an email to [enquiries@bydales.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@bydales.outwood.com) with the email header containing your child's name, Primary and 'coming' or 'not coming'. For example: "John Smith – Ings Farm Primary – Coming". Alternatively, send in a brief written note if that is more convenient. You will appreciate we are in the unusual position of having a few places left, and want to ensure that any prospective parents do not have to appeal for a place unnecessarily.

Please send this from an email address that you do not mind being used for sending you occasional school bulletins in the future. If you prefer to use the post, please send a brief note to me at school, confirming your acceptance of the place offered.

If you want to keep up with all the daily and weekly news at our school you can follow us on Twitter via @OutwoodBydales. We also have a regularly updated Outwood Academy Bydales Facebook page accessible via <http://tinyurl.com/ht9czdj> and you can sign up now to subscribe to our Parental Email List, to get a flavour for what is happening in school via: <http://tinyurl.com/m9hwchd>

Finally, on our website we have created a dedicated page for Year 6 parents and children here: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/transition> This has lots of information, and answers to common questions. We hope you will find it useful, and there is a contact form to complete if you have a query that isn't displayed on the page.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Wappat  
Principal