

15 July 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Term Newsletter – Summer 2016

I wanted to write and thank you for your continued support over the last academic year. It is a privilege to work in our great school community, where everyone is committed to working together for the benefit of your sons and daughters. We have worked hard to raise the aspirations of students and encourage them to aim high and look to achieve all they are capable of. This of course extends beyond academic endeavours, to the ability to work and support others, to try new activities and develop skills such as confidence, resilience and charity. We aim to build on the values and work ethic that you have instilled in our young people here, and the support of parents has been critical in ensuring the school continues to develop at a pace. I am also privileged to have a staff that are so passionate about putting 'Students First' through great teaching, support outside the classroom and a willingness to give up time for students to be able to experience so many enriching activities. I mention a few of the most recent events below.

Student Voice Summer Fair

Our first ever Student Voice Summer Fair took place on Saturday 9 July, and an incredible £1200 was raised for Teenage Cancer Trust. The event was the vision of our Student Voice, supported by Mr Taylor (Drama). It proved a massive success, pulling together a whole range of volunteer, charity and trader groups from Marske and the surrounding local communities. A huge number of Student Voice, who were determined to make the occasion so special, were on hand from the early hours to set up the day, and to ensure it ran so well. Students and visitors were able to throw sponges at staff and students, use the Army Cadet Force Climbing Wall, have a go on 'Meltdown', handle a range of creatures courtesy of Kirkleatham Owl Centre and even watch a magician! Many local traders had stands, as did our vital community volunteer and charity groups. Thank you all for making the day so successful by coming along, and to staff who worked so hard before and on the day.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition

Congratulations to all the students from our Leavers 2016 who completed their three day Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition over the weekend of 8-10 July, traversing the North York Moors. It was a gruelling event that took much determination and teamwork, especially during the rain showers. Campsites luckily didn't flood and the insect bites and blisters didn't prove too big a hurdle! Conduct and camaraderie were fantastic as ever, and a huge thank you to staff who gave up their time in support, both leading and at checkpoints.

Year 8 Outward Bound Graduation Residential

Students from Year 8 celebrated the end of their academic year, and the move onto their GCSE courses, over the weekend of 1-3 July 2016. Their Outward Bound Residential took place at Carlton Lodge Activity Centre and involved students challenging themselves with a huge range of activities, overcoming fears and working in teams to encourage each other to push themselves to new limits. All our students were rewarded for consistently good effort grades throughout Year 8, proving they have the right commitment and attitude towards their studies, and are indeed ready to move into Year 9 and begin their formal qualifications. Well done all on your exemplary attitude and approach, and of course to numerous support staff and teaching colleagues who gave up their time over the weekend to make the experience so memorable.

GCSE Art Exhibition – Year 11 and 10

On Wednesday 6 July we hosted our annual GCSE Art Exhibition, focusing on the examination pieces by Year 11 and Year 10 students who completed their GCSE studies this summer. The occasion was supported by students from our Student Voice Hospitality Team and many others. Guests were treated to a huge exhibition, spread across our main hall and into the corridors of the main building. The tour allowed visitors to see the

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

incredible range of art installations, including 3D and mounted canvas pieces. We are looking forward to mounting some of the pieces permanently around the school.

Year 6 > Year 7 Transition Weeks

Students from Year 6 joined us on their Transition weeks from the 4 July, and have settled into Academy life already. They have been welcomed into their new VMGs by their peers from all year groups, and VMG buddies have helped with navigation around the school site. With the timetable moving up for all Years, we have aimed to ensure that our new students already feel like they have moved up into Year 7. They have been busily meeting their new subject teachers, started with their new Planners and exercise books and have been getting to grips with our KS3 Curriculum. It was a pleasure to meet Year 6 parents and students at the Transition Evening held on Tuesday 5 July and give a flavour of the most recent weeks in the school, and answer remaining questions and queries. We have a dedicated page of our website for Transition here: www.bydales.outwood.com/transition This contains useful dates, information, letters and information already shared, and answers to 'Frequently Asked Questions' in the past. There is also a contact form if parents have any additional questions.

Year 8 Graduation Ceremonies

Fantastic Graduation ceremonies for Year 8 took place on the 29 and 30 June. The events saw friends, family and younger peers from local primary schools celebrating with our hard-working, committed students who have proven they are ready to start their GCSE studies and move up into Year 9. Student Voice Hospitality Committee students were on hand to serve cakes and drinks, fantastic art work was on display from a talented Year 8, and many musical numbers were also performed by students, including the full year group on stage at the finale! Thank you to everyone who made the occasions such a success.

Walking Home Near The Railway Line

When walking home towards New Marske via the railway track crossing (beyond the industrial estate) it has been noted that some of our new Year 6 > Year 7 students are walking along that road on the left hand side. This left hand side does NOT have a pavement, and students are putting themselves at risk walking on the road itself in this way. Indeed it was some of our older, Year 11 students who have passed on this concern and their worries about a potential accident. I would be grateful, if you think this applies to your son or daughter, that you speak to them about using the pavement correctly. This applies all the way home of course, for all students, and I continue to be impressed and grateful of the excellent conduct of our students to and from school.

Uniform for new Year 7 students and Trutex Uniform Event

All Year 6 have been measured, and sizes shared with parents. Their free uniform will be available for collection between 10am – 3pm on Tuesday 16 August. Year 6 students will be issued with these Outwood items: a blazer, a tie, one pair of trousers or skirt, two white shirts, a PE polo shirt, a PE rugby shirt, PE shorts and PE socks. Please remember that all replacement/spare items purchased over the summer or in the future must be the Outwood versions. These are available online via www.trutexdirect.com using the code LEA00658SC. Items can also be purchased, at a slightly higher price, at Bambini of Guisborough. There is more information about uniform on our website here: <http://www.bydales.outwood.com/uniform>

Uniform Reminders (Miscellaneous)

Students are required to wear black shoes that can be polished, rather than boots or canvas/suede shoes. Socks must be plain black. Hair bands/bobbles must be plain black or purple, and should not be worn on wrists when not in use. **All students must have a suitable bag to carry books. Any coat worn must be large enough to go**

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 0695649

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

over the blazer. Hoodies are not allowed. For PE, students will require trainers without dark soles, and football boots.

Equipment expectations

The vast majority of students attend the academy with the right equipment, ready for learning. The list of what is expected in on Page 5 of the Planner. Please note that from September, if a student does not come to a lesson with a pencil and pen a C4 detention will be issued.

Retirement of Sir Michael Wilkins

Students, staff and parents will be aware that Sir Michael Wilkins is retiring at the end of this academic year as Academy Principal & Chief Executive of Outwood Grange Academies Trust. Michael was appointed as headteacher to what was then Outwood Grange School in January 2001. At that time, the school was poorly performing – in truth it was a school that was in Special Measures. Michael started to rapidly transform the school, placing students first in everything that he did. This was the vision that Michael then used to not only transform Outwood Grange Academy but to go on to transform the lives of students across the North of England. Following his phenomenal success as an NLE supporting other schools, in 2009 Michael was approached to become one of the country's first school-based academy sponsors. So began Outwood Grange Academies Trust which has grown with 21 schools all now enjoying the same successes that have been enjoyed at Outwood Grange Academy.

Throughout this time Michael has worked tirelessly to improve the life chances of children in his care – this was first acknowledged in 2009 when he received an award for System Leadership from the then Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove. He was knighted for his services to education in the Queen's New Year's Honours list 2014. Sir Michael leaves Outwood Grange Academies Trust as the highest performing trust in the country. I am sure that you will join us in wishing Sir Michael the very best in his new endeavours.

End of Summer Term

Term ends for students at 2.30pm on Friday 15 July 2016. This ensures that all students are able to have their lunch of course.

Term Dates 2016-2017

These have already been issued to parents but are available on our website here:

www.bydales.outwood.com/term-dates Term starts for all students on Tuesday 6 September promptly at 8.20am for a lesson start of 8.25am. Students should bring their PE kit, in case any timetable changes have been made over the summer. Please do not book holidays during term-time as they will invariably recorded as unauthorised absences and will trigger our attendance procedures. Attendance at the Academy has never been higher, and the amount of time students spend in school and in lessons contributes hugely to the academic success our young people achieve. I am very grateful to the support we receive from parents in this regard.

I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, and enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Wappat
Principal

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.