

27 June 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to those parents and carers who attended the consultation evening on Monday 23 June 2014, where we were able to share with you the vision for a vibrant and high achieving academy.

Important notice from Tuesday 30 June 2014

Outwood Grange Academies Trust are delighted to be working in Bydales School from Tuesday 1 July 2014. There are a significant number of changes that we wish to bring to the school from September 2014 but we are keen to start the journey immediately. Therefore, from Tuesday 1 July, the following will apply:

Directors from the Family of Schools now working with Bydales students

Experts in Maths, English, Science, MFL and Performing Arts are now working with Bydales teachers to support your children, something that has helped to attain outstanding results in all of our other academies.

Mobile Phones / earphones – to be switched off at the school gate, kept out of view and remain switched off until students exit the school gate at the end of the day

This policy has been very effective in ensuring that these devices including iPods and MP3 players etc. do not disrupt learning in school. If your child is seen with a mobile phone in school, this will be confiscated and will only be returned to their parent / carer. Thank you for your support for this policy.

Jewellery / Make-Up and Nail Varnish

No jewellery, make-up or nail varnish allowed. No exceptions.

Uniform

Full uniform is required to be worn properly in the school. Students will be issued with a new tie and are required to wear their full uniform including a blazer and should wear **plain black** shoes with no stripes or badges.

Refusing a reasonable request

Students are liable to a fixed term exclusion should they refuse a reasonable request. Walking away from a senior member of staff would be classed as unreasonable and would lead to a fixed term exclusion.

Swearing at staff

Students who verbally abuse staff will be excluded and those who persist in verbally abusing staff are liable to be permanently excluded.

Lates

Students should arrive by 8.35am the current school day starts at 8.40am. Any student arriving after the start of the school day will be required to complete a one hour detention on the same night.

Drugs and Offensive Weapons

Our discussions with parents and carers have shown there is overwhelming support for the zero tolerance policy to any offensive weapon being brought onto the school premises. We benefit from a breadth and depth of support for other areas of our behaviour policy including drugs, malicious activation of a fire alarm, punctuality, uniform and jewellery.

Malicious activation of a fire alarm is such a serious incident and would put the health and safety of every student at risk, for this reason, this would also result in a permanent exclusion.

Significant changes from September 2014 include:

Timing of the school day

The change of the school day has been well received by students, parents and carers and will increase opportunities for enrichment activities and create space for continued professional development for all staff.

An after-school Enrichment booklet will be sent home at the start of each term.

A new curriculum- a two year Key Stage 3, with three years for the important exams at Key Stage 4.

Praising Stars©

You will receive a report on your child's progress every 6/7 weeks and have the opportunity to come into school by request or invitation to meet staff every term.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your support and we are looking forward to working with you throughout the year. If there are any issues that you would like to raise with us please use the slip below.

You are also more than welcome to visit one of our other established academies and if you would like to do so, please give details below.

Yours sincerely



Sir Michael Wilkins
Academy Principal & Chief Executive



Robert D Tarn
Executive Principal



Andrew Wappat
Principal



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Academy Principal & Chief Executive: Sir Michael Wilkins MA

If you wish to make a comment / suggestion please use the space below.

If you would like to take up our offer of a visit to Outwood Academy Acklam, on Friday 4 July please complete the section at the bottom.

Parental Reply Slip (return to reception at Bydales School)

Name of Child: _____ Form: _____

Comments/Suggestions:

Visit:

I would like to take up the opportunity to visit Outwood Academy Acklam on Friday 4 July 2014 departing Bydales School at 8.15am for 8.45am arrival. The coach will depart Acklam at 12.30pm

Yes **No** *(Please tick)*

Name (Parent/Carer): _____

Signed: _____