

26 March 2021

Dear Parents / carers

I would like to begin this end of term newsletter by paying tribute to Mrs Jane Conway our attendance officer, who sadly passed away last weekend. Mrs Conway was a very dedicated and commitment member of the Bydales family, she had worked at the academy since 2005. She was very well respected and loved by the staff and children at the academy. Mrs Conway was held in high regard for her tenacious high standards and expectations in all matters regarding attendance which had the resulting impact of excellent student attendance across the academy. Mrs Conway will be missed terribly, our sympathies go to her family; John, Nikki and Jamie.

As we reach the end of another term I praise the efforts and hard work that all our staff and students have made throughout another challenging term where we have seen live lessons, mass testing and a full return to the academy! As ever I am so proud of how everyone has supported each other through the challenges ensuring we work together to maintain high standards of teaching and learning, behaviour and attendance. We appreciate all the support given by our parents and carers and recognise the difference this makes to the effective running of the academy.

I would ask that all parents and carers support us maintaining our high standards and expectations by ensuring their children return to the academy after the Easter holidays with the correct uniform and equipment ready for learning. Our expectations are that our children are outstanding in all aspects and this includes their presentation and readiness for learning. Please familiarise yourself with the uniform and equipment expectations below:

Uniform

You can access full uniform details on the academy website here: [Uniform - Outwood Academy Bydales](#). Please note the key expectations below:

- Plain black shoes (must be **polishable**) – no trainers, boots, pumps or canvas shoes will be allowed. Please note our shoe policy expectations at the above webs link.
- Socks/tights- they must be **plain black** with no holes.
- Jewellery- **No jewellery is allowed** except a wrist watch and a Medic Alert necklace or bracelet. Smart watches are not allowed in the Academy. No rings or ear piercings
- Hair colour- must be a **natural** hair colour. Bands/bobbles must be **plain black or purple**, and should not be worn on wrists when not in use.
- Nail polish and any type of false nails (including clear gels, acrylics, extensions, Shellac etc) are **not allowed**.
- **No hoodies to be worn on the academy site.**
- Any coat worn must be large enough to **go over the blazer**
- School bag - all students **must have a bag** that can fit in a planner and an A4 workbook

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.

Equipment

To ensure our students are ready for learning please organise for them to have the basic equipment listed below.

- A black pen
- A red pen
- A pencil and pencil sharpener
- An eraser
- A scientific calculator
- A school geometry set which should include a compass, a protractor, a 6 inch ruler and a set square
- A Collins Pocket English Dictionary or equivalent
- A Collins Pocket French Dictionary or equivalent

Hardship Policy

I would remind everyone about the Academy Hardship Policy. This fund is a discretionary source of financial help available to all registered full-time Academy students. The aim of the fund is to help students who have difficulties in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits and year group residential (up to 100% of the cost)
- Uniform, shoes or sports kit
- Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies
- Expenses to attend seminars, interviews or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expense

Your Children may be eligible for a grant from our hardship fund if:

- A household income of below £25,000
- A student whose parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit, Income Based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal Credit, who is not entitled to free school meals
- At the decision of the Principal, any student who does not fall under the categories listed above, but consider themselves to be in financial hardship

You can access the hardship policy on our website [Policies - Outwood Academy Bydales](#)

COVID Testing at Home

Students should continue to carry out twice weekly COVID tests at home over the Easter holidays. We recommend doing the tests on a Sunday night/Monday morning and Wednesday night/Thursday morning. Results should still be reported to NHS Test and Trace at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and to the academy at <https://forms.gle/NzXEqZHikIfosKku8>

More test kits will have been issued to your child before the Easter break and more will be issued when we return.

We will be continuing with the slightly staggered start to the day to ensure students are on site safely and sensibly and can start each day with hygiene routines. Staggered starts to the day are as follows:

Y7 8.00 am

Y8 8.05 am

Y9 8.10 am

Y10 8.15 am

Y11 8.20 am

As you are aware community relations are very important to our academy, I would appeal to all parents and carers to help us by being considerate when dropping off and picking up their children, please be mindful that Churchill Drive is a 'no entry' except for access, therefore do not use this area.

I would also ask you to remind your child of the importance of continuing to adhere to government guidelines. Students should not gather together en-route to the academy, particularly in the village and at the shops, they should enter straight into the academy via their designated route. Students have been very responsible in their response to expectations regarding the wearing of face masks and keeping us all safe.

Our academy community marked the nation day of reflection on Tuesday 23 March, which allowed us to acknowledge those families who have lost loved ones and experienced bereavements. If your child has experienced a bereavement please contact Miss Gates, Inclusion Manager, if you wish to share this information with us. This will ensure we can put relevant support in place for your child and family. Miss Gates can be contacted via the school number 01642 474000 or via email at k.gates@bydales.outwood.com

As we approach the end of the spring term I wish all our families a happy Easter break and hope the holiday period is filled with joy, peace and hope.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seana Rice', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Seana Rice
Principal