

Our ref: JGT/VGY

19 December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Year 8 – Praising Stars 2**

Your son/daughter is now close to completing their first full term in Year 8 at Outwood Academy Danum, we hope it has been a positive one for them. Attendance in Year 8 is currently 92.1%, which is on average 28 hours of lost learning time and therefore is still an area we must improve. We must all work together to ensure your son/daughter attends whenever possible, as this is the foundation for their success.

We are thrilled to report that 99.2% of effort grades in Year 8 have been positive (E1-E3). This illustrates the positive atmosphere that we see in the classroom every day.

There have been lots of success stories outside of the classroom too. Many of our Year 8 students have been busy earning Pledges. Some of our students represented Outwood Academy Danum in a football tournament held at Outwood Academy Adwick, whilst many more participated in the wonderful Danum Pyramid Carol Concert held at Doncaster Minster.

As we are now at Praising Stars 2, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in your son/daughter's education and offer you some ideas on how we can work together to ensure your son/daughter achieves their potential.

**Maths** - Please log onto the Hegarty Maths with your son/daughter. This can be used as a revision tool and to support progress. Should you need the log on details please contact Mrs Raynsford (Head of Maths) at [n.raynsford@danum.outwood.com](mailto:n.raynsford@danum.outwood.com).

**English** - Please encourage your son/daughter to read their accelerated reader book for at least 20 minutes every day, then test them on their knowledge of the text to check their understanding. Students should be using their personal spelling log to practice their spellings.

**Languages** – Please support your son/daughter with their vocabulary learning which is set as homework every few weeks. Test students by reading out the English word and asking for the word to be spoken or written in the target language. Websites Memorise and Quizlet are useful to assist with vocabulary revision.

**Hair and Beauty** – Discuss and shop together for personal care products. Investigate and discuss careers and working patterns of family and friends.

**Food Technology** – Please support students in the selection and organising of ingredients for practical sessions. Encourage students to become involved in preparing meals in the home.

**Product Design/Engineering** – Encourage students to research what a product specification is, then complete a product specification for a CAM toy (Engineering), or speakers for a mobile phone (Product Design). When this is completed students can produce 3 design ideas for the specifications that could be used to make the product.

**Geography** – Encourage students to use KS3 BBC Bitesize Geography website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrw76sg>.  
<http://www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk/ks3/> is another helpful website for students to visit.

Collins – KS3 Geography Revision Guide can also be purchased to assist students with their learning.

**History** – Encourage students to use KS3 BBC Bitesize History website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z7svr82>

<https://www.historyonthenet.com/> is another helpful website for students to visit.

Collins – KS3 History Revision Guide can also be purchased to assist students with their learning.

Please note we are holding a guided pathways information evening at the Academy on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Further details will follow in the New Year.

We are currently planning and preparing the graduation 2018 for our Year 8 students. This will be a wonderful day of celebrations. Further information will be sent out in the New Year. Please encourage your son/daughter to review their effort grades, as any E4 grade may result in your son/daughter not graduating into Year 9.

### Parents Evening

On Tuesday 23 January 2018 Outwood Academy Danum will be holding a parents' evening. Parental appointments can be made between 4:30pm to 7:30pm, either at visitor reception or via your son/daughter's subject teachers. This is an opportunity for you to meet with staff and discuss your son/daughter's progress, effort, behavior and successes. The academy's Inclusion Coordinator will also be available, alongside your son/daughter's Learning Manager. We look forward to seeing you on this evening. Please make appointments even if your son/daughter's teachers have not specifically asked to see you.

Can I please ask you to use our website and social media pages to ensure that you stay fully up to date with what is happening at Outwood Academy Danum. Find us on Facebook and follow **@OutwoodDanum** on Twitter.

### Upcoming events to note:

Thursday 21 December 2017	Last day for students – Christmas holidays
Monday 8 January 2018	All students return to Academy
W/C 8 January 2018	Mock exams
Tuesday 16 January 2018	Year 8 and Year 10 Guided pathway information evening
Tuesday 23 January 2018	Parents' evening
Friday 9 February 2018	Last day for students – Half term
Monday 19 February 2018	All students return to Academy
Monday 26 February 2018	Year 10 & Year 11 Revision evening
Friday 23 March 2018	Last day for students – Easter holidays
Monday 9 April 2018	All students return to Academy

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs V Gray  
Vice Principal