

Our Ref: PS2

17 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

This half term we have again seen students' focus and enthusiasm for their learning continue to grow. Year 7 students are now fully integrated into school life and year 10 and 11 students are making good progress towards achieving their GCSE target grades. Every student's progress, effort and attainment is very important to us! Your child's learning manager analyses each student's progress across the school every Praising Stars and presents this information to the SLT team. Using our 4Is cycle; information, identification, intervention, impact; we develop appropriate strategies to support all students in meeting their targets.

Every day in school is an important 'learning day' and we do not slow down in the run up to the Christmas holidays, for example, we do not play videos in lessons. Attendance this term is therefore as important as all other times of the year. Attendance is a key development area for the academy as poor attendance has a high impact on student outcomes.

This term we have seen some spectacular events. Our Boccia teams have once again achieved 1st and 2nd place in the Yorkshire Sport Ability Games and will represent us nationally. We have seen our fabulous musicians perform at St. George's Minster and at our Christmas Show as well as other events. Performing arts students and students who attend after school enrichment have performed at the Christmas Show. Some KS4 and Post 16 art students have had their work displayed at a national gallery. We have had a number of careers events, ranging from the HeppSY Bus to careers fairs to advise about apprenticeships and support for university applications. Our sports teams have met with success in local competitions and the Marines and rugby coaches, including the England coach, Tamara Taylor, have worked with students in lessons. We have supported several charities and held a moving Armistice Day event with the Chairman of the Yorkshire Area British Legion. There have also been many educational school visits including a visit to a pantomime.

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 us **@OutwoodDanum** on Twitter.

Next term there is much to look forward to. Some highlights include all year 11 students visiting Sheffield Lyceum to see Blood Brothers. Year 10 and 11 will see A Christmas Carol performed by actors in school and we look forward to inviting you to another careers fair in the New Year on 15th January. Year 8 and year 10 will begin to consider their option pathways and we hold our Student Voice President elections.

Important dates for the diary include:

Thursday 20 December 2018	Last day for students (Christmas Holidays)
Monday 7 January 2019	Students back in Academy
Tuesday 15 January 2019	YR8 and YR10 Guided Pathways Evening (and Career Fayre)
Thursday 24 January 2019	Brilliant Club Launch Trip to University of Manchester
Wednesday 6 February 2019	YR11 Blood Brothers Theatre Trip
Friday 15 February 2019	Last day for students (Half Term)
Monday 25 February 2018	Students back in Academy

We look forward to celebrating successes with all students in Praising Stars 2 assemblies and, once again, for those making the most effort, there will be hot chocolate with the Principal. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing your son/ daughter on Monday 7 January 2019.

Yours faithfully



Jayne Gaunt
Principal