

Our Ref: PBA/JGA

December 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer,

### **Year 8 Graduation**

At Outwood Academy Danum, there is a tradition of rewarding students for good behaviour and effort within lessons. It is also important to celebrate the achievements of students as they progress into studying their GCSEs. We do this through a graduation ceremony at the end of this academic year, which is the pinnacle of year 8 and thoroughly enjoyed by students, parents and grandparents alike! This is followed by an outdoor adventures residential trip for all graduates.

In order to graduate into year 9, year 8 students must show the requisite levels of maturity and effort to enable them to begin their GCSE exam courses in September 2020. We believe that all students have the right to an outstanding education without disruption or distraction and we monitor the progress and effort of all students through our robust Praising Stars system.

Any student who receives a C4 for classroom behaviour in any Praising Stars cycle will instantly be at risk of an E4 effort grade on their report. If a student receives more than 5 E4 grades over the course of the academic year or receives an E4 on Praising Stars 5 at the start of the summer term, then they run the risk of not graduating to Year 9.

As a reward for showing the correct levels of effort we will guarantee the following:

- Weekly 'Aspiring Graduates' awards for excellent achievement, effort and progress from the Graduation Leader – Mr Baron.
- Half termly 'meet the Principal' reward gatherings with refreshments, a letter home and acknowledgement on our 'Star Students' board for students with all E1 grades.
- Half termly Praising Stars Awards for exceptional commitment and hard work from the Graduation Leader – Mr Baron.
- An end of term celebration event in December for those students who have made excellent progress to meeting the requisites of their graduation year.
- Graduation into year 9.
- A university style graduation ceremony, complete with cap, gown, scroll and then an after event at the Academy with drinks and buffet.
- An outdoor adventures residential reward trip.
- A whole school rewards trip at the end of the summer term for all students with all E1 effort grades for the full year

Undoubtedly, the decision to prohibit any student from moving forward with the rest of their year group is a huge one. However, we believe this can act as a motivational tool to ensure all students perform to the very highest standards.

By working together, I am convinced that your child will graduate this year and go on to have a happy and successful Key Stage Four. If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact myself or the Year 8 Learning Manager, Mrs Kelly.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Baron  
Deep Support