

Friday 9 February 2024

Dear parent/carer,

Firstly, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience with the slightly early closure to school yesterday. With awful driving conditions in South Yorkshire, we needed to consider how a number of our staff would get home safely, whilst also having enough local staff in school to supervise children. Many of our teachers live in Sheffield, Leeds and beyond so this was a difficult situation and I appreciate your patience with that.

It's been a busy term, with lots to celebrate. This week alone, we've had a number of wonderful events. Our first special education needs coffee morning was a nice way for parents and staff to chat with specialists in their field, but also to meet other parents and network. We held a wonderful revision fayre to get students ready for their examinations- plenty of prizes to hand out so watch this space. We've also had our praising stars celebration events. Hopefully by now you've had a chance to read your child's praising stars report, and identify what is going well and what needs to be improved to make even better progress. If you don't already, follow us on our social feeds on Instagram, X and Facebook to keep up to date with the latest events: you'll see the fabulous events that are put on weekly by our staff for your children.

Many Y11 and Y13 students have been invited in for the holiday revision sessions where they need that final push to do even better. To see our teachers give up their holiday time yet again shows the staff are determined to make sure our children succeed. If they've not been told to attend, they should also have lots of resources for their own revision, ready for mock exams in the next half term. These begin on 19 February 2024 and run into March, completing on the 8th. Specialist online sessions have also been sent to children where they can log on in the comfort of their own home: this is available to all children.

We'll also be looking to reward great attendance and those students who strive to attend school as much as possible. Remember, the expectation that children should be in school at least 95% of the time is widely set across the country. Anything less puts your child at risk of not achieving their potential. What is your child's attendance like? Is there room for improvement? If they are on 90%, that would mean 95 lessons missed in a school year. How can we expect a child to make up 95 hours of lost learning without teacher support? Only 40% of children achieved pass grades or better if their attendance was below 90%. If your child comes to school frequently, if they try in lessons, they will achieve well.

Students will return to the academy on Monday the 19th of February. As always, we want our students to be their very best version of themselves, so expect them to arrive in their full uniform, with no adaptations, ready for their learning: we have loan stock to support those occasions where uniform issues arise.

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.

We really look forward to welcoming them back to school after the break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Crane', written in a cursive style.

Mrs A Crane
Principal