

Dear parent/guardian,

I am writing at the end of a very busy term: our staff and students have been busy this term, with our older students preparing for their end of school exams. I hope by now you've had a chance to look at our Easter newsletter that was sent by e-mail or on our socials. It's filled with all the exciting opportunities staff have created for our students to enjoy, as well as many of the things your children have been learning this term. *If you're not already, please follow us on X, Instagram or Facebook to keep up to date with the latest school news and events!*

Before we return to school on **Monday the 15th of April** after a hopefully relaxing Easter break, I'd like to remind our students and families of some important information to keep in mind when pupils return.

Parent Portal

If you haven't already, sign up for the parent portal. This is a great way to track your child's progress: here you can see their praise points build up; their attendance to school; their Praising Stars effort and attainment reports as well as any consequences that are scheduled. All we need is your email address logged on our system, and you can set this up. You can find instructions on how to set this up on the school website.

Enrichment

There are so many opportunities for children to take part in after school activities at Danum. From journalism clubs, to community clubs, a drama club, music sessions, sporting clubs, Dungeons and Dragons and the new darts club is also to be launched. They can see their learning manager for the enrichment list, or see this publicised in their tutor group. Our Y11 and Y13 pupils have after school sessions across the week to help support their revision, so should be attending these.

Exams

The real exams begin for Y11 and KS5 students **from the 9th of May**. If your child is in this year group, they will get a bespoke timetable for their exams, along with revision sessions they need to attend. Whilst exams are on, the rest of the school community work together to make sure the climate in school is calm and orderly so all the exams can go ahead without interruptions.

Uniform

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.

Wearing the school uniform correctly is really important. Not only does it make sure our students are ready for the world of work, but it makes sure they are ready for learning and we don't have to have conversations about incorrect uniforms. The correct full uniform rules can be found in the pupil planners, and on the school website. However, as a basic reminder, pupils are expected to wear:

- plain black leather shoes, no logos
- Plain black trousers, or black box pleat or Outwood logo skirt (skirts should not be rolled over) with black tights
- Outwood Danum school tie
- School bag is necessary
- No jewellery
- Natural coloured hair, minimal makeup and no false nails or false eyelashes

Arrival to school

Pupils are expected to be in the building for 8.20am ready for lessons starting at 8.25. If pupils are arriving by bike, or manual scooter, these are left at pupils' own risk. Pupils **should not be arriving at school on an electric scooter** as it is not legal to ride these on public roads or pavements in the UK. Police have the power to seize these. Please remind students to cross roads carefully, using the footbridge or the lights near school.

Praise and consequences

We have lots of ways to praise pupils in the academy. Our classroom champion boards and positive postcards are a great way of letting pupils and parents know how well their child is doing; we are also very pleased with our 'Proud Podium'. If your child has been lucky enough to be nominated for one of these, you'll have been able to see their work and a positive comment left by their teacher. Finally, our Praising Stars assembly every half term is a great way to reward good effort.

At times, pupils can make poor choices. At these times, they may receive a consequence in the form of a detention or time in the reflection classroom to consider how they could have made a different choice. As you might at home, the consequence is there as a deterrent to help the child make a better choice, although we much prefer to praise great choices.

Attendance

Good attendance at school is vital to pupil wellbeing. We know that good attendance always links to good attainment, this is true nationally as well as in our school. Pupils who achieve their potential have the opportunity to go off into the world and choose their paths without limits. Anyone below

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90% is classed as a persistent absentee, so in order to stand a good chance of getting the grades your child deserves, they need to be aiming for 95% or better. Of course, there are a few pupils with serious medical conditions that may struggle to achieve that, however for the vast majority of pupils, 95% or above should be the norm.

Our community

The vast majority of our students are a credit to the community, however on occasion we have had complaints from local residents about excessive noise, rubbish being discarded or anti-social behaviour. We remind our pupils about this regularly, but it would be great if you could help and remind your child that we need to take care of the community and our residents.

Finally, I want to wish you all my best wishes for the holidays and time together with your loved ones. I am grateful for all of the support received so far this year, and look forward to seeing what our pupils can achieve in the summer term.

Yours sincerely,



Ms A Crane
Principal