

14th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer and that you and your family are adjusting to the many changes we have recently experienced due to the pandemic. We are really proud of how maturely all year 12 and year 13 students across Outwood Post 16 Doncaster have started this new academic year. In particular, how well they are coping with the additional measures that are in place to protect students across both schools.

Sixth form is that important transition between school and university or employment and we want to support all students with this transition, providing greater opportunities to become self-motivated learners who plan to use their time to maximum benefit.

Whilst it is always best to remain in the academy to study during the school day, due to the pandemic we would like to reduce the number of post 16 students in the study centre at certain pinch points in the school day and on the weekly timetable. We therefore intend to allow students on a trial basis to take lunch breaks outside of school each day if they wish. Additionally, as most students do not have timetabled lessons on Thursday afternoons, to allow students, if they wish, to study from home.

Initially this will mean that students, without timetabled lessons, will be able to leave site every Thursday from 11am for home study. Those students with lessons will need to remain in the academy. Students who would like to stay in school to study are very welcome to do so.

Students who decide to take their lunch outside of school will need to sign out at reception and back in at reception by the start of lesson 4.

There will be careful monitoring of this new situation. If students fall behind in the following key criteria at each Praising Stars assessment point they will be asked to remain in school on Thursday afternoon and to remain in school at lunch times:

- Above 95% attendance during that term
- Less than 5% lateness to lessons during that term
- A positive praising stars report for all subjects studied- good progress and effort
- No unresolved concerns from teachers.

If students are not achieving all of these criteria then we will expect students to be in the academy full time to access all the support that they need to get back on track.

If you don't want your child to leave site during the school day please email r.robinson@adwick.outwood.com

It has been a very different start to the academic year and both staff and students have made significant changes to the way they work and have done so admirably. We are very much enjoying having students back with us in school and thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Nick Tweedale
Assistant Principal