

August 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope that everyone is having a fantastic summer break with opportunities to relax, and spend time together with families and friends. Whilst in the academy this week celebrating student's exam achievements it has been great to see a large number of our community participating in a range of summer activities with Active Fusion.

Last academic year saw many student achievements and we're extremely proud of how our community has rebuilt following the pandemic. Returning to what was normal has been challenging, but over that last year we've resumed our ways of working and students are again able to participate in excellent experiences and participate in fantastic lessons.

During the final week of last term we were visited by an Inclusion Quality Mark assessor, who scrutinised how we support students and our systems. It was extremely pleasing to read the report, which detailed "There is a tangible and commendable commitment amongst this very cohesive and highly driven staff team, to raising aspirations and improving the life chances of the pupils within the community they serve, in an effort to ensure that every single student is able to follow a curriculum that will develop the unique skills they require to succeed long term."

The Inclusion Quality Mark assessor judged Outwood Academy Adwick as being a Centre of Excellence, this is a wonderful validation of the hard work and dedication of the whole academy community and is a further external judgement alongside the Ofsted Good rating and the Quality in Careers standard accredited during 2022-23. These awards and statements are a reflection of students, staff and families all working together with a vision of doing our very best for our young people, and are milestones in our ongoing journey to be the best that we can, a journey that will continue into the 2023-24 academic year.

Whilst we are still in the holiday period I am sure that many are anticipating the return, so we would like to take the opportunity to share some key return information.

It is a staggered return in September to support our new Year 7 settling into the academy - as detailed below;

Monday 4th September	INSET day - closed to students
Tuesday 5th September	School open to Year 7 and 6th form students
Wednesday 6th September	School open to all year groups

The full academic calendar is available on the academy website, detailing all holidays, bank holidays and INSET days to support your planning and maximising student attendance.

Attendance and punctuality

Students must be on site by 8.15am, in readiness for the movement bell at 8.20am and then for lessons to commence at 8.25am. Students who arrive late will be issued with a detention. We strive for 100% attendance of all students and recognise the close correlation of great attendance and excellent outcomes. If for any reason your child is absent it is important that parents / carers contact the academy by 8.25am. We have a range of fantastic reward initiatives for excellent attendance.

The first day

We rolled out our new curriculum timetable well in advance of the summer break on Monday 3rd July. This enabled students to meet their new teachers, advance their learning and assist them in adjusting to their new timetable. But as a reminder, and to support a fresh approach to the academic year all students will attend a tutor period, period 1 on their first day back. As part of this they will be issued with a new academy planner and timetable.

In September we will also be sharing an extensive range of enrichment activities that students can participate in from 2:30pm each day. This includes academic, sporting and creative clubs and we also plan to again offer a number of local and international trip opportunities.

We have very high expectations of all students in the academy built on the principles of 'Be safe, Be respectful, and Be responsible'; developing lifelong skills and attributes that not only make them successful in academic outcomes, but also valued members of their community.

Uniform

Uniform is almost exceptional at the academy and students take pride in their appearance. We have taken into consideration the cost of living challenges and whilst we continue to provide all Year 7 and new students a full uniform pack we realise sometimes students require additional or replacement items as they grow. We really appreciate your support in ensuring students meet the uniform expectations, the full academy uniform expectations including the PE uniform can be found on the academy website at <https://www.adwick.outwood.com/uniform>

Please ensure;

- Academy blazer and tie with logo
- Plain black tailored trousers or skirt (more details regarding skirts below)
- Plain white shirt
- Plain black, below the ankle, polishable, sensible school shoes free from embellishments and decorations (no canvas / plastic / trainers / boots, etc) please see our Uniform Policy for further clarity
- Plain black socks when wearing trousers
- Plain black tights (at least 40 denier) when wearing a skirt

Uniform skirts

Earlier this year we shared a change to the requirements for skirts to take effect from September 2023. This can be reviewed at <https://www.adwick.outwood.com/posts/6518> Students may wear the standard uniform Trutex academy logo skirt or they may choose to wear a non-logo skirt, but this must be a box-pleat style. This is to maintain consistency in students looking smart and remove the confusion with the distinction between a tube skirt and a pencil skirt and ensure that time, at the start of the day, will be spent having positive conversations and accessing precious learning time from the moment students enter the academy.

If students choose to wear a non-logo option it must be a 2.5 inch box pleat style with a minimum length of 18 inches (most secondary students would need a 20 inch length). These are available from almost all supermarkets and from websites such as Amazon for around £5. (Search: Box pleat school skirt). Please note that any other style non-logo skirt will not be permitted.



School bag

Students must have a school bag as part of their academy uniform, large enough for their planner and A4 textbooks.

Equipment for learning

Students will receive their academy planner on the first day and they must have it with them at all times. Students will also need a pen, pencil, rubber, whiteboard pen and highlighters in a pencil case.

Expectations and prohibited items

Please also support your child in adhering to the following expectations;

- We are a no mobile phone site. They must be switched off, kept in bags and not seen. They should not be in students' pockets. If seen they will be confiscated and must be collected by an appropriate adult
- No jewellery except a wristwatch (no smart-watches). Items such as earrings, nose studs, rings, bracelets, necklaces and other jewellery (including clear inserts) are not allowed for health and safety and will be confiscated and a sanction issued if seen
- Make-up must be very discrete, eyebrows of normal shape and colour, fake eyelashes are not allowed and students will be expected to remove them
- No nail varnish or false nails
- Hair must be a natural colour and style
- Chewing gum, fizzy pop (including energy drinks), big bags of sweets and crisps etc are NOT allowed anywhere on site.

Parent portal

We hope you've managed to interact with our new parent portal as this will be a great means of communication going forward. This portal accessed via your smartphone allows you to access key information about your child including attendance, timetable and even their Praising Stars© reports. Once you have shared your personal details with us you can access the login and access the



portal, downloading the app at www.portal.outwood.com or by scanning the QR code.

Contacting the academy

We recognise that at times it may be difficult to make contact with the academy, and our learning managers and inclusion leads are a fantastic source of support and guidance for our young people and their families. They can be contacted by the following email addresses;

Year 7 Learning Manager	Miss K Gorton	k.gorton@adwick.outwood.com
Year 8 Learning Manager	Mrs J Archer	j.archer@adwick.outwood.com
Year 9 Learning Manager	Mrs P Newsome	p.newsome@adwick.outwood.com
Year 10 Learning Manager	<i>To be appointed, contact Mrs Richardson in the meantime</i>	
Year 11 Learning Manager	Mrs L Barnes	l.barnes@adwick.outwood.com
Post-16 Learning Manager	Miss L Dennett	l.dennett@adwick.outwood.com
Safeguarding and Lead Learning Manager	Mrs S Richardson	s.richardson@adwick.outwood.com
SENDCo: Mr R Gibson	Mr R Gibson	r.gibson@adwick.outwood.com
Inclusion Manager	Mrs J Simpkin	j.simpkin@adwick.outwood.com
Attendance Manager	Miss C McLean	attendance@adwick.outwood.com
General Enquiries		enquiries@adwick.outwood.com

Please note that emails may not be accessed immediately and not during academy out of hours

Social media

The next way to keep in touch with what is happening at the academy on a daily basis is to follow our social media accounts on Instagram and X (previously Twitter).

- Instagram: outwoodacademyadwick
- X: @OutwoodAdwick

Also we hope the new newsletters are helping keep families informed and sharing that fantastic achievements and experiences of your children.

- In-Touch newsletter (June 23) <https://www.adwick.outwood.com/posts/6560>
- Post-16 newsletter (July 23) <https://www.adwick.outwood.com/posts/6883>

Kooth.com

We hope that everyone is taking care over this break and is taking the opportunity to rest and recharge. But if you have any concerns around your child's wellbeing and would like advice or support you can access Kooth. Kooth.com offers free, safe and anonymous access to online wellbeing support and advice for children and young people aged 11 to 25 across Doncaster. The registration process is quick, anonymous and safe. Using non-identifiable information, Children and Young People can access support, simply by

registering at www.kooth.com. More information can be found via our earlier letter at; <https://www.adwick.outwood.com/posts/6793>

We hope that you have a fantastic family break over these next few weeks and we look forward to working with you next academic year.

Yours sincerely

Andy Scruby



The Quality in Careers Standard >>>>