

14 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you at a time when excitement starts to build for the opportunity to spend time with those people in our lives whom we care for the most. I want to thank both staff, students and the local community for their ongoing support in my first term as Head of School as we strive to make our academy a school where all stakeholders thrive. I have spoken many times about the moral purpose the academy has to help improve the local community and those who live in it.

I am excited by this week's celebrations which include 86 students who have 100% attendance, as well as the students who achieved EI effort grades in all subjects during Praising Stars 2, not to mention the end of term praise assemblies and other festive events. Please note the academy closes to students at 2.30pm on Thursday 15 December 2022 for the Christmas break and reopens on Tuesday 3 January 2023 .

As we look forward to the new year there is some key information I need to share with you regarding our systems and day to day operations so that students and families understand clearly the expectations I have of your children. Your child is part of a multi-academy trust that is built upon transforming the lives of students by working as a Family of Schools. At no time more than the present is it vital that parents and the academy work together to be consistent in our message of high expectations and raising standards. Students and their families are reminded that their child gets one chance at their education and that the standards outlined below will enable them to succeed if adhered to.

Our role is to prepare your child for success beyond their time at the academy, whether this be academically, socially or in the place of work. The values we expect them to honour each day involve being respectful, responsible and safe.

Respectful behaviour

No employer is likely to tolerate a refusal of their request by an employee. This is a value we are trying to drive through the issue of a reasonable request to a student. We expect all our students to behave respectfully around the academy and local community and we have worked hard in the school to ensure all students know and understand what respectful behaviour looks like. Following a reasonable request from members of staff is an example of demonstrating how respectful students are in school and we would like your support in enforcing this positive behaviour at home too. The Positive Discipline for Learning and Life Policy which is our behaviour policy clearly highlights the steps we take in school to support your child as well as the sanctions which could be issued if reasonable requests from staff are not adhered to.

Attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents / carers in supporting your child to attend school and on time. Poor school attendance can greatly impact upon academic success which could potentially lead to lower income jobs in adult life. Students must make every effort to arrive on time for the start of the day and thank you to parents / carers for this support. Our tutor groups in Year 11 are set as intervention groups and we have a number of literacy, reading, catch-up and numeracy groups in tutor time across the academy. As a polite reminder, students **MUST** be in their tutor room at 8.25 am which means that students have to be through the school gate by 8.20 am. Late to the academy results in students receiving a same day 1 hour detention after school.

Uniform

The school prides itself in having a smart and cost effective uniform and I also pride myself in having lots of spare uniform for students that need it. I empathise with families who face the ever escalating cost of replacing uniform and would remind parents / carers that we do have a Hardship Policy, found here, that can be used if you feel you need some financial support. Nevertheless, the standard of uniform we expect from all students has not changed and therefore after the Christmas break the following will be enforced.

Any student who has to borrow an item of uniform will receive a C4b detention after school for one hour. This will be communicated to you via a telephone call in the morning after all student uniform has been checked upon arrival. The borrowed item will then be returned to the academy during the detention. Borrowed school uniform cannot be taken home. This clearly doesn't apply to those parents / carers that have been issued with a uniform through the Hardship Policy. There will however be a charge for tights and socks as these cannot be reused by other students and the cost added to your child's ipay account.

We will continue to keep all shared items of clothing clean in line with the standards set during COVID-19 reopening.

Accompanying this letter is additional communication from Outwood Grange Academies Trust outlining the changes to the uniform policy.

Coats are permitted to be worn outside the building, but must be carried when inside. Hoodies are not allowed. If classrooms become cold over the winter during our ongoing remedial works, students will be permitted to wear their coats at the discretion of the teacher.

Being Ready to learn

All students are responsible for their own organisation and equipment. This is part of their preparation for the world of work beyond school. All students are expected to have a bag for their books, planner and PE kit. They should carry their planner upon arrival to school at the gate and have it on their desk in every lesson. Their planner includes a copy of their timetable, which they should check in good time to ensure they take the most direct route to their next lesson to avoid

being late. All students should come equipped with a pencil case (which includes black pens, pencils, eraser and 15cm ruler as a minimum).

Parent Information Events

Year 11 students will be provided with some revision packs, and parents / carers of Year 11 will be invited to a progress meeting in the new year. The next scheduled parents evening will be Tuesday 17 January 2022 for students in Year 10 and 11. There will be a guided pathways evening on 12 January for students in Year 9 to choose their options for Year 10.

Finally, may I wish you all a restful and joyful Christmas with your loved ones. I hope the students take this opportunity to be kind and supportive whilst at home. We will be looking forward to seeing what 2023 brings for this community when we open for staff and students on Tuesday 3 January 2023 at 8.20 am

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JR', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Mr Jason Rhodes
Head of School