

12 September 2023

Dear Parent and Carers,

I am writing to you all in the hope that you have had a wonderful summer with your friends and family and to thank you for the support you have given already in returning your children to the Academy on time and prepared to do well. It is a warm welcome from our school community to the new staff who have chosen to serve the students of Bishopsgarth, and the new students who have joined to belong to the Outwood Bishopsgarth family.

I have spoken to all of the students last week in Assembly about the four values that underpin what we expect of the students at Outwood Bishopsgarth: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe and Be Kind. I do hope that during the year you will continue to support us by ensuring that students make effective choices in these areas.

I have also stressed to them the importance of attending school. There is a clear link between high attendance (above 90%) and academic outcomes. I have used the phrase 'you have one chance at your education' frequently with all students this week. It is the most important gift we can give, but it relies heavily on you sending your child to school regularly. Through this summer alone a student with an attendance of 95% had a 3 in 4 chance of passing GCSE Maths and English, at 90% (one day off a fortnight) the chances dropped to 2 in 3. At 80% (a day off a week, or over a month off this school year), the chance of passing GCSE Maths and English diminished to 50/50 or a toss of a coin. It is imperative that you continue to give your child every chance of success by sending them to school daily and on time.

As we embark on the new year, it is important for me that you are able to communicate effectively with the Academy. Our telephone lines are manned from 7.30am to 3.30pm daily, and we are adding an out of hours answering service to this during this week. We have committed to honouring our communications policy to ensure that all requests are responded to within 48 working hours, and these are monitored closely by myself and the office manager. Please understand that if you arrive in the Academy at short notice it may be difficult for staff to see you due to teaching, duty or meeting commitments. It is preferable to arrange an appointment. This can be done directly with the member of staff, or through the enquiries email: enquiries@bishopsgarth.outwood.com. You will also receive a fortnightly update from the Academy outlining some of the key events that have taken place, of which the first has been shared on our website and our social media pages. .

Here is a list of key staff in the Academy and their contact details.

J Rhodes
(Head of School)

j.rhodes@bishopsgarth.outwood.com

A Maher (Vice Principal)	Designated Safeguarding Lead (SLT link to Yr 8 & 9)	a.maher@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
A Bennett (Vice Principal)	Responsible for Deep Learning (SLT link to Yr 10 & 11)	a.bennett@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
F Lindsey (Assistant Principal)	SLT link for Yr 7	f.lindsey@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
K Hockborn (Assistant Principal)	Responsible for Deep Experience (SLT link for Yr 8)	k.hockborn@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
M Dixon	SENDCO	m.dixon@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
K Wharry	SENDCO	k.wharry@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
S Smith	Learning Manager Yr 7	s.smith@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
P Hunter	Learning Manager Yr 8 & 9	p.hunter@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
C Fisher	Learning Manager Yr 10 & 11	c.fisher@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
K. Coyle	Pastoral Leader Yr 7	k.coyle@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
K.Palethorpe	Pastoral Leader Yr 8 & 9	k.palethorpe@bishopsgarth.outwood.com
R.Pemberton	Pastoral Leader Yr 10 & 11	r.pemberton@bishopsgarth.outwood.com

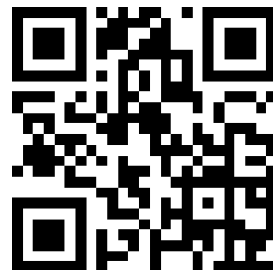
We are today launching our **parent portal**. I believe this is another way in which you will be able to find out about your child's experience at the Academy. Parents & carers who have parental responsibility can access the portal using their email address from today, 11th September 2023.

Instructions to sign in to the portal are on the reverse of this letter.

If you still need to provide an email address, please get in touch with the academy to update your contact details via the enquiries email above.

Visit portal.outwood.com or scan the QR code.

To sign in:
 Enter your email address
 Check your inbox for a special "magic link"
 Tap on the link to sign-in!



The magic links usually arrive very quickly, but can take a few moments at busy times. If one does not arrive after a few minutes, please check your spam folder in the first instance. What's available?

Praising Stars reports

An online version of your child's Praising Stars reports, including all their previous reports.

Praise

All of the praise comments given by teachers.

Attendance

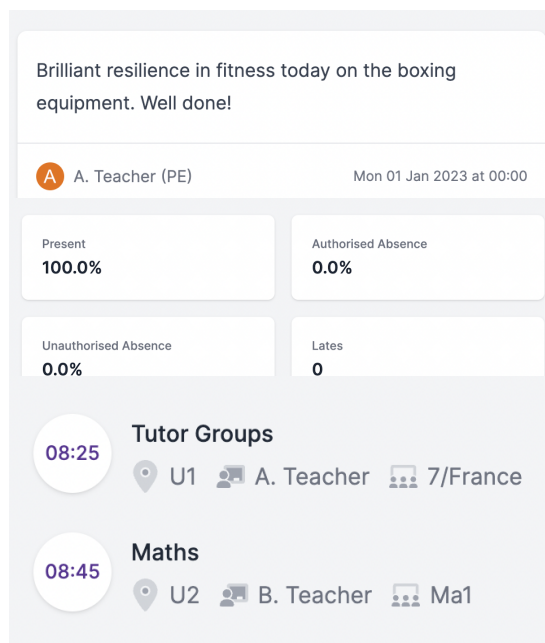
An overview of your child's attendance.

Consequences

An overview of any sanctions issued.

Student timetable

Your child's timetable, including subject, teacher and classroom.



We have some key events ahead where you will be able to visit the Academy and discuss your child's experience:

26th September (16:00 - 18:30) Y6 Open Evening

5th October (17:00 - 18:30) Y11 Information Evening - Supporting parents of students in Yr 11

9th October (16:30- 18:30) SEND Nibble and Natter Evening. - Meet SENCOs and inclusion team

26 October (15:00-16:00) Year 7 ACE Bronze Celebration Evening

I am excited about the year ahead, moving into the new building and sharing the wonderful experiences that your child is involved in. Please keep upto date with the Academy via our social media on: Twitter @outwoodbish, Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bishopsgarth> or via the Academy website using the updates from the academy section.

I look forward to seeing so many of you during the year. Your child has one chance at their education, let's ensure that we continue to work in partnership to enable them to achieve their potential.

Kind regards,

Mr J Rhodes
Head of School