

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we begin the next phase of your child's school career, I would like to introduce myself and highlight some of the exciting things that your child can expect this academic year. I will then share some of the opportunities that will support the development of your child and the educational milestones they will reach this academic year.

Having enjoyed working in various Outwood academies, most recently Outwood Academy Shafton, I am very excited to join Outwood Academy Hemsworth as Vice Principal. Whilst there are many important aspects to my role, one of the most pivotal is my link to Year 9. I am very much looking forward to working with Mrs Reynolds and all of the Y9 students.

Whilst every year in a student's school career is important, Year 9 is one of the most. It is within this year that students choose their exam subjects which helps to shape the success of their future lives. With this in mind, it is essential that students make the most of every opportunity to develop in terms of character and academic achievement. To support this, students are about to embark on a journey to achieve the right to attend 'Key Stage 3 Graduation'. The Graduation programme is one of the most significant processes that our students experience as it helps students ready themselves for the demands and rigour of studying exam subjects. If successful, parents and carers join students in July for their graduation ceremony which is one of the highlights of the year.

As always, learning outside of the classroom is an important part of any student's development. With this in mind, we would encourage all students to involve themselves fully in home learning and enrichment activities. This is also an excellent opportunity for students to support their own mental well-being. The enrichment website will be shared with you shortly.

I very much look forward to tracking the progress of your child's academic attainment through their Praising Stars reports. More importantly, I look forward to seeing your child develop in confidence as they progress through Year 9 towards the beginning of their exam subject studies.

Should you need any further support from our academy, please feel free to contact your child's tutor or any of the Year 9 team, which includes Mrs Reynolds as Learning Manager with Mr Cross and myself as Senior Leadership team links. We very much look forward to working with you throughout this academic year and beyond.

Yours faithfully,

Julian Mellor
Vice Principal