

Dear parents and carers,

I wanted to write to you as many of you will have seen the shocking images on the news and social media surrounding protests and may have concerns about your children.


As you know, we have a very proactive and effective Student Voice Team at Outwood Academy Hemsworth. Each tutor group has at least one student representative who meets with me monthly to feedback back views, ideas and concerns on behalf of students from Year 7 to Year 13. In tutor time this week, our Student Prime Minister will share his half termly update with all students, explaining outcomes from his recent meeting with the Catering Manager; inviting students to get involved in our drive for a more sustainable academy; providing an update on how the student voice team is working with the Academy Council and the development of a statue designed by students to represent the importance of tackling climate change. Our Prime Minister will also introduce our new initiative of 'You Say, We Did' to keep students up to date about how their views and ideas influence the running of the academy. On 12 January 2023, the academy was thrilled to receive a testimonial from the Mayor of Wakefield about the strength of student voice within Outwood Grange Academies Trust and the recent Student Voice Conference, which was planned and led by Outwood Academy Hemsworth - a link to this can be found [here](#).

I wanted to confirm to you that our students, your children, made us exceptionally proud last week on their return from half term, their conduct was polite, calm and orderly. In fact, as an Academy we focused on praise in all year groups and worked with Years 10-13 to build on their excellent Praising Stars 3 reports. Over half term, many of our Year 7 and 8 students attended a holiday camp which was delivered in collaboration with Leeds United Foundation culminating in a trip to Elland Road on Friday 17 February 2023. This week we are looking forward to marking World Book Day and supporting Year 11 students as they prepare for their mock examinations.

If anyone did become involved in protests, such as we have seen in other schools, putting the safety of students or staff at risk or disrupting the learning in the academy, this would as always be treated with the utmost seriousness. It would result in a serious sanction for students failing to comply with reasonable requests, as this ultimately could endanger others. Please support us and ensure that your children are aware in advance of this matter. I would be grateful if you could take the opportunity to speak with your children, our students, about the channels we have in school for sharing their views including speaking to the Student Voice team who are available each morning in the school restaurant.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully,



Suzie Day  
Principal