

31.03.2023

Dear parents/carers,

As students head home for the Easter holidays, I wanted to take this opportunity to write and update you on some of the fantastic events and opportunities students at Outwood Academy Hemsworth have experienced during the Spring term. Students will come home today ready for a much-needed break with family and friends. It is unbelievable to think that we are already two-thirds of the way through this academic year. Please take time to read the updates in this letter so that students are fully prepared for the summer term.

Life at the Academy

On Wednesday 29 March, I was fortunate enough to meet with two visitors from the Premier League who came to review the joint partnership between Outwood Academy Hemsworth and Leeds United Foundation. They observed students in intervention sessions, spoke to staff and parents/carers about the impact of our school hub provision. The Premier League representatives were blown away by the classroom-based sessions and the enrichment activities we have developed in collaboration with our partners at Leeds United. They particularly commented on how respectful the students were that they met and how dedicated our staff are to the community of Hemsworth. If you would like to see a short video of the Leeds United Intervention room at Outwood Academy Hemsworth click on the LUFC icon below.



On Wednesday 22 March, our Year 11 boys' football team played in the Wakefield Schools' final against Ossett Academy. It was a brilliant match and the boys played every minute with determination and commitment. Whilst at the final whistle, the score was 3:1 to Ossett Academy, I want to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of all those who took part in the competition and to thank the students, parents and carers who supported our players from the sidelines at every match.

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.



Year 11 Football Team

As I type this letter, our Post 16 students travelling to Malta have landed and spent their first evening in the resort. Twenty-nine students and five staff members will spend almost two weeks experiencing the culture and lifestyle of Malta. As part of this fully-funded trip, Post 16 students will engage in work experience placements across a number of employment sectors. Most importantly, they will make memories for life and I have no doubt each one will return shaped by the opportunities they have experienced.



Malta Trip 2023

This term our Outlook Edition has been taken over by 'Student Voice'. All students have brought home today a copy for you to read with lots of information about academy life and the amazing work of the Student Leadership Team.

A Growing School

We are delighted that our student numbers continue to grow as more families are making Outwood Academy Hemsworth their first choice school for admissions. Due to our increase in student numbers, I am making some changes to the layout of the dining facilities, which I have explained to students today in a short assembly.

From after Easter, each year-group will have their own dining area which will help with queueing, student movement around the site and will give Learning Managers and SLT links greater opportunities to see their students. Years 7, 8 and 11 will continue to use the seating in the canteen and Years 9 and 10 will use the Main Hall as their dining space. All food will continue to be served in the academy canteen with students queueing in Year Group lines to ensure a quicker and more efficient service. We have taken on board student feedback and will continue to respond to their ideas in the summer term.

A New Term and a Fresh Start

Due to the changes in the dining facilities, the informal lunch time detention system will no longer be in place. Whilst the number of students serving detentions is relatively low, we cannot staff both separate dining spaces alongside these informal sanctions. I know you will support us by reinforcing with your child the importance of good behaviour. Should a student receive a C4 sanction they will be expected to attend a 30 minute detention at 2.30pm in the academy canteen.

As I am making a change to the current sanction system, all students will return after the academy with all pending consequences cleared. This allows students the opportunity to start Praising Stars 5 with a clean slate and a good opportunity to achieve all E1-3 in the next half term. We will be launching our summer term praise event shortly and this is a real incentive for all students to work hard, demonstrate excellent effort and good manners to staff and each other.

Uniform and Equipment Orders

As a polite reminder, uniform items can be purchased through the school iPay system including replacement ties and planners. We expect all students to look smart and follow the uniform guide, which is linked [here](#). This includes the change to the uniform policy which was implemented in January 2023 to further support our families. As a polite reminder students are not allowed to wear piercings or excessive make up at school. Should you plan to have your child's ears pierced we advise waiting until the start of the 6-week holiday as students will be asked to remove any jewellery (other than a wrist watch) as part of the academy uniform policy.

We launched our school shop earlier this term and it has been a huge success. Students use the iPay system (fingerprint) to purchase their replacement equipment. Parents/carers can find the link to parental payments via our [link](#) on our website. The cost of each item is listed here to support all students to purchase these essential items at the lowest of costs: all pens - 5p; rulers - 10p; pencil cases - 20p.

Examinations

Finally, this term sees our students in Years 11 and 13 taking public examinations. Students in these year groups will be taking life-changing qualifications. All staff recognise that the final lead-up to exams can be stressful and we will make every effort to support students at this important time. Can I take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of the Easter revision sessions that are taking place in some subjects. Please see below the confirmed timetable of sessions.

	Subject	Time and location
3.4.23	Engineering and construction	9-2.30PM T7 T8
4.4.23	Engineering and construction	9-2.30PM T7 T8
5.4.23		
6.4.23	Science	9-12PM S12,S10 & S7
11.4.23		
12.4.23	Sports Studies	9-2.30 Hub
13.4.23	Maths Year 11	9-12PM S1,S2,S3,S4
13.4.23	Maths Year 13	S1 12-2.30
14.4.23	Hospitality and Catering	Hub 9-12PM
14.4.23	Drama	10-1PM Science Training Room

In addition, students in Y10-13 will have an online parents evening on Tuesday 25 April 2023. Information will come out just after Easter allowing you to book appointments on the School.Cloud system.

Finally, please follow the link below to a short video celebrating all many achievements for students across the academy during the [Spring term](#). Many thanks for your continued support and I hope you enjoy the Easter holidays.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S Day
Principal