

April 2024

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome back after the Easter break. I hope that you have had time to rest and recharge as we look forward to another busy term at Outwood Academy Hemsworth.

As we return to the Academy, I want to extend our warmest wishes and the best of luck to all of our Year 11 students. With their GCSE exams on the horizon, we all know that this is a crucial time for them. It has been fantastic to see them committing to their own success, through focusing in lessons and attending extra intervention classes both after Academy and throughout the holidays. We all believe in their abilities and are here to support them every step of the way. We would like to say 'Good Luck' with the final push for exams and we are confident that their hard work and dedication will pay off when it comes to collecting their results in the summer.

To all of our other students, I hope that you are ready to dive back into your lessons and continue to make progress. This term as always will be full of opportunities for growth, learning and achievement. I would encourage you to rise to every challenge and strive for excellence in all that you do. As always, all of our teachers and staff are here to guide and support you throughout your educational journey.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some positive news where the Academy's work has been recognised.

Firstly, prior to the break the Academy's work in respect of Mental Health and Wellbeing has been recognised and we are delighted that the Academy has been awarded the Carnegie Centre of Excellence Mental Health Gold Award for Schools. The Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools aims to strengthen pupils' mental health by supporting schools to make a positive change at all levels of the UK's education system, improving students' outcomes and life chances. Rachel C. Boyle, Dean of Leeds Beckett's Carnegie School of Education, said: "The achievement of the Mental Health award is a demonstration of the school's significant commitment to improving children's and staff's mental health and wellbeing. It is also a commitment to developing practices in school that seek to improve awareness and expertise in creating safe and secure learning environments in which all children can truly fulfil their potential. This award is one that all staff can be truly proud of".

The award ensures schools are using evidence-based approaches that align to professional guidelines. Utilising a developmental framework, which allows schools to evaluate current mental health practices, identify gaps, develop and strengthen these and work towards building an emotionally healthier environment. Through this process, schools commit to making mental health a strategic priority and developing a positive culture that promotes mental well-being for everyone.

Secondly, the Academy's work in regard to Anti-bullying has also been recognised as the Academy has been awarded The United Against Bullying Bronze Award. During the last 18 months we have been taking part in the United Against Bullying Flagship programme. This is an initiative led by the Anti Bullying Alliance which aims to help schools in reducing bullying and improve the well-being of all students. This initiative incorporates a particular focus on SEND, racist, sexual, homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and looks at how we can support looked after children, young carers and those on free school meals. Our ultimate goal is to have a united Academy and we will continue to

work hard on reducing bullying and thus improving student culture. We are pleased to announce that the Academy has received the Bronze Award for our work with the Anti Bullying Alliance.

We recognise that there is still work to be done and we will continue our efforts to ensure that all of our students feel safe, are respectful and act responsibly, supporting and educating them where necessary. The work we have done so far with United Against Bullying continues to raise awareness and educate all as it is shared in our curriculum and assemblies. We will continue to listen and support our students in line with our anti bullying strategy plan, as we strive to achieve the Silver and Gold awards.

Together, we will make this term a successful one for all of our students. We are looking forward to a term filled with memorable experiences and academic achievements for everyone.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Pape', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Pape
Principal