

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you at the end of this half term with some updates and news from within the academy. It is almost unbelievable that we are halfway through this academic year and our students continue to make us proud each day. Since September 2021, staff have logged over 40,000 praise events for students across all Key Stages including Post 16, with over 10,000 of those praises being logged since we returned after Christmas. This is a testament to how hard students are working and the effort they are putting into their classwork, homework and enrichments each day.

Another huge success has been the Key Stage 3 Masterclasses created to support students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to stretch and deepen their learning. The programme has been launched in all academies in the OGAT Central and West regions, which comprises 8 academies in Wakefield, Barnsley and North Yorkshire and 2 academies in Liverpool. Students at Outwood Academy Hemsworth have achieved 'Gold status' having completed more Masterclasses (276 in total) than any other academy since the programme was launched in early November 2021. New Masterclasses are being added all of the time and students can access the website via their Year Group Google Classrooms or using this link to our website <https://www.hemsworth.outwood.com/enrichment-activities-information>

Next half term, students in Years 11 and 13 will begin their mock examinations. This is a very important part of their preparation for the public examinations in the summer. The exams team would like to make parents aware that advance information from exam boards was released earlier last week in relation to summer exams 2022. In order to support our young people and their families, we have collated all of the advanced information for all subjects at GCSE/BTEC & A Level onto a webpage that will link via a button from our individual school website. Please be aware that the advance information will not tell you what questions will come up on the exam paper. It tells you which parts of the specification are worth the most focus. A good, broad understanding of all the content of the specification is always the best preparation for success in an examination. The link can be found [here](#). A link to the March mock timetable for Y11 students can be found [here](#).


As we break for half term, I would ask that you do a uniform check to ensure that everything still fits or whether key items need replacing. Please can you ensure over the half term break all student uniform is correct and ready for a return after the break. Any previous notes / exemptions will not be valid upon return without an updated note or reason for uniform not being correct. You can find the uniform policy here: <https://www.hemsworth.outwood.com/uniform>. If there are valid reasons for incorrect uniform please write a note in the student planner to avoid the student receiving a sanction, they will need to see a member of SLT on the academy gate to have any uniform exemptions authorised. We pride ourselves on ensuring students look smart in their uniform and thank you in advance for taking time over half term to support us with this.

Furthermore, on Tuesday 8 March 2022 we will be holding our second parents' evening of the academic year. As our last parents' evening focussed on Key Stage 4/5 we will open the booking system first for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 on Wednesday 2 March 2022. Any available slots can then be taken by the parents or carers of students in Years 10, 11, 12 or 13 from Friday 4 March 2022 onwards. Appointments are 5 minutes each and will be accessed via a virtual booking system. If you have any concerns about your child and are unable to make an appointment for any reason, please contact the academy and your child's learning manager or class teacher will be in touch. Further details will be released to parents and carers in the first week of next half term.

Finally, there have been so many fantastic events and achievements in the academy this term, it would be hard to name them all in this letter. To that end, the academy has produced a half term celebration video showcasing some of our students' best moments from the last 7 weeks. Please find the link here to this video [Winter Celebration](#) so you can see why our students make us proud every day. Next half term, we will be having a real focus on sustainability and maintaining our outstanding learning environment to benefit everyone who attends Outwood Academy Hemsworth. There will be opportunities for students to be part of this - details to follow after half term.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful half term and hope students enjoy a much needed break. We look forward to seeing all students back in the academy on Monday 28 February 2022.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Day
Associate Principal