

May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

We are now in the midst of the exam season and I am delighted to report that they are going incredibly well. Teaching and support staff have challenged students to do their best and students have been motivated to try and achieve everything they can. I would like to thank all the staff who have helped out by either doing one-to-one sessions or supporting during the extra sessions that have occurred outside of school hours.

To help students during this time, please can you encourage your child to be healthy by eating breakfast so that they are ready for the day ahead, and to support them with managing their time and the pressure they are putting themselves under.

National Final – Rugby

Congratulations to the Year 9 girls' rugby team who will be representing the Academy again at the national final in London in the summer. This will be followed by a pitch parade at Wembley before the Challenge Cup Final. Well done to all the girls involved in this fantastic achievement.

Revision

There is still time to revise before the exams that are yet to come. There are revision classes over the May half term break and we hope students take advantage of these. There are lots of resources saved on the Academy 'one drive' and students can access this at any time. <http://revision.grange.outwood.com>

Cashless Catering

Cashless catering went 'live' on 24 April. Whilst there were some initial issues, these have all been rectified. We would like to encourage all students, where possible, to use Biometrics rather than a PIN number as it is a safer and quicker system than using the PIN. If there are any problems during the day we are encouraging students to speak to the Catering Office in the first instance.

Where possible we would also like to encourage parents/carers to upload funds to their child's account via the online payment system. This saves the students' time during break and lunch and it also offers you the opportunity to see what they are spending their money on by looking at 'View History' on your account. If you would like to set up an online account, please contact the Finance Office on the contact details below, to provide them with the details needed. Alternatively your child can collect a letter from the Finance Office at break time. Within the online payments system we would recommend you use the option to set up an alert on your child's account when funds are running low; you can do this via the 'Alerts' menu within the payments website.

Currently the Academy shop is still taking cash, however, after half term this will also be on the cashless system and any purchases made by biometrics or PIN will show on your child's catering account and will be itemised in the same way.

If you have any queries please contact finance@grange.outwood.com or telephone us on 01924 204350.

Banned items

We are increasingly confiscating fidget toys at the Academy. These items are causing disruption to learning and taking time from staff having positive conversations with students. The toy also contains ball bearings which are a health and safety risk if consumed. With this in mind all fidget toys are banned from site unless authorised for a particular special educational need. If fidget toys are confiscated they will be destroyed as per our Behaviour Policy and the guidance from the DfE. Please can you re-iterate this message to your child.

Five a Day

As from September 2017 all students will have to bring with them the following equipment every day:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Bag

Failure to bring any one of these items will result in a C4-Other. These items are essential to learning and being an organised person; too often students rely on their peers and staff to give them equipment which halts the learning process and we want all lessons to be smooth and purposeful. I hope you agree that it is an appropriate expectation for your child to be correctly equipped for school.

Dates for the Diary

Summer Term starts 5 June 2017

Date	Event
6 June	Parents Evening 5
16 June	Y11 Study Leave begins
19 June	Y6 Transition begins
26 June	Y8 Graduations begin
29 June	Y11 Prom
30 June	Y11 Leavers' Assembly
3 July	Y11-12 Transition
3 July	Y6 Parents Evening

Thank you for your support. Please do work with your children who have forthcoming exams in the summer term.

Yours faithfully

Sabiha Laher
Principal