

21 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As the festive break draws near, marking the conclusion of an extraordinary term, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to every one of you for your steadfast commitment and collaboration in fostering our students' achievements and wellbeing. The path we have traversed together this year has been extraordinary, and it fills me with great pride to recount some of the key milestones and accomplishments we have achieved as a community.

### **Wellbeing**

We are continuing to focus on the importance of student mental wellbeing throughout the year. We understand the challenges our young minds face, and it has been our constant endeavour to foster an environment where every student feels heard, valued, and supported. Thank you to those parents and carers who attended the parent's information evening in November. We are planning on hosting more evenings like this in the new year. Over the holiday period if you are in need of support there are a number of websites that may be of help. For student wellbeing support please visit: [Mental Wellbeing](#). It is also important that you look after your own wellbeing, if you are in need of support as an adult the following websites may be of benefit; [Mind](#), [Turning Point](#). It is important to also keep students safe online. Please see the following page with some tips to support this: [Staying Safe Online at Xmas](#).

### **Achievements**

We are immensely proud of the accomplishments our students have achieved so far this year. From the outstanding performances during the Christmas concert and piano vocal night to visits to Parliament and Oxford/Cambridge universities, Remembrance parade and weekly cadets, plus all our praise events, we are proud of all the students who have worked hard to achieve these accomplishments and have been able to take part in our wide range of celebrations.



## **Attendance**

One crucial aspect that contributed to this success is consistent attendance. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all parents and carers for prioritising their child's education by ensuring regular attendance. Attending school regularly not only enhances academic achievement but also fosters a sense of belonging and social interaction that are invaluable for personal growth.

## **Parents Evening**

As part of our continued engagement with you regarding your child's progress, our Key Stage 4 & 5 Parents/Carers Evening will be taking place on Tuesday 9 January from 3:45 pm to 7 pm in the Arts Centre. Due to the limited number of appointments available, we have prioritised bookings for parents who have been requested to attend first before opening it up to all parents to book. To make your appointments please login at: <https://parents-booking.co.uk/outwoodgrange>

## **Parental Engagement**

We want to share with you as early as possible the key dates in the diary for parents and carers to be able to attend the academy. We have a range of opportunities for parents and carers throughout the year to listen to both formal talks and presentations and to watch productions and performances. All these events have time set aside to speak to staff before, during and after the events. We truly believe that parental engagement is a key driver in the success of our students.

As well as the events listed below, we always recommend parental engagement is initiated with your child's form tutor if you have any questions or queries. Tutor email addresses take the form of the following format: Staff-member's-first-name-initial.Staff-member's-last-name@grange.outwood.com.

The form tutor can then co-ordinate with the member of staff best placed to answer your query. If it is subject based, please do also contact your child's subject specialist teacher using the email format above.

You can also use the [Parent Portal](#) to view attendance, Praising Stars, praise, sanctions for your child. We have also added the sanction schedule so you can now see when your child is due to attend a sanction and the reason for the sanction.

## **A Final Thank You**

As we approach the festive season and the close of a remarkable year, I want to acknowledge the incredible role that parents, carers, teachers, and students have played in shaping a nurturing and supportive environment. Your collective efforts have been instrumental in fostering the all-round development of our young learners, equipping them for future challenges and opportunities. My sincere thanks goes to each of you for your invaluable contribution to our school community.

Let's continue this wonderful journey together in the coming year.

Yours faithfully



Mr Andrew Downing  
Principal

Name of Event	Date
Parents Evening Year 10 & Year 11	9 January 2024
KS3 Reading celebration	26 January 2024
Year 9 Guided Pathways Evening	16 January 2024
Y11 Revision Festival	30 January 2024
Parents Evening Year 9	20 February 2024
Trust-Wide Year 11 Mocks	19 Feb - 1 Mar 2024
SEN Nibble & Natter 2	13 March 2024
Praising Stars 4 closes	13 March 2024
Parents Evening Year 10 & Year 11	9 April 2024
KS3 Reading celebration	12 April /2024
Praising Stars 5 closes	15 May 2024
Year 7,8 and 9 Parents Evening	21st May 2024
SEND transition day - EHCP students	04 June 2024
SEND transition day - SEN Support	06 June 2024
SEND transition day - SEN Support	07 June 2024
SEND Nibble & Natter 3	12 June 2024
Week 1 Year 6 Transition	Week beginning 17 June 2024
Praising Stars 6 closes	10 July 2024
Year 6 Evening for September 24 starters	11 July 2024
KS3 Reading celebration	12 July 2024
Week 2 Year 6 Transition	Week beginning 8 July 2024

**\* Jumpers should be black and v-neck. Round-neck sweatshirts are not allowed.**

## Back to School

Checklist!

- Blazer
- Tie
- Shirts
- Trousers/Skirt
- Shoes

#OutwoodNewYear

