

**September 2017**

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all had a relaxing summer break, the students have all made an excellent start to the new year.

Once again I thank parents and carers for their support in ensuring that our students come to the Academy with positive attitudes; your children are a real credit to you.

### **GCSE Success**

I am very pleased to inform you that once again the Academy has broken all records at GCSE level. 72% of students passed English and maths at 4+, an increase of 7 percentage points on last year's result. In addition, 53% of students passed English and maths at 5+. This is the new, more rigorous government benchmark. Not only does this place Outwood Academy Foxhills in the top 1% of similar schools nationally, but it also places Outwood Academy Foxhills at the top of North Lincolnshire for this key measure currently. (This figure may change pending re-marks.)

In addition to recognising the outstanding efforts of the Year 11 students, I would also like to thank all students, parents and carers. We have been able to ensure these excellent outcomes due to the fantastic climate for learning which is created by all our students.

### **Expectations**

The academy has very high expectations of all its students in terms of behaviour, uniform and effort. These high expectations form the foundation of our ability to get the best possible outcomes for all students and as always have been shared with all students at the start of the term.

I would just like to remind parents aware of some of the expectations;

- a. Shoes must be plain black and of leather or leather like material. Trainers, boots, logos and canvas shoes are not permitted.
- b. Tights and socks must be black and tights should be opaque.
- c. All students should have the basic equipment of pen, pencil, ruler and their planner each day.

Failure to adhere to the expectations of the Academy will lead to a consequence being issued.

### **Data Collection**

I am sure you realise the importance of the Academy being able to contact parents in the unlikely event of an emergency. Therefore, if your contact details have changed in any way please could you inform the academy by phone or letter of any new address or phone numbers. Students are not allowed phones out in the Academy, nor should they be heard. Should you need to contact your child during the course of the school day, please ring reception on 01724 292920.

## **Attendance**

Attendance at school is a proven factor in affecting a child's outcomes and achievement. The government guidance regarding the authorising of attendance is very clear in that, with exception of illness, we may only authorise other absences in "exceptional circumstances". Exceptional means unlikely to happen again and/or unforeseeable circumstances.

Absence for the purpose of a family holiday, even if information is provided that this is the only time of parents/carers can take off, cannot and will not be authorised. In addition a fine may be imposed. I would also like to make parents/carers aware that should there be 3 instances of unauthorised holiday absence in a child's entire school career, then this may lead straight to prosecution.

Should you wish to apply for an absence from the academy for an exceptional circumstance, this should be applied for, in writing, at least 4 weeks in advance of the absence. We are unable, legally, to authorise an absence retrospectively. Obviously there are some circumstances e.g. a close family bereavement, which cannot be anticipated and in such cases please contact your child's Learning Manager or Mr Lee Evans, Vice Principal, to discuss.

## **Staff Training**

I would like to give you all advance notice of the 5<sup>th</sup> staff training day this year which will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The academy will not be open to students on this day as all staff will be involved in training.

We do value your feedback, therefore, if any parents or carers have any further comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact the Academy. In the first instance please could you contact your child's subject teacher, VMG tutor or the appropriate Learning Manager via the school website or by phoning the main reception. We will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible, however, it may not always be possible to speak straight away due to other commitments during the working day.

Our Learning Manages are:

Year 7& 8	Mrs Allen
Year 9	Mrs Ball
Year 10	Ms Buttrick
Year 11	Ms Clague

We are very proud of our students, their attitudes and their behaviour. As always, should any parent wish to see the Academy during the course of the working day, please contact the PA to the Principal, Teresa Keates, and we will be happy to arrange a tour with the Principal.

I look forward to another successful year of working in partnership with all our parents/carers.

Yours faithfully



Angela Hull  
**Principal**