

Autumn 15

# outlook

The news magazine of the  
Outwood Grange Family of Schools



Students First  
**OUTWOOD**  
ACADEMY ADWICK



## Principal's Blog

In August, which now seems a little while ago, we were absolutely delighted by all the examination outcomes achieved at Outwood Academy Adwick. The outgoing Year 11 cohort achieved a massive 63.4% A\*-C including English and mathematics and twenty five of them secured an A\* to A in mathematics – a level of success never seen here before. These 'headline' results mean that we have the 4th best results in Doncaster – out of seventeen schools, which is a fabulous achievement.

In addition to the success at GCSE our A level results proved to be the best yet and for the first time in thirty years one of our Year 13 students, Luke Charlton, secured a place at Liverpool University to study medicine – another huge achievement.

Since the record results we have had a wholly positive start to the new academic year and our newest students in Year 7 have settled in to their secondary school life incredibly well. Highlights this half term have included our Year 5 Space Day event and Open Evening, an information evening, and a Learn like a Champion event offered in conjunction with Outwood Institute of Education for our Year 12 students.

This half term started with our annual 'Adwick's Got Talent' show and our enrichment programme continues at pace. Over one hundred Year 11 students are staying behind every Wednesday to extend their learning and progress in maths and we encourage all our students to follow their example. Finally, as the winter months approach I would ask for your support in encouraging your daughters and sons to come to school every day regardless of the weather – we love to see them.

*Carolyn Blundell, Principal*

## Careers information, advice and guidance Award



Outwood Academy Adwick is delighted to be nationally recognised for its commitment to careers information, advice and guidance.

The Academy has secured Careers Mark which is nationally validated by the Quality in Careers Standard (QiCS) and the awarding body stated in their assessment of the Academy's portfolio of evidence "I would like to extend our congratulations to Outwood Academy Adwick on achieving the Quality Award from Prospects for your careers education, information advice and guidance. The Accreditation Board was unanimous in making the award for the full 3 years until July 2018. The Prospects' award is fully validated against the national Quality in Careers Standard".

Congratulations go to all who have been involved and there is no doubt that students at Outwood Academy Adwick will benefit from the acquisition of this prestigious award.

*Amanda Bate, Assistant Principal*

## Effective revision with GCSEpod



GCSEPod provides podcasts which you can watch online or download to play later on your iPods, iPhones, Blackberry and Android devices and tablets. All podcasts are enhanced with text and images and are designed to support students in the classroom, with their homework and during exam time.

So many students at Outwood Academy Adwick already have mobile technology in their pockets and we hope to harness this existing technology to engage all students with their studies in an innovative way. GCSEPod has already been proven to have a significant impact on A\*-C performance and we aim to make it an integral part of learning for every GCSE student studying at the Academy. Podcasts are organised into subjects and you can further tailor your searches to forthcoming examinations.

Students can follow the link to GCSEPod at the bottom of the webpage. They will be taken to a registration page where they can logon using the drop down boxes.

*Carolyn Blundell, Principal*



## The Family of Schools numeracy challenge

The third annual Family of Schools Maths Challenge was held at Outwood Academy Adwick in the Outwood Institute of Education and the Academy hall. Students, from Year 6 to 10 from across our family of schools spent the afternoon competing against each other with their mathematical ability.

The Year 6 and 7 event was attended by 23 teams of three pupils from across our family, the children were fabulous and the room was buzzing with very excited children solving some quite tricky maths challenges and very quick mental maths questions! The Year 6 and 7 event ended with two very exciting

tiebreaker challenges between Outwood Academy Bydales and Outwood Academy Newbold. The victors were Outwood Academy Newbold, winning the challenging second tie breaker questions. Outwood Academy Adwick took a very respectable joint third place along with Outwood Academy Acklam with a one point gap from 1st to 3rd places.

The Year 8 Numeracy Challenge was attended by 9 teams of four pupils from across the family, joint winners were Outwood Academy Brumby and Outwood Academy Portland scoring a very respectable 90 points,

with Outwood Academy Adwick in third place. The Year 9 Numeracy Challenge was attended by 11 teams of four pupils from across our family; Outwood Academy Bydales were the victors. In the Year 10 Numeracy Challenge which was attended by 7 teams of four pupils, the victors were Portland with Outwood Academy Adwick in a very close second place.

*Paul Dadswell, Head of Maths, Outwood Academy Adwick*

# Afternoon Tea



At the end of the last academic year students from the Academy arranged a thank you afternoon tea for teaching and support staff, where they served a selection of cakes, buns, pastries and cheesecakes. In addition, Josh Gillespie, Student Voice lead, took the opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication throughout the last academic year.

*Mary Cairns, 6th Form Learning Manager*



*Mark Cobb, Beckie Kitchen,  
Jamie Burland Year 12*

# Exam Results

Outwood Academy Adwick is absolutely delighted to share that the provisional result for the headline figure of GCSE outcomes is 63.4% of students securing five A\* to C grades including English and mathematics.

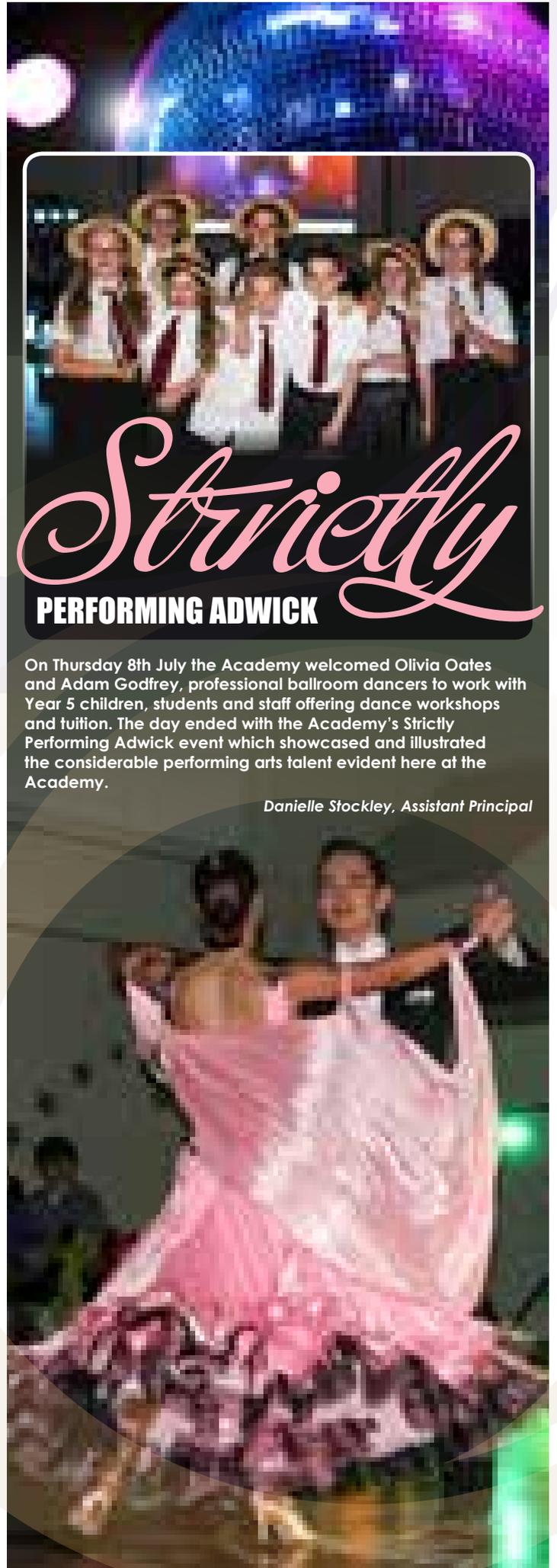
The GCSE results come on the back of excellent A Level results and demonstrate the considerable improvements the Academy is making year on year. Sir Michael Wilkins, Academy Principal and CEO for Outwood Grange Academies Trust is delighted with the work of the CEO & Designated Executive Principal Martyn Oliver and Principal Carolyn Blundell in securing these results.

The Academy and Trust would like to extend their thanks to parents, students and governors for their support – and their contribution to what is an excellent set of GCSE results in 2015.

Notable highlights include nine A\* grades in mathematics and an A\* to C pass rate in mathematics of 76% – which is significantly above the national average.

Outwood Academy Adwick is securing excellent results for children year on year and places for Year 7 children are limited – should you wish to visit the Academy and see their work first hand please liaise with Diane Hanks, the Principal's PA who will be delighted to make you an appointment and can be contacted on 01302 722237.

*Carolyn Blundell, Principal*



# Strictly

**PERFORMING ADWICK**

On Thursday 8th July the Academy welcomed Olivia Oates and Adam Godfrey, professional ballroom dancers to work with Year 5 children, students and staff offering dance workshops and tuition. The day ended with the Academy's Strictly Performing Adwick event which showcased and illustrated the considerable performing arts talent evident here at the Academy.

*Danielle Stockley, Assistant Principal*



# Sports Hall Extension

As you may have seen, Outwood Academy Adwick is undertaking some building work around the physical education block. This work is to upgrade our sporting facilities and provide an extension to our existing PE building. The extension will provide three more teaching spaces, a laundry and dance studios.

We are working closely with the contractors to ensure that any disruption, both to our Academy day and to our immediate neighbours is kept to an absolute minimum.

We are very excited about the extension whilst balancing the consequences of building work carefully. Should you have concerns or observations you wish to share with us as the project develops please do not hesitate to contact the Academy's Business Manager, Miss Calton or the Academy's Facilities Manager, Mr Spencer on 01302 722237.

*Carolyn Blundell, Principal*



# Author visit

In July students from Outwood Academy Adwick were invited to a special author visit by Sam and Mark of CBBC fame.

Not only are they popular children's television presenters, but now authors as well. Their first book 'The Adventures of Long Arm' is about one small boy and a very large arm who goes on to become a super hero. The event, hosted by Hexthorpe Primary School was not only a huge success but lots of fun too.

Nine of our top Accelerated Reader students along with the librarian, Mrs Lambert had the opportunity of attending this event as an addition to them winning lots of Accelerated Reader prizes at our final presentation awards.

*Ann Lambert, Head of Learning Resources*



# ACCELERATED READER AND THE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS BOOK AWARD

On Friday 19th June students from Years 7, 8 and 9 came together to celebrate reading at our annual Family of Schools Book Award, which not only announced the winning book voted by students from all the academies in The Trust, but also to recognise the hard work accomplished in the Accelerated Reader programme.

Twenty five students from Years 7 and 8 were awarded certificates and prizes in addition to ten students from Year 9. Nine students

gained recognition in our Millionaire's Club, by reading over a million words this academic year.

Kindles were awarded to Tanya Pearson, Jake Heeney, Leo Messen, Tyler Clarke, Hayley Heath-Holmes, Kaydi-Leigh Wall and Alice Lysons. Ethen Sheppard and Matthew Gursky, the two students who won the Kindles last year were awarded £50.

The winning book for 2015 was MazeRunner.

The event was attended by author Jon Robinson, whose recent book 'No Where' is a great hit with our Year 8 students. The students were delighted to be able to ask Jon questions about his books and how he initially got into writing. Their elation ran over when Jon personally handed out all the prizes and Kindles to the students for their achievements over the past twelve months.

*Ann Lambert, Head of Learning Resources*



# Year 5 Space Day and Students of the Future Open Evening

On Tuesday 22nd September, Outwood Academy Adwick hosted their Year 5 Space Event followed by their community Students of the Future open evening.

Almost 200 primary pupils joined the science, ICT, mathematics and technology departments for an afternoon and journey through space. Parents were welcomed and joined in the activities too.

As part of their day, children experienced making gingerbread spacemen and watched a comet being made in front of their eyes as well as observing the behaviour of liquid nitrogen.

Students also had the opportunity to put themselves on the moon by participating in a Photoshop workshop in our MAC suite.

Each primary school that attended received a free telescope and souvenirs from the day.

*Nathan Dwyer, Head of Science*



In the evening we were extremely proud to invite members of the community to see our exciting learning environments, explore our classrooms, meet our friendly team of staff and participate in exciting and thought provoking activities.

All children who attended were extremely excited to complete their 'Student of the Future Event Passport' for which they received #Iamthefuture pencil cases. In order to get their passports fully stamped, they were encouraged to participate in various space themed workshops throughout the Academy.



The staff at Outwood Academy Adwick were thrilled to see just short of 100 Student Voice ambassadors helping during the evening, some students dressed up as their future self and confidently described how Outwood Academy Adwick would help them achieve their goals.

*Carolyn Blundell, Principal*



# Adult Learners



Following on from the information regarding our adult learning courses held in Outwood Academy Adwick's library, we are pleased to announce an overall success for four of our regular learners.

Sophie Blaire achieved her Level 2 OCR qualification in Text Processing, with her daughter Olivia achieving her level three award. Carl McIntyre, from the Adwick Social Education Centre achieved his level 4 award in the Lexia reading programme and Ann Blaire moved up to her achieve her level two award.

For details of all our courses both during the day and in the evening, please contact Ann Lambert on 01302 722237 ext: 245 or email her at [a.lambert@adwick.outwood.com](mailto:a.lambert@adwick.outwood.com).

*Ann Lambert, Head of Learning Resources*



# Food Bank

Doncaster Foodbank were completely overwhelmed by the generosity of students and their families when they donated over 600 items of food which was weighed in at 111.4kg.

This Random Act of Kindness initiative was welcomed by both students and staff who donated an item of non-perishable food which was then donated to a local food bank. Donation drop off points were situated at the Student Information Desk and outside the Learning Manager's office.

Both the Academy and Doncaster Foodbank would like to thank all those involved for their amazing support in helping local people in a crisis.

*Mary Cairns, 6th Form Learning Manager*



# MUSIC CONCERT

Earlier this year, sixth form music students produced and performed an afternoon concert in front of friends, family and staff. The concert formed the basis of their final assessments across 3 units of study: music performance techniques, pop music in practice and working as a musical ensemble. They performed covers from a variety of styles (motown, rock, funk) as a group, solo pieces and 3 of their own original songs (motown, grunge and rockabilly) for the assessment. Brad Needham Year 12 played bass guitar, Beth Hutchinson Year 12 sang and Laura Mee Year 13 sang and played piano. These students were joined by Year 11 Conlan Teale who stepped in to provide drum kit accompaniment. It was a fabulous afternoon of music; the students truly rocked out!

*Rebecca Brown, Head of Music*



# Year 11 Prom

This year's Outwood Academy Adwick's prom was held at the Charnwood in Blyth on Thursday 25th June. Attending the event were 140 students and 40 staff, who were all greeted with a sparkling fruit punch on arrival and then seated for a three course meal. Each guest received a keepsake favour box with a personalised chocolate inside and each table was decorated with a centrepiece of sunflowers.

Two students were awarded the prestigious honour of Prom King and Prom Queen which this year went to Tommy Kerry and Morgan Pawson.

All the students looked amazing and a great night was had by all.

*Jacqui Archer, Year 11 Learning Manager*

# Community Voice

Parental involvement is about supporting students and their learning, where parents and the Academy work together in partnership to help children become more confident learners. All the evidence shows that when parents and carers are effectively involved in their children's education, the outcome is better. Parents are the first and ongoing educators of their children; therefore working together will allow the school to support children in reaching their full potential.

The Academy needs the support of parents to be truly excellent, and together we can give more children a better start and greater opportunities in life.

Did you know that Outwood Academy Adwick has a dedicated area on our website just for parents and carers? Log in to [www.adwick.outwood.com](http://www.adwick.outwood.com) and then click on the parent / community area at the top of the page. From here you will have access to information about our parent forum group, community voice, adult learning within the Academy, ITC first aid courses and our community magazine or you can download the parent/carer handbook. There is also an area here where you can contact the Academy via our parent / carer questionnaire, and a dedicated member of our support staff will contact you to answer your questions.

For further details of any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact Ann Lambert on 01302 722237 ext: 245.

*Ann Lambert, Head of Learning Resources*



## Graduation

Students in Year 8 who achieved all positive Praising Stars® effort grades were awarded the opportunity to attend the graduation ceremony followed by a weekend residential to Kingswood Outdoor and Pursuits Centre and then progress in to Year 9.

Students wore the traditional graduation gowns and mortar boards to the ceremony where they were congratulated as they received their graduation certificate.

The memorable occasion was a chance for parents, subject teachers and fellow students to celebrate their achievement and success.

Whilst the event recognised the positive behaviour of our students, Mrs Simpkin was also given the opportunity to commend a Star Student and Most Improved Student in each ceremony.

A day thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and all of the staff at Outwood Academy Adwick are proud of the achievements of the Year 8 students.

*Gemma Howcroft, 2nd in Faculty Creative Arts*

## YEAR 6 INFORMATION EVENING

The Academy was delighted to welcome Year 6 children and their parents and share with them the many exciting opportunities available to them at Outwood Academy Adwick. Children and their parents and carers were able to tour the Academy site, meet with staff and see the twenty first century facilities on offer.

If you are a parent of a Year 6 child do take the opportunity to access the Parent/Carer Handbook available here on the website or telephone Miss Howcroft, our transition co-ordinator on 01302 722237.

*Carolyn Blundell, Principal*

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

In September, Student Voice hosted a Macmillan Cancer Support coffee afternoon.

Student Voice Ambassadors served a variety of hot and cold drinks and delicious cakes in the Academy hall which had been decorated for the occasion.

We were delighted by the number of staff and students who attended; all of whom were keen to support the event and donate a pound to a worthy cause. The students who attended also achieved Pledge 9; participation in a fundraising event in the Academy.

Outwood Academy Adwick raised £200 which has been recognised by the charity who have sent a thank you letter and a certificate in recognition of our donation, which is displayed on the Student Information Desk.

Thank you to all the students and staff who attended, we look forward to seeing you again next year.

*Mary Cairns, 6th Form Learning Manager*

## World Championship dancers



Outwood Academy Adwick is the home of two World Championship Dancers! At the end of the summer holidays, two of our students travelled up to Glasgow to compete in the World Street Dance Championships. Kennedy Eve Cousins, Year 9 and her brother Taylor Cousins, Year 8 had been successful in qualifying to compete against other dancers across the world after taking first place in Blackpool Winter Gardens earlier this year. The standard of competition was out of this world and still they managed to come away with third place being marginally beaten by Japan and Wales. The competition took place over a gruelling weekend where they were lucky enough to be able to dance with such famous acts as 'Twist and Pulse' and 'Flawless'.

The next exciting instalment of their journey is travelling to Germany in the new year in order to be able to compete in the European Street Dance Championships. Kennedy and Taylor are both part of Outwood Academy Adwick Dance club.

*Angela Cousins, Teacher of English*

## Dates for your diary

**Carol Concert Woodlands Church**  
10th December

**Community voice meetings**  
26th January, 15th March, 24th May, 28th June

**Year 9 parent evening**  
**Year 10 into Year 11 option evening**  
5th January 2016

**Year 8 into Year 9 option evening**  
19th January 2016

**Year 11 parent evening**  
26th January 2016

**Year 6 information evening**  
24th May 2016

# Girl's Football team remain the best in Doncaster!



A massive congratulations to our Year 10 girl's football team who have won the Doncaster Schools Cup for the second year running. The girls were once again undefeated throughout the competition winning all but one of their fixtures (a draw to De Warrene) and conceding only 2 goals. What was even more impressive was the team were only represented by Year 10 students in an under 16s tournament so, were up against a number of students a year older than them.

Unfortunately, the team were missing a few of their regular players on the finals evening (held at Balby Carr Sports College) so a couple of new faces stepped up to the challenge to assist. They also had the added pressure of being the current cup holders so tensions were running high. A number of parents and carers joined myself and Mr Walker to support the team

along the way and the girls did not disappoint with a 3-0 defeat over Hungerhill School in the final. The competition was full of energy, teamwork, resilience and fine technical skills throughout. All of the girls contributed to what was a fine display of great football and sportsmanship.

The girls have continued to grow into great sportswomen and inspirational role models for their fellow students. Their outstanding attitude and commitment has enabled them to be victorious once again and has proved that hard work, determination and team spirit leads to amazing things. The whole team are a credit to the Academy and we wish them all continued success for the upcoming football season.

*Rebecca Bowamia, Teacher of PE*

## STUDENT SWIMMER

Our Year 9 student, Robbie Casson, began swimming six years ago and since then has gone on to win the Regional Championships and the Yorkshire Championships where he was up against thirty five other competitors within his age group. Robbie is so dedicated to his training that he swims seven times a week both before and after school, some days training from five am to seven am and then getting ready for the Academy day, a total of thirteen and a half hours every week. He is in training now for the North East regional championships which will be held in Sunderland before Christmas and the Winter Nationals in the new year.



*Ann Lambert, Head of Learning Resources*

## FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

On Monday 5th of October all of the Outwood Academies came together for a day of competitive athletics at the amazing facility, the English Institute of Sport, in Sheffield. Fifteen schools from across England were at the event with each school represented by Years 9, 10 and 11. Sports leaders were also present from Year 12 and Year 13 who took on the role of officials and event organisers to ensure the day ran smoothly. All of our students were a credit to Outwood Academy Adwick with encouragement and support shown from all of the different Academies. Some fantastic individual performances were witnessed when George Westerman won the 1000m and Rieves Boocock won the 60m. Rieves also came second in the long jump and second in the shot putt. The Year 10 girls team consisting of Hannah Cartwright, Jess Moses, Nucharee Kaewsanthia and Anna Beastall went on to win the relay race. Along with these outstanding performances the remaining students showed fantastic determination and resilience to compete at a really high level and achieve some great results.

*Tom Daniels  
Teacher of PE*

## BMX Sensation

Koby Richardson of Year 10 is a BMX racing sensation competing all over the world.

His race season began on a high with back-to-back wins in the Midlands region, which covers about one hundred and fifty miles and ten rounds of racing all over the region. Koby won all ten rounds to become the region's champion before going on to race at Leicester for the midlands championship title, where he raced all day, never dropping a single race to become crowned the champion.

As part of the race season, Koby competed at national and international level, racing all over the United Kingdom and abroad to achieve his number four plate.

In addition to this phenomenal success, Koby has also represented Great Britain in the world championships held in Belgium, which was a very proud moment for his parents.

Outwood Academy Adwick wish Koby all the success in the forthcoming championships starting in January.

*Ann Lambert, Head of Learning Resources*

