

17 December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you having just attended our Christmas Film Evening; watching Home Alone in Christmas jumpers, with a mince pie and a hot chocolate. It was a festive highlight which echoes our close community ethos.

The festivities have been well under way within the academy with our sell out Christmas concert, a reward trip to the enchanted Brodsworth illuminations, our Christmas food bank collection, the attendance advent challenge and the aforementioned film evening.

Christmas and New Year naturally brings about reflection, and looking back at this term I am extremely proud of the Outwood Academy Adwick community. It was a wonderful opportunity last week to share our appreciation of our students' hard work and achievements with parents, carers and the wider community at our recent celebration evening; all built from strong student and teacher relationships and a shared vision to do well.

The recent Praising Stars outcomes show great promise. They have informed us that our students preparing for examinations this academic year are on-track and predicted to again attain record breaking results in the summer. It has also been a pleasure to see how well our Year 7 students have settled into life at the academy, growing in confidence, working hard in lessons and participating in a wide range of after-school enrichment opportunities.

For those who follow the @OutwoodAdwick Twitter account you will have witnessed a range of fantastic events and achievements, demonstrating just how amazing our students are!

As always, a new year brings the impetus for greater personal and shared goals, and as an academy community, we look forward to continuing raising standards and transforming the lives of our students. With this in mind I would like to take the opportunity to share some key expectations that enable our core focusses to be on learning and maximising student progress:

- Students should arrive at the academy before 8:15, enabling them to move to lessons at 8:20, for a prompt 8:25 start.
- Attendance has clear links to student outcomes. Students should strive for at least 96% attendance. *Research has found that students with attendance between 80 – 90% have a 35% chance of achieving five or more good qualifications, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of the academic year.*
- Our students take pride in their uniforms, their planner outlines uniform requirements, including; black shoes, without logos and skirts worn at the correct length, not rolled over.
- Make-up should not be visible and no jewellery should be worn
- All students must have appropriate equipment for learning, suitable appropriate school bag and their academy planner.

- Students should not bring chewing gum or fizzy drinks into the academy.
- Mobile phones should not be seen in the academy, they should be switched off and in bags.

It has been a fantastic first term, working with parents and carers, supporting our students to meet their potential and exceed expectations. I appreciate your continued support in enabling us to raise standards and maintain consistent expectations.

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I would like to remind you of our commitment to supporting everyone's mental health and wellbeing. Please make yourself aware of our recently updated website resources and sign posting should you have any concerns at any time.

We return on Monday 6th January and I hope you have an enjoyable break. And finally on behalf of the academy community I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and I look forward to your continued and welcomed support going into 2020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'A Scruby', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr A Scruby
Principal