

Friday 22nd March, 2024

Re: End of term

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well. It has been a hugely successful start to the year and I would like to thank you for your warm welcome and support since my appointment as Principal in January 2024. We are proud to share that student attendance continues to improve and we are particularly delighted with Y7 who have 94.2% attendance, an exceptional achievement! Well done Y7.

It has been an eventful term to say the least! Students have enjoyed a wide range of experiential learning opportunities, including York Grand Opera House, Nidderdale Llama Farm, Super Army Camp at Strensall, Harrogate Fire Station, Ogden Trust Science Fayre to name some.

In addition, I am pleased to share that students have responded extremely well to the changes introduced to our break time arrangements - you will recall that our intention was to minimise disruption to learning. The feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive: teachers feel that the quality of lesson engagement has improved significantly as a result of the change and pastoral leaders highlight that they have been able to spend more time with learners who require additional intervention to support their learning experience.

Furthermore, we have been delighted with Y11's engagement with our recently published *Raising Achievement Strategy*. All Y11 learners have access to a wealth of resources to support their preparations for the summer exams and these have been very well-received.

Our recently introduced Breakfast Club provision, *Rise & Shine*, is proving increasingly popular with students and has certainly impacted positively on whole-school attendance, currently at 92.3%. Remember, *Rise & Shine* is open to all learners from 08.15 and is

completely free for Y11. A nutritious breakfast is an important start to the day and is proven to increase engagement. Sincere thanks to all parents and carers for your continuous support and working in partnership with the team at Outwood Academy Ripon.

During the Easter period, our Y11 GCSE History students will visit northern France to see the battlefields. I extend special thanks to Mrs Luscombe, Mr Turner, Mrs Arcidiacono and Miss Coverdale for their support with this. It is wonderful to see so many experiential learning opportunities taking place to inspire our learners. I strongly encourage parents and carers to follow the Academy's social media pages <https://twitter.com/outwoodripon> and <https://www.facebook.com/OutwoodAcademyRipon> to observe and celebrate these exciting events with us.

Next term, we seek to strengthen student experience further with access to a range of enrichments that will be offered both within and outside academy hours. We would love to see as many children as possible attending enrichment to support engagement with wider-academy life.

Dates for your diary:

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|------------------------|--|
| Y11 GCSE Exam Period | 15th April - 26th June (including contingency dates) |
| Year 9 Parents Evening | 23rd April |
| Year 8 Parents Evening | 11th June |
| May Bank Holiday | 6th May |
| May Half Term | 27th - 31st May |
| Last day of term | Friday 19th July |

As we conclude the spring term, we wish a fond farewell to a number of colleagues:

Mrs.E.Stephenson (Science Teacher)

Mr.R.Turney (English Teacher)

Mrs.F.O'Brien (English Teacher)

Mrs.F.Waddington (Music Teacher)

Mrs.K.Lewindon (PLC Manager)

Miss.E.Webb (Teaching Assistant)

Mrs.K.Mudd (Learning Manager)

We wish these colleagues the very best for the future and thank them for their service at Outwood Academy Ripon. In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming new colleagues to the Outwood Family:

Mr.S.Dedross (Science Teacher)

Mrs.A.Richardson (English Teacher)

Mr.N.Smith-Hill (Cover Supervisor)

Once again, thank you for your continuous support and feedback. We remain available should you have any questions or concerns: enquiries@ripon.outwood.com. In the meantime, have a wonderful Easter break.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Donohue', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Ms.R.A.Donohue (M.Ed; FCCT)
Principal