

Our ref: SGA/DSH

9th February 2024

As we approach the final week of this half term, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the fantastic work students at Outwood Academy Portland have been doing and also to remind you about some important aspects of the academy day.

Year 9 students have selected their options for their GCSE courses ready for September 2024 and we have been pleased at how inquisitive they have been about ensuring the courses they have chosen are right for them. We are thrilled at the experience our year 11 students have received on their visit to UTC in Sheffield where they experienced all things careers. Our community language speaking mock exams have been a huge success and students have worked incredibly hard for them. We also held our House Celebration event over 2 consecutive evenings and the turn out from students and parents was exceptional; we are so proud to celebrate our fantastic students. Year 8 and 9 students enjoyed a live Spanish theatre event and Triple Science students engaged with 5 top scientists giving a talk on their area of science to enthuse students to take up science-based careers at Sheffield City Hall. The UK Maths Challenge has been a great success for all students who have taken part and we were pleased with the fabulous GCSE revision evening offered to Year 11 students and parents.

Below are some important updates/reminders:

School start time

I wanted to draw everyone's attention to our Student planner which states that all students should arrive at the academy by 8.15am so that they are at their first lesson by 8.25am ready to start learning. If students are late, they must sign in at student reception and will receive a C4b, unless there is an exceptional reason. Teachers meet students at 8.15am and have learning ready to start at this time. Please encourage your son/daughter not to miss this vital learning which over a term adds up to 6 extra school days!

We are keen for everyone to be in school by 8.15am and so will be monitoring and challenging those who arrive after 8.20am. Please join me on this mission to gift your son/daughter with 6 extra days of learning a year. I am currently working with the bus companies to change bus pick up and arrival times.

Lunchtime Detentions

Any students who miss their after-school detention will be issued with 3 consecutive lunchtime detentions. Students will be offered a school packed lunch during their detention and the cost of this lunch will be deducted from their account. Students must make their way to their lunch detention at the start of their lunch break. We encourage parents to ensure their children, if issued with a detention, are attending them after school.

Uniform/Jewellery/Bags

At Outwood Academy Portland we believe that a smart uniform prepares our students for the future, improves discipline, self-esteem and self-respect. Uniform focuses attention upon learning and away from distractions. So that all pupils have a sense of pride in their appearance, we therefore ask that the uniform is worn appropriately and in its entirety.

Students are required to wear appropriate school trousers and skirts, as described below.

Trousers

- must be plain black and in a tailored formal style;
- must **not** be cropped, tight/skinny fit, made of stretch or patterned fabric. They must **not** have decorative buttons, buckles or fashion belts;
- jeans, flares, cargo or bootlegged trousers, tracksuit bottoms, jeggings or leggings are **not** acceptable.

Skirts

- must be box pleat
- tight-fitting, tube skirts are **not** acceptable;
- must sit on or just above the knee;
- must **not** be made of jersey, stretch or patterned fabric;
- must be worn with a minimum of plain black 40 denier tights.

Students wearing items that do not match these descriptions will be asked to change and support will be given to parents/carers to source acceptable garments. Families experiencing difficulties in paying for uniform and school shoes may wish to make an application to the school's discretionary Hardship Fund, available to all registered full-time school students. Please speak to your child's Learning Manager.

School Shoes

Only plain black shoes are allowed to be worn with the uniform. The shoes should be free from embellishments and decorations. No trainer-like shoes, boots, pumps or canvas shoes (including 'Vans') will be allowed. Heels should be no higher than 2.5cm/1 inch.

If students are not wearing the correct footwear they will be expected to borrow a pair of shoes from Student Reception - the shoes will be treated with a hygienic spray before each use.



Jewellery/Eyelashes/Nails

No jewellery is allowed except a wrist watch and a Medic Alert necklace or bracelet. Smart watches are not allowed in the school. If any student is thinking about having their ears pierced, or any other piercing, this should be done at the start of the summer holiday, as no student will be allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery at any time. All jewellery must be removed before the student crosses the purple line in the morning. If a student is asked by a member of staff to remove their jewellery, it will be handed in at student reception and a C4b will be issued.

Noticeable make-up is not allowed, any make-up must be discreet. The decision as to what qualifies as discreet rests with the Principal and Executive Principal of the individual school.

False eyelashes are not to be worn and henna is not allowed. False nails and nail varnish are also not allowed. Please ensure that your child does not attend school wearing any of the above.

School Bags

Students are required to bring a school bag every day, big enough to fit in their PE kit, A4 workbooks and their school planner. If students arrive without a school bag, they will be given a replacement bag which they must use for the school day.

Should you have any queries regarding uniform, please contact your child's Learning Manager. If you are unsure about a garment's suitability, we advise you not to remove any tags/labels and retain your receipt until the item has been checked by a colleague in school. The Principal will retain the final decision.

We welcome your support in ensuring that your child continues to wear the correct uniform as specified above and to thank you in advance.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for your continued support to ensure your child succeeds in all areas of their education. We are grateful that you have entrusted your child's education to us and we are so excited to see them achieve their potential.

Kind regards,

Miss S Gascoyne
Vice Principal