

WELCOME FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello and welcome to the first edition of our Outwood Academy Portland newsletter. Term one is my favorite term of the year for so many reasons; I have loved celebrating with our year 11s regarding their excellent summer results and seeing our students off to their exciting career destinations. The progress made by our students was one to celebrate especially through such difficult times; they really did the school and their families proud. It has been so special meeting our new year 7 cohort and introducing Miss Kelly as their Learning Manager. We have 360 students in year 7, our biggest year group ever, and we are proud to say they have made such a successful start at Portland. Lastly, we love seeing our children again, the six weeks holiday is a time where we miss our students dearly, so it is super to see them return as lifelong learners who flourish at school.

This half term has been special in many ways, from trips to the Yorkshire Sculpture park, our 'Prison, Me?, No Way!' event, our first ever 100% attendance celebration, casting and rehearsing our Christmas production of the Nativity, to name just a few highlights.

The first article of this edition is meeting the Senior Leadership Team, so thought I should give you a little summary of myself. I am a born and bred Sheffielder, who always wanted to teach; I used to register my teddies and dolls when I was little! I think I might be the only qualified Science *and* Dance teacher in the world (I haven't met another one yet!). I have two sons who I adore, and often spend Sundays at the side of a football pitch in the cold. I enjoy cooking, especially baking cakes, and my favorite pastime is going to a concert. I adore live music!

Please take the time to read and enjoy the first edition of our school magazine, designed to inform parents of successes through the term and what's next. We are pleased to share it with you, as it was created for the community in response to feedback and our Parent Voice event. We really hope you enjoy it.



OUTWOOD ACADEMY PORTLAND
NEWSLETTER

Half-term 1: October 2023

MEET

THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mr Morton, Vice Principal

My main responsibility in the Academy is safeguarding. In addition, I lead the Deep Experience team, overseeing curriculum, timetabling, guided pathways, careers, enrichment and attendance. I love to spend my free time at the gym or learning new languages. I am a real bookworm and read over 100 books each year!

I am proud to oversee climate and culture at OAP. I started my teaching career in challenging inner-city schools in Nottingham and then moved to the Alternative Provision sector. Improving whole school behaviour in secondary schools has always been a passion of mine. I hold high beliefs that everyone has the right to an outstanding education, enabling them to design their own successful career path in life.

I try to go to the gym 3 times a week to keep some sort of fitness levels and I love reading as a way of switching off! I am currently working my way through the Coleen Hoover collection.



Miss Gascoyne, Vice Principal



Miss Smith, Associate Vice Principal

I proudly work within the Deep Support team and oversee SEND and inclusion; working closely with the SENDCO on the strategic leadership of the team. I am passionate about inspiring young people to dream big and ensure that all students have access to the same opportunities. Being an English and drama teacher, I get to combine my two favourite things of reading and theatre. One of my favourite activities outside of school is snuggling up with my two daughters and reading a bedtime story together. The other is catching a great stage show, especially a fantastic musical.

MEET THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mr Hall, Associate Vice Principal

I am Associate Vice Principal, responsible for analysing data and maximising pupil progress. I have recently joined the Outwood family, and I am enjoying every minute. I like to spend time with friends and family. I also like to watch my lads play football and we all have Sheffield United season tickets, although that's not too enjoyable at the moment... In my spare time I like to perform magic, and sometimes drop a trick into mathematics lessons. I have been on Deal or No Deal where I had £50 in my box but I took a £12,000 offer.

My role within the academy is teaching Design and Technology as well as responsibility as an Assistant Principal leading on attendance and careers. Outside of work I love spending time with my family and two sons aged 10 and 15. I coach an under 16 football team and follow Sheffield Wednesday. My other passion is riding my bikes, both on and off-road with my local cycling club.



Mr Bullock, Assistant Principal



Mr Campbell, Assistant Principal

I am an Assistant Principal working within Deep Experience. My main responsibilities include timetabling, sorting and maintaining class sets as well as overseeing the exam process. As a PE teacher my hobbies and interests are mainly in sport; I love following football and playing golf. This is a poorly kept secret, but I have a degree in dance!

MEET THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mr Booker, Assistant Principal

I am thrilled to have joined Outwood Academy Portland in September to oversee Deep Learning alongside Miss Atkinson. I am responsible for assemblies and the tutor program in school, as well as overseeing personal development for our students and parental engagement.

I am a huge professional wrestling fan and have met many wrestlers over the years, and I even had a wrestling-themed wedding last year!

I am Assistant Principal and my responsibility is for teaching and learning. This year I have introduced a new House system alongside developing our praise culture so that all students can achieve and recognise their skills and potential. I am a Drama teacher and have been at Portland since 2007, and I feel very lucky to work alongside such a fantastic team of staff and wonderful students. My interests are in running, walking and I love to dance. I also enjoy reading as a way of relaxing as well as spending time with my family and friends. I usually spend my weeknights and weekends at the side of a football pitch with my three children.



Miss Atkinson, Assistant Principal

I am Assistant Principal for Deep Support and I am responsible for Behaviour and Culture in the Academy.

In my spare time I like to spend time with friends and family. I also have a gorgeous little pooch called Poppy that I enjoy walking. To relax, I love to go shopping and going on spa days. When I was born I was in the local press for being a 'miracle baby'!



Miss Nuttall, Assistant Principal

MEET THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Miss Barnfather, Associate Assistant Principal

I lead on Student Parliament and through this facilitate a number of charitable events throughout the school year such as food drives, as well as celebrating key dates throughout the year. I also work to gather student voice feedback, this year through our House Captains, letting us know what they would like to see more of. I also run the ACE (Academy Conduct and Expectations) programme for Year 7 to support their transition to our academy. I also lead in and encourage Random Acts of Kindness. I am a passionate linguist, love travelling and learning about new cultures, and I have lived in 5 different countries!

My roles include supporting House plans for Deep Learning, alongside assisting Deep Experience through transition and other events throughout the year.

I enjoy going to the gym, walking my dog called Bear and playing guitar in my spare time.



Mr Goorwitch, Associate Assistant Principal



Mr Leivars, Associate Assistant Principal

My role is to support the attendance team and celebrate good attendance across the school year.

I have 3 interests: Liverpool FC (but will watch/play any sport to the hatred of my family), gaming and studying new histories across the world. My interesting fact is that I have $9\frac{3}{4}$ fingers due to a game of hide and seek gone wrong!

MEET THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mrs Bell, Business Manager

As the academy's Business Manager, my role is to manage and coordinate pretty much everything that isn't teaching... this includes premises, recruitment, staff training, staff wellbeing, health & safety, payroll and much more! I absolutely love my job - no two days are ever the same and I'm always learning. Now that my children are fully-fledged grown-ups, I have time to develop my magic powers of turning wool and material into something that will make you smile (my hobbies are crochet, knitting and sewing - but magic power sounds more rock and roll!)

I am PA to the Principal and office manager to a small team of admin staff. I have worked in Worksop schools for 32 years; I love my job and the people I work alongside. In my spare time I am a grandmother to a beautiful little boy. I love spending time with family and friends, going to the theatre and all things supernatural!



Mrs Gregory, PA to the Principal

I am SENDCO for the school with a strategic overview of the SEND department, working with a fantastic team to inspire students and remove barriers so all students can be the very best versions of themselves. My interests are anything to do with sport. I love football and follow the mighty Reds (Liverpool); however, I do have a guilty pleasure of watching the curling during a Winter Olympics! I enjoy time with my family, and I love to cook! Interesting fact about me - I am half-German and when I spend a long period of time in Germany I will think and dream in German.



Mr Chancellor, SENDCO

KEY DATES

FOR THE DIARY

YEAR 11 REVISION EVENING

Date TBC

PARENTS' EVENING

9th November 2023

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS BEGIN

Week commencing
13th November 2023
(second week back after half-term)

NATIVITY: THE MUSICAL

7th-8th December 2023

Tickets go on sale on
1st December!

YEAR 11 INFORMATION EVENING

8th December 2023

The Music Department presents THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

12th December 2023

PRAISING STARS

What is a Praising Stars review and why do we do it?

To reflect on your progress and identify key areas for improvement ready to implement into the next cycle.

E1-E3 are all good effort grades!

E1 STAR STUDENTS

Always invest in their own learning

Are always ready to learn

Always listen to teachers and other students

Make excellent contributions to the lesson

Work well independently

Always hand homework in on time

Will go that extra mile with extra research, reading, etc.

E2 VERY PROMISING STUDENTS

Almost always invest in their own learning

Are usually ready to learn

Usually listen to teachers and other students

Usually make a good contribution to the lesson

Try to work independently

Usually hand in homework on time

Sometimes do extra reading or research

E3 HARDWORKING STUDENTS

Are positive about their learning

Generally try to be ready to learn

Generally try to listen to teachers and other students

Generally try to contribute to the lesson

Are making progress with working independently

Generally try to hand in homework on time

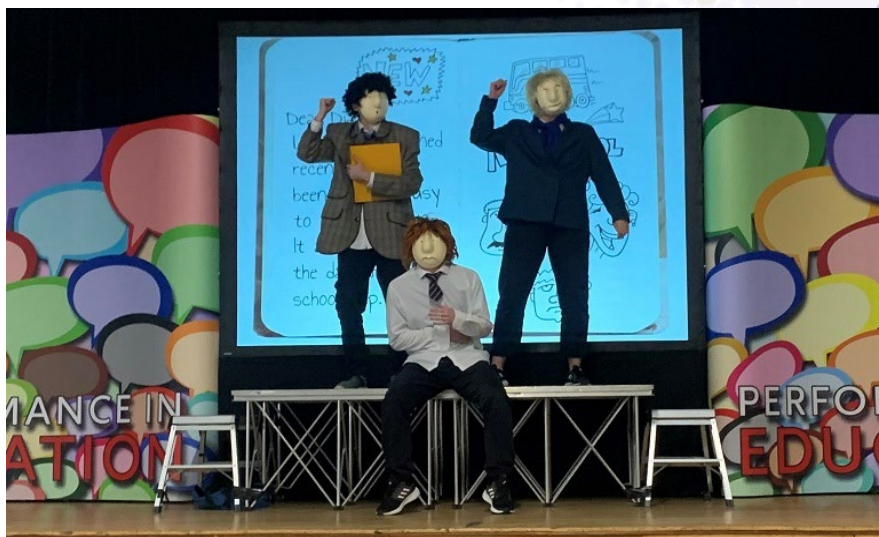
Have done some extra reading or research

*Praising Stars 2 will be released on
21st December 2023*

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

ROAD SAFETY



Students in year 7 experienced Streetwise, a Performance in Education production event aimed at Pedestrian Safety.

As young people start to use the roads independently, Streetwise provides students with the opportunity to explore risk, responsibility and consequences as a pedestrian. This enables them to make informed decisions, manage their personal safety and understand how their behaviour affects those around them.

The performance identified and challenged distractions to pedestrians' safety, such as mobile phones and talking with friends. The drama recreates real-life strategies to overcome peer pressure around poor road safety and encourages the use of school crossing patrols and pedestrian crossings, as well as reminding young people to ask for help whenever it's needed.

Miss Kelly, Year 7 Learning Manager said "The students really enjoyed the performance and were able to see how their own behaviour was reflected in the characters on stage. Thank you to Performance in Education for such an engaging and memorable show!"

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

CHEF OF THE WEEK



This looks delicious, Grace!

Every week one student from year 10 Hospitality and Catering is chosen to be the Chef of the Week. It is an incredibly difficult job to choose just one from the vast array of culinary delights! Congratulations to our wonderful chefs from this first half-term.

FUNDRAISING

16 members of staff recently completed the Sheffield 10k to support the Teenage Cancer Trust, a charity very close to our hearts at Outwood Academy Portland. The rain certainly didn't dampen their spirits! Well done to all staff who completed the race – wear your medals with pride!



100% ATTENDANCE

Students from the previous academic year were invited to a film night to celebrate achieving 100% attendance throughout the school year. Students had unlimited popcorn, sweets, nachos and drinks and chose to watch Spider-Man on our huge screen in the main hall. Loads of fun was had by all and we are now hoping to do it every term for students who achieve 100% attendance!

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

A CUPPA WITH BOOKER



Join Mr Booker every half-term when he shares a brew with a different member of staff to get to know them a little better. In this edition we join Director of Science Mrs Shelton to talk about her career so far and her passion for science. Simply scan the QR code to listen!

OPEN EVENING

We invited year 5 and year 6 students to visit our Academy to support their transition from primary to secondary school. It was an action-packed evening involving treasure hunts, games of darts, delicious Spanish cuisine and experiments with fire – safe to say, students had a fantastic time, and we can't wait to see them again soon!



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

PRISON? ME? NO WAY!

Our year 9 students completed the 'Prison? Me? No Way!' program to raise awareness about the causes, consequences, penalties and impact of crime. The program provided students with the knowledge and confidence to take control, make positive choices that avoid becoming involved in crime, stay safe and realise their full potential.

The program involved a series of presentations and discussions with prison staff, police and former offenders to give students an unparalleled insight into the lasting and negative effects of crime.

Our careers lead, Mr Bullock said "The explanation regarding county lines was excellent; the students were fully engaged. The sessions were interactive, informative and thought-provoking throughout. Thank you to the PMNW team!"



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

DISTRICT NURSES VISIT

Angela and Sarah are District Nurses serving Bassetlaw. They visited our Y11 Health and Social Care students to talk about their job roles and routes into nursing. They also demonstrated some practical activities and let the students have a go for themselves - injecting oranges to get a sensory experience, using ultrasound blood flow devices to monitor blood flow in veins and arteries, and bandaging skills. We were so proud of our students who demonstrated fantastic professionalism, skill and dexterity. Even poor Mr Richards took one for the team by offering himself as a test subject!



YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

The art department took our year 10 students on a trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Students were fortunate enough to get a glorious sunny day to capture and enjoy the picturesque park!



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

CELEBRATING LANGUAGES

On the 26th September, the MFL department celebrated the European Day of Languages across the Academy. There was an insightful assembly where we heard from former England football player, Eric Dier, about the value of a learning a language and all of the doors that it can open. We celebrated the diversity of our students and the languages spoken here at Outwood Academy Portland.

There was an exciting online Escape room for students to participate in as part of the tutor program where students had the opportunity to learn about languages from across the globe. In the canteen, our Chef devised an exciting euro-themed menu for the week where we ate underneath world flags decorating the room.

Different subjects challenged our students with starters linked to languages. Matching the artist to the country in art and looking at ancient languages in History! Finally, we launched the first MFL House Challenge of the year in House Google Classrooms, where students had the opportunity to gain house points by going on a treasure hunt for information around the school to complete a quiz, whilst learning about Famous Europeans linked to their subjects. It was an exciting week, and we can't wait to enjoy the many more upcoming cultural capital events we will be celebrating in the Academy this year!



Can you match the famous artist to their European country of birth?



- A) Picasso
- B) Van Gogh
- C) Monet
- D) Peter Blake
- E) Kandinsky
- F) Max Ernst
- G) Giacometti
- H) Raphael
- I) Paula Rego
- J) Van Dyck

- 1) Belgium
- 2) Portugal
- 3) Netherlands
- 4) Italy
- 5) France
- 6) Spain
- 7) Switzerland
- 8) United Kingdom
- 9) Russia
- 10) Germany



Can you locate the country on the map?

ENRICHMENT FOCUS

We strongly encourage students to attend enrichment as often as possible to get the most out of their time at school. We offer a huge range of clubs for subject support, extra-curricular interests and a variety of sports. Students, ask your tutor for more information, or see Mr Davidson for a booklet with all the clubs available!



FUTURE CAREERS

All Year 11 pupils have been invited to a Year 11 Careers Google Classroom group. On this group we will be posting lots of information about College Open Days, Apprenticeships and other information regarding Post-16 options. We encourage you as parents look at this with the pupils.

We have already posted information about College Open Events Rotherham College Open Day on **Saturday 18th November**. North Notts & Dearne Valley Open Day is **Saturday 25th November**. We have also posted details about careers in the RAF, NHS, Accounting and the Army.

If you are unsure of careers paths, please use **www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk** where you can search a wide range of future careers.

If you are interested in Apprenticeships, please visit **www.apprenticeships.gov.uk** which has information on how to become an apprentice and apprenticeships that are available.

Due to the competitive nature of colleges and apprenticeships place get filled up quickly. We advise applications are made sooner rather later so students don't miss out.

We update the group regularly so please look out for updates!

**WORK
HARD
DREAM
BIG.**

USEFUL LINKS

FOR PARENTS

ACADEMY WEBSITE

portland.outwood.com



PROGRESS CAREERS

progress-careers.co.uk

MENTAL WELLBEING

mentalwellbeing.outwood.com



PARENT PORTAL

app.outwood.com/community_users/sign_in

OAK ACADEMY REVISION RESOURCES

classroom.thenational.academy



PRAISE SPOTLIGHT

Our three core values at Portland are;

PRIDE

KINDNESS

RESILIENCE

In every lesson, teachers will choose 3 students to praise for demonstrating one of the core values in lesson.

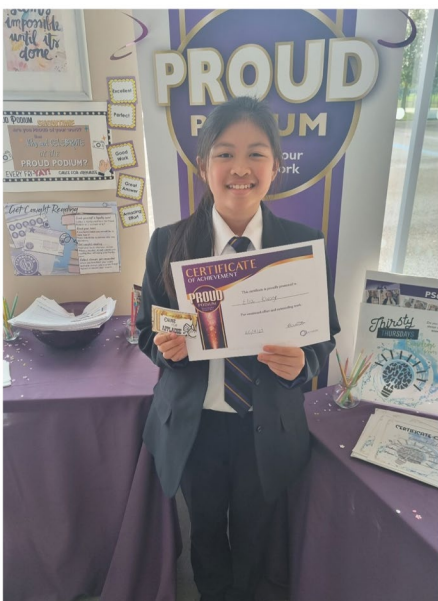
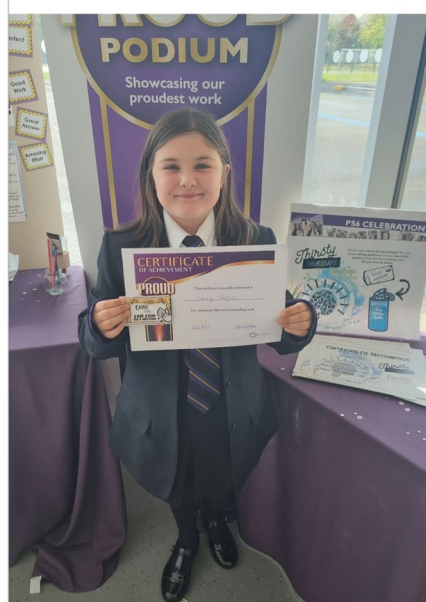
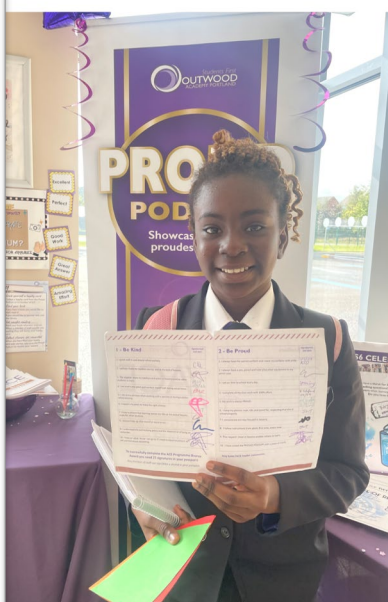
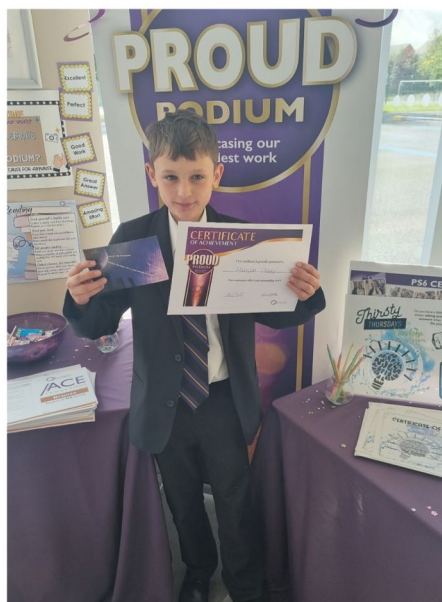
We have logged **OVER 20,000** praise points for students during this half-term alone, which is an increase of **OVER 200%** from this time last year!

Remember you can view all the praise points for your child by visiting the Outwood Portal.



THE PROUD PODIUM

We want students to feel proud of what they have accomplished, so each week we encourage students to share some work they are proud of with the Principal. Students receive a certificate and some sweets, and we celebrate their incredible achievements together!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As an Academy we continue to work with the students and parents to improve our attendance figures on a daily basis. Excellent attendance is the basis of everything that we do in the Academy.

We strive to ensure that all students are in the Academy on time every day and enjoying their learning in front of our world class teachers. Our attendance team work daily to engage with parents to make sure that we are supporting our students and families in the community.

We are working everyday to celebrate good attendance with numerous initiatives in place to celebrate the students that get attendance right everyday; The 100 Club, Portland Pug, 100% attendance film nights are amongst a few that we offer.

We look forward to continuing to work with you all to keep attendance as high as we can.

85%

29 school days
off a year
=
145 lessons that
you miss

90%

19 school days
off a year
=
95 lessons that
you miss

95%

9 school days off
a year
=
45 lessons that
you miss

100%

0 school days off
a year
=
0 lessons that
you miss

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

PASTORAL SUPPORT

MISS KELLY

Year 7 Learning Manager

MRS TENNELA

Year 8 Learning Manager

MISS CARNALL

Year 9 Learning Manager

MISS JACKSON

Year 10 Learning Manager

MR HAZLEHURST

Year 11 Learning Manager

MRS JACKSON

Lead Learning Manager

INCLUSION SUPPORT

MR MORTON

Designated Safeguarding Lead Associate Vice Principal for Deep Support

MISS SMITH

MR TITTERINGTON

Inclusion Officer

MRS ELLIS

Safeguarding Officer

MR CHANCELLOR

SENDCO

MISS GASCOYNE

Vice Principal for Deep Support

Bullying, unkind behaviours or hurtful comments will not be tolerated in our Academy. We recognise that at times our students will need people to speak to and reach out to. Any member of staff in the Academy can support, including form tutors, teachers, learning managers, SLT or the safeguarding team.



THANKS FOR READING!

HAVE A WONDERFUL HALF-TERM!

*Do you have any suggestions for what you would like to see in the newsletter?
Please scan the QR code below to complete a short form.
We are always open to your suggestions!*

