

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

I adore the autumn term, the festive events and the Christmas spirit within the school. I wanted to start this half term's edition of the magazine with a quick look back on some of the events that have taken place over the past seven weeks;

Paper birds drama workshop, North Star science visit, parents' evening, Parent Voice event, House Celebration event, Year 11 mock exams, Lego therapy training, SEND 'Living with Autism' community presentation, Year 9 assemblies regarding the options process, Oxford University trip, Careers cafes, Nottingham University trip, HMP Hatfield visited the school, trip to London for the Expressive Arts Department, Year 11 driving lessons, Y8/9 had a French theatre experience, 100% attendance was celebrated, Ace award celebration for year 7s who achieved their Bronze award, we had a whole school production of 'Nativity!' featuring Y7-Y13 students, whole-school music production, Student Voice elections, choir carol concert at St Annes, Year 12/13 open evenings, Y6s came to watch our whole school show, celebrated Diwali, Year 11 results celebration, Praising Stars release day, Christmas Jumper day and Christmas dinner.

Mrs Coates has joined us as the year 8 Learning Manager, Mrs Tennela is now our Inclusion Coordinator and Mrs Kennedy has started as our Bridge Coordinator – all of which have made a fantastic and impactful start for our students!

I am sure you agree, we really are giving it our all to ensure that, not only our children achieve because of our expert teachers, but also that their lives are enriched due to the excellent experiences which we bring to Outwood Academy Portland.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to our families, for your support this half term, I want to wish the community a restful Christmas period.



**OUTWOOD ACADEMY PORTLAND**  
NEWSLETTER

Half-term 2: December 2023

# MEET

## THE LEARNING MANAGER TEAM

### MRS JACKSON LEAD LEARNING MANAGER

I am deeply passionate about student experience and pastoral care. The best bit about working in school is getting to know our incredible students and helping shape them to become the best versions of themselves they can be. Outside of school you will mostly find me out in the countryside on long walks with my dogs, husband and children. I love photography and adventuring off to explore new places. If I'm not doing that, I'm generally reading or standing on the side of a football pitch - cheering my 3 boys on.

My main responsibility as a Learning Manager consist of running of the entire of year 11. I make sure that all of my students are well supported and looked after on a day-to-day basis. With my students being in year 11, I am always monitoring their progress so we can be making sure we are getting the best out of every student. My main interests are playing golf at the weekend and watching and playing football. An interesting fact about me would be that I won Support Staff of the Year in 2019 and I am still waiting to be dethroned!

### MISS JACKSON YEAR 10 LEARNING MANAGER

My role in the academy is to look after my wonderful year 10s and make sure they are all striving for greatness. I have an amazing relationship with my year group so it makes my job a little easier. My day-to-day duties keep me on the corridors and meeting with students to keep everyone settled and make sure we have the best atmosphere at school. I love being a part of the team at OAP. I like iced coffee and Sunday walks, I like dogs and I'm scared of insects with more than 4 legs.

My favourite film is 101 Dalmatians.

I eventually want to be an English teacher and become an AP. An interesting fact about me is when I was younger, I used to attend guides and trampoline at nationals.

Unfortunately, I'm now afraid of heights so this never really stuck!

### MR HAZELHURST YEAR 11 LEARNING MANAGER

# MEET

## THE LEARNING MANAGER TEAM

### MISS CARNALL YEAR 9 LEARNING MANAGER

I originally qualified as a Design and Technology teacher. I love teaching and working with our young people. I taught for several years and then had 2 children of my own. I then decided I wanted to help children who hadn't had the best start in life, so my family and I decided to foster children. I did this for 10 years and in total had 18 children walk through our doors. Following this I came to Outwood Academy Portland to be a Learning Manager. I love my year group and would like to think I have positively impacted the students and supported them when they needed it. A fun fact about me - I was the disco dancing champion in 1998 for Great Britain!

I started in November as the new year 8 Learning Manager. It has been a challenging term, but I've loved every minute of it! I'm originally from Liverpool and I have a cat called Cilla.

### MRS COATES YEAR 10 LEARNING MANAGER

### MISS KELLY YEAR 7 LEARNING MANAGER

My main responsibilities are making sure my year group (all 360 of them!) attend school and have all the support they need for learning. I help to support them and put things in place for anyone who needs a little extra help, whether it be with their emotions, with friendships, with a bereavement or their mental health. I love getting to know all of my students and learning more about them on a more personal level. I love being able to have a laugh and a joke with my year group and seeing them achieve amazing things makes me feel super proud. A fun fact about me is that when I was about 14, I represented Adidas in a dance group and we opened the Canch sports area!

# KEY DATES

## FOR THE DIARY

**YEAR 9 GUIDED  
PATHWAYS  
EVENING**

9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**PARENTS'  
EVENING**

18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**HOUSE  
CELEBRATION  
EVENT**

24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**YEAR 11  
REVISION  
EVENING**

1<sup>ST</sup> February 2024

**SEND PARENTS'  
EVENT**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**YEAR 10  
BELGIUM TRIP**

8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

# 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 3 will be released early February*



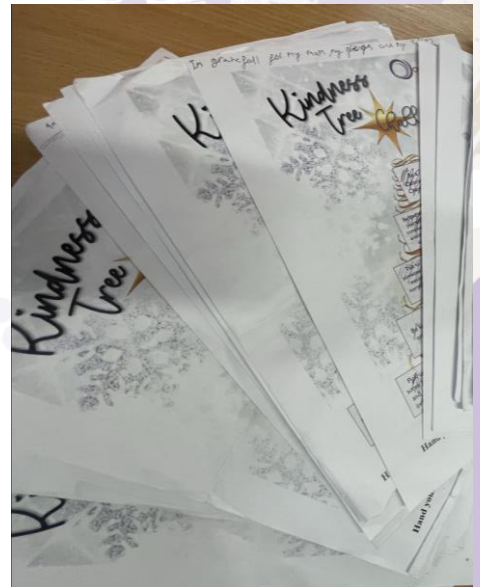
# HIGHLIGHTS

## FROM THIS HALF-TERM

### CHRISTMAS OF KINDNESS

We have celebrated one of our core values of kindness this Christmas at Portland. Students and staff have worked their way to the top of our 'Kindness Trees' which have encouraged people to not only be kind to others but to themselves as well. We have also decorated our physical tree of kindness with 'Kindness Baubles' created by our wonderful tutor groups.

Our very own Portland Elf delivered presents to the many students who took part in our Christmas of Kindness. Throughout December we have seen over 1200 praise points logged for kindness alone, which is a testament to the incredible students we are privileged to teach at our Academy.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## FROM THIS HALF-TERM

### BUZZING ABOUT BOOKS

All year 7 students have now received a free book as part of the Book Buzz scheme. Students in September got to choose from a choice of 16 books and then an order was placed. All the students have been very excited receiving their books and it has been amazing to see the excitement created in their English lessons.



### DOBBIES COMPETITION

Dobbies' 'Not Your Average Community' campaign, in partnership with sustainable tree grower Needlefresh, held a competition to deliver a real Christmas tree to a winning academy. They were so impressed by our core values and how kind our students are on a daily basis that we won the competition!





# HIGHLIGHTS

## FROM THIS HALF-TERM

### THE NATIVITY

On the 7th and 8th of December the Expressive Arts Department put on their annual musical, 'Nativity'. There were over 30 students involved in the performance, lighting and backstage elements of the show and they worked tirelessly with the guidance of Miss Lamper, Miss Simpson and Mrs Nelson-Fish to deliver a wonderful performance. The cast ranged from Year 12 to Year 7 and was a wonderful opportunity for all age groups to work together and develop their performance skills. We can't wait for the next one!



### PARENT VOICE

We hosted our first Parent Voice event of the year this half-term, and we want to say a massive thank you to the parents that joined us! We are currently working towards the Leading Parent Partnership Award to take our parental engagement to the next level. Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved.





# HIGHLIGHTS

## FROM THIS HALF-TERM

### STIMULATING STEM

9 year 9 students went to Gulliver's valley to take part in a series of workshops showing them different STEM related jobs. As well as building and using a mobile crane they tested metals for their ductile properties and measured the thermal properties of biscuits and strawberries using chocolate. They also experienced a talk from Brian Cox and Lord Andrew Mawson.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## FROM THIS HALF-TERM

### YEAR 11 MOCK RESULTS DAY

We celebrated some fantastic mock results with our year 11s this term. Students should be incredibly proud of themselves for the effort they put into their revision and their resilience! Well done, year 11 – now we look forward to the next mock exams in February!



### FUN WITH FOOD

Students have been getting food hygiene ratings in food lessons and we have been blown away at their engagement in wanting the best rating for their workstations. It is so good to see the students taking responsibility for making sure the standards are high. They are now fully aware that all catering establishments are given a score which is displayed on the door, and they have been asked questions about which establishment they would eat at depending on their particular food hygiene rating.





# HIGHLIGHTS

## FROM THIS HALF-TERM

### ACE CELEBRATION EVENT

On Friday 15th December, we had a morning of celebration for the first round of our superstar

Year 7 students who have successfully shown their commitment to our three core values: Be Kind, Be Proud, Be Resilient, by completing their

Bronze ACE passports. Students received bronze badges and certificates and reflected on their time at Outwood Academy Portland so far

and we remembered some of their personal highlights. Next step... onto

Silver, and then Gold! For anyone who narrowly missed out this time, there will be another opportunity for students to get involved in the new year. Let's go for Gold!



### STUDENT PM ELECTIONS

After it was initially rained off, the Student Parliament Elections took place this half-term.

Students engaged in democratic practices and learned about Fundamental British Values as they voted for students to represent them for the remainder of the academic year. It was a tight race, but a winner emerged. Congratulations

Olivia J, our new Student Parliament Prime Minister! Supported by her deputy Lily D. We are sure that alongside the Student Parliament Team, they will bring a whole host of creative ideas for events and fundraising over the next 7 months.

For anyone else who wants to get involved in Student Parliament and see what it is all about, join us every Thursday after-school in Voltaire 3 to share your voice.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## FROM THIS HALF-TERM

### HOUSE CELEBRATIONS

In the closest House Competition yet, pupils from House Americas managed to maintain their titles and were treated to a House Celebration breakfast. This included an abundance of different cookies, muffins and drinks. Congratulations House Americas! Who will be the first winners of 2024?



### BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

Since September, eager year 10 Business Studies students have all embarked on their very own business venture by attending Enterprise Club. Each week these students have created an effective business plan and launched their own mini-company. From research, they identified the following business ideas would be a huge and instant success - button baubles, festive candles, eco-friendly reindeer food and bespoke tote bags. To date, a collective profit in excess of £300 has been achieved. All students are looking forward to investing this into their next business project.





# HIGHLIGHTS

## FROM THIS HALF-TERM

### THE WORKSOP WORKSHOPS

In Y7 students have completed the Memphis Acrylic Clocks in which they have learnt and developed skills in cutting, shaping, finishing and joining acrylic.

In Y8 students have completed the USB project where they have used Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture. Pupils have designed and had laser cut acrylic to produce a brand-new USB that is aimed at teenagers. They have skillfully glued their work together to produce high quality products!



In Y10, Engineering students have been completing their first project completing a toolmakers clamp.

Students have learnt and developed how to mark out, cut, shape and finish engineering materials. They are now also able to use engineering tools such as the centre lathe. Students are starting their Unit 1 coursework project which is to produce a rig which can hold a bike seat.

# SPORTING SUPERSTARS

The Y7 netball teams were at it again – winning all their matches! These students are already showing exceptional skills, understanding of the game and brilliant teamwork and cooperation. Keep it up, you are all amazing!



Our Y8 netball teams have, yet again, amazed us all with their talent on the netball court! They won all their games against Valley. It is an absolute pleasure to watch them play. Well done guys, we are so proud of you all!

As always, these boys have shown true grit, determination and resilience in their rugby game at Mansfield Rugby Club. They improve and get stronger every match. They have 2 more rounds and we can't wait to see them play again. Well done boys, we are so proud of you all!



Congratulations to our amazing Y7's for your dedication, commitment, teamwork and resilience shown at a recent football tournament. This was your first match representing Portland and we are so proud of you!



# FUTURE CAREERS

A reminder to Y11 pupils that it is time to be making your choices for your Post 16 options. When you apply you are asked for your predicted grades so your Praising Stars reports are so important in terms of what options you have going forward.

A reminder of Rotherham College open day on the 27th January and North Notts College open day on the 3rd February. All the information is on the Google Classroom group.

If you are still unsure regarding your future options Post 16 please contact a member of the careers time and we can organise you a meeting with the Progress Careers team we have in school.

Keep checking the Y11 Careers Google Classroom for key information.

**WORK  
HARD  
DREAM  
BIG.**

# USEFUL LINKS

## FOR PARENTS

### ACADEMY WEBSITE

[portland.outwood.com](http://portland.outwood.com)



### PROGRESS CAREERS

[progress-careers.co.uk](http://progress-careers.co.uk)

### MENTAL WELLBEING

[mentalwellbeing.outwood.com](http://mentalwellbeing.outwood.com)



### PARENT PORTAL

[app.outwood.com/community\\_users/sign\\_in](http://app.outwood.com/community_users/sign_in)

### OAK ACADEMY REVISION RESOURCES

[classroom.thenational.academy](http://classroom.thenational.academy)





# **SUPPORT FOR STAFF**

## **EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (EAP)**

This provides lots of support for you and your family including financial guidance, legal enquiries and support for issues at home and work. It's available all day, every day and is completely confidential.

## **MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING RESOURCES**

Provided through Education Support, you can access a wide variety of videos and practical resources to help with a range of issues including anxiety, stress, bereavement, self-care plus many others.

## **STAFF RESOURCES ON THE INTRANET**

Type in [intranet.outwood.com](http://intranet.outwood.com) (when you're logged into your Google account) and click on the 'Staff resources' section. From here, you can access online support from the EAP. You can also access Headspace - using your academy Google account to sign in, you'll have a free subscription to mindfulness and meditation resources.

# 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 45,000** praise points for students during this term, 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.



# 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.

Congratulations to the winners of our '12 days til Christmas' awards. We appreciate the efforts of all students who were resilient at this time of the year so a massive well done on being randomly chosen as our winners!



# SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

## PASTORAL SUPPORT

**MISS KELLY**

Year 7 Learning Manager

**MRS COATES**

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

**MRS TENNELA**

Inclusion Coordinator

**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 FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS!

*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!*

