

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello and welcome to the third edition of the Portland newsletter, something I am nothing but proud of. The newsletter was created in response to parental feedback and I hope that this form of communication really helps to share and celebrate some of the most exciting activities which our students can participate in. Last week involved Praising Stars release day, a day which I adore each half-term. It is fabulous to discuss with students their predictions and efforts; the dining room is always electric with discussion regarding their achievements. So many students received vouchers for free food for simply sharing with me how proud they are of themselves.

Yet again this half term has been super special. We have waved off over 50 students on their overseas trip to the battlefields trip to Belgium where the historians will complete a battlefields tour, visit a German and British cemetery, walk a soggy trench and one student has even found a possible ancestor buried there! I cannot wait to hear all about the next few days on the trip. Last week we had our first ever Culture Event, this time celebrating Eastern European culture where Year 7 students danced, tasted traditional food and learnt about Eastern European culture from some of our students.

A real highlight over the past five weeks was our two House celebration evening events. It was a joy to celebrate excellence in subject areas, and to invite parents to share in our joy. We introduced our House Captains, who will soon be invited to a Student Voice event to discuss what they love and would also love to improve at Outwood Academy Portland. It was an honour to meet with our newly appointed Prime Minister Olivia this half-term. We spent a lot of time discussing lunch time activities, fast track queue passes in line with the House System and sports activities at lunch too.

We are working together to make this happen at our students' request!

I want to wish you all a restful half-term and to our year 11s, a successful mock exam series which starts the first day back - they are working so hard.

Lastly, happy Valentine's to the students who we adore spending every day with!



OUTWOOD ACADEMY PORTLAND
NEWSLETTER

Half-term 3: February 2024

KEY DATES

FOR THE DIARY

YEAR 10 BELGIUM TRIP

8th February 2024

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

Beginning week
commencing 19th
February 2024

YEAR 10 NATIONAL JUSTICE MUSEUM TRIP

29th February 2024

OGDEN TRUST SCIENCE FAIR

13th March 2024

Y10 LAING O'ROURKE CAREERS TRIP

13th March 2024

LIFE OF PI THEATRE TRIP

14th March 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 reports were released last week!

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

LOVE TO LEARN

We have enjoyed celebrating learning with our students and staff this week as part of our Love to Learn initiative. Staff have shared why they love learning with students, and students have taken the opportunity to thank staff for supporting them. We have also rewarded students for taking pride in their work with some exciting prizes!



BRILLIANT BOCCIA

Our incredible year 7 students represented Outwood Academy Portland in a bocchia tournament. This was the first time they had ever played bocchia, yet they still managed to reach the final and finish in second place with a silver medal! We are so proud of their fantastic achievement.



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

GCSE SCIENCE LIVE

30 of our wonderful year 10 students travelled to Sheffield City Hall on the morning of Wednesday 31st January to listen to talks given by working scientists.

The day started off with a talk from a person who works for the exam board, giving top tips on revision and how to ensure students gain full marks in exam questions. Next was a talk from Professor Andrea Sella who linked biology and chemistry in terms of molecules and chemical reactions. After a short break Dr Tim Gabriel spoke about his career in science which included the development of Nanotechnology and a brief stint as a teacher.

The headline act was next, Professor Lord Robert Winston who told us about humans being the least fertile animals on the planet and some interesting images of cell division and ovulation. After lunch there were talks from Professor Jim Al-Khalili who talked about the possibility of time travel and Professor Sophie Scott who spoke about laughter and how and why we do it.

The students showed exemplary behaviour throughout the day and learned a lot of science outside the curriculum, they found the examiners talk helpful and will hopefully start applying this in lessons.



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

HOUSE SYSTEM CELEBRATIONS

On the 24th and 25th of January we had the pleasure of hosting our first ever House celebration evenings. We had two amazing nights supported by nearly 200 students and their families. We celebrated students who had been awarded subject champion accolades, meaning that they were one of 5 students across their key stage who staff felt were exceptional in their subject areas. We also celebrated students nominated by their peers as House Captains and members of our student parliament; we even heard from our new student prime minister. It was a pleasure to share these special nominations with parents and carers as well as giving more information into the new House system. With over 53,000 praise points logged since September, the positivity and praise is definitely at an all time high at Outwood Academy Portland!



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

LOOKING AFTER A BABY

Our Y11 Health and Social Care students have been having a taste of what it would be like to look after a baby for 60 hours. Our Realcare Babies have to be fed, burped, rocked, and have their nappy changed several times a day.

A small computer inside each baby is programmed to follow actual schedules of 15 different newborns. Each day the baby will be on a different schedule and needs the students to care for it at inconvenient times, including when they are sleeping!

Incidences of neglect, head support failure, shaking, rough handling, wrong position, no nappy, and other functions are recorded by the baby's computer and lower the student's grade. Intense crying can be stopped by rocking the baby.

The students have been super keen to take the babies home over the weekend. They learn a lot about how intense looking after a baby can really be and many of them are equally happy to hand the baby back on a Monday morning!



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

ROYAL NAVY WORKSHOP

The Royal Navy paid a visit to our Y10 Hospitality and Catering students for an interactive Master Chef style lesson in which the class showed teamwork, communication and time keeping skills. All ingredients were provided and they worked together to create fish cakes and chocolate brownies. The students thoroughly enjoyed it.



A THUNDEROUS WIN!

Our UI3's JrNBA team (OKC Thunder) were away at Dukeries Academy and won 14-4. They then took on Carlton Le Willows and did even better, winning 27-0. Big shout out to MVP Jan Leung!



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THIS HALF-TERM

TRIP TO BELGIUM

50 of our year 10 students have recently travelled to Belgium to connect with the history they are learning in the classroom. Students have visited battlefields, memorials and cemeteries to commemorate the fallen. Four of students who are cadets were able to take part in an emotional Last Post ceremony by laying a wreath. We are so proud of them and all the students on the trip.



CULTURE EVENT

In a first of its kind event, we celebrated Eastern European culture with our year 7 students. Students were singing, dancing and enjoying treats! We want to continue to enrich our students' curriculum and promote the British Value of respect and tolerance through the celebration of different cultures in the future.



FUTURE CAREERS

A really busy half term for the careers team at OAP. Although the half term is only short we have used the time wisely to continue to prepare our Year 11 students for their choices at Post 16. Our Progress Careers team are working hard in the academy to give the students the advice they need to make informed decisions moving forward.

Some of our Year 11 students had a fantastic trip to the University Technical College. The students were able to get a taste of the college and see what the college could offer them if they wanted to study there. Our Year 11 students will also be involved in group sessions in the last week of the half term, where the students will be guided through the applications process for Post 16. All year 11 students have the opportunity for at least one interaction with the Progress Careers team throughout Year 11.

The final week of the half term is also National Apprenticeship week, where students throughout the week will have opportunity to meet and talk to employers and training providers throughout lunchtime in our career cafes. We see the career cafes as a great opportunity for students to meet and chat with key local businesses and employers.

We continue to look for Alumni and will be sending out a google form in the coming weeks where we encourage any ex-students with a career journey, they are willing to share to use the Google Form to help us in this process.



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



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 (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.

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 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!*

