

Summer 2022

# outlook

The news magazine of Outwood Family of Schools, Worksop



# Introduction from the Principals

## Mr Cavill, Principal of Outwood Academy Valley

As another academic year draws to an end, I can once again look back with pride as students have continued to work extremely hard, putting their heart and soul into learning. Thank you to all our students, parents/carers, staff and governors, for making this Academy a wonderful place to work.

We've had some fantastic events happening recently and lots to celebrate including; The Duke of Edinburgh Award when students took part in a 4 week intensive training after school programme to ensure skills proficiency. They learnt route planning and navigation, planned their food menus and learnt how to pack rucksacks efficiently. Over a weekend in June, the students navigated approximately 30km of Nottinghamshire countryside and camped at Walesby Forest. All students were assessed and passed the expedition section with flying colours.

We have entered the AMSP Maths Competition, five Y8/9 students have qualified for the next round of the AMSP maths competition, what an achievement this is! The PE team has achieved the Gold School Games Mark, which is absolutely fantastic news. We all had lots of fun celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, our E1 students were invited to afternoon tea and games, we all had a Jubilee Big Lunch, there were Jubilee Quizzes, and Art Portraits displayed by our talented students in the atrium. We welcomed 55 of our new Y6 students to the academy for The Big Transition event on 21st and 22nd June when they completed sessions in reading, writing, how we learn, expectations, rounders and relays, a great time was had by all and students left feeling confident about joining us in September. Accelerated Reader praise has been promoted via twitter and we have multi-millionaire readers in our midst! Some students have visited Greencore and Lange O'Rouke, local employers in the community. We thank them wholeheartedly for giving our students this opportunity.

And... that is not all, we still have lots to look forward to, taking us to the end of term including; the Student Voice Awards which are taking place on the evening of the 14th July; for the first time in 3 years we will be able to celebrate our students' achievements in style, this event is certainly one of my favourite nights of the year, along with the Y11 Prom which is taking place on Tuesday 28th June at Van Dykes. Students and staff will turn out in all their finery to enjoy these events together. Y6 students will have the opportunity to spend two days in the academy on the 6th and 7th July, and we will be welcoming Y5 and Y6 parents/carers and students to the Open Evening on the 6th July too. We have Sports Day to look forward to on the 15th July, weather permitting. We also have Ben Heason, a renowned climber in the Academy on 28/29th July doing workshops with Y9/10 boys on resilience, making positive choices and raising aspirations.

It's that time of year when our Year 11 students are leaving us to continue their journey into adulthood. I would like to wish them all the very best for their future and cannot wait to welcome them back when they collect their GCSE results in the summer.

## Mrs Sheehan Principal of Outwood Academy Portland

As we approach the end of the academic year, it is important that we share and celebrate the wonderful successes we have had at Outwood Academy Portland. Despite the ongoing challenges we have faced, our students have worked exceptionally hard and made phenomenal progress.

Some of the many events we are proud to have celebrated include the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and achievements, the UK Maths Challenge, music festivals, OGAT young performer of the year, World Book Day, science week, kindness week, Pride week, black history month, the Queen's Jubilee, a continental cafe, E1 celebration events, tea with members of the Senior Leadership Team, academic trips, theatre visits and many, many more. The OGAT younger performer of the year was the first ever event of this kind.

Outwood Academy Portland are extremely proud to have represent in almost every category. Well done to all involved.

Year 11 students have now taken their GCSEs and are embarking on their journey to fulfil their future. I would like to wish them all the very best and look forward to seeing them in the summer to collect their GCSE results. I am sure next year will be another rewarding year not only for our staff but also for our students and I am looking forward to being able to report on all the exciting opportunities that lie ahead in the next academic year.

I would like to say a huge thank you to students, staff, governors and parents/carers, you have all worked extremely hard during this academic year to ensure that we make this a wonderful place to work and learn.





# Outwood Academy Valley Celebrates World Book Day

Staff and students across the academy celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March with a variety of events taking place across the academy.

This year, Outwood Academy Valley wanted to make World Book Day a day to remember.

Our main event for World Book Day this year was a staff and student readathon that took place across the month of March! Staff and students put together their reading achievements and sponsorship money that was raised went to the Read For Good charity.

On the day itself, there was a huge buzz around the academy as students arrived to lessons finding that their teachers had been replaced with a variety of literary characters! From The Hunger Games to classic Roald Dahl novels, we had characters from them all. A one off staff 'Proud Podium' gave students the opportunity to vote for the most interesting staff outfit. Well done to Effie Trinket, also known as Miss Scothern, who received the most votes!

Throughout the week of World Book Day celebrations, students visited Vision to complete quizzes on classic books and to enjoy the magnificent space available, where they can explore new books and get lost in new worlds! Well done to Korben D Year 8 and Cameron H Year 9, the winners of our quizzes and thank you to all students who took time to enter. Remember, you can visit Vision before school, at break and lunch and even after school.

To continue to share our love of reading, staff across the academy are now displaying 'Today I am Reading...' posters on their doors. Why not ask them a few questions about their current reads to see if there is a book you might be interested in trying? Students have also been sharing their own recommendations during tutor time, check out a few of our favourites below:

"The Hobbit is, in my opinion, the best book out there as in just the first few pages you feel as if you're there. It has the right amount of comedy and a lot of fantasy and adventure." - Douglas C, Y7.

"Soldier Dog has interesting characters, a story that will pull on your heart strings and almost every scene is described in great detail!" - Benjamin T, Y7.

"The Hunger Games is a brilliant book because it is the perfect mix between, violence, love, war and rebellion. The Hunger Games has many great attributes and it is an overall interesting, fun and enticing book to read. The Hunger Games is also a four-book-series." - Megan W, Y7.

"The Hobbit is an amazing book and I recommend it to all. It's full of many different themes such as action, adventure and mystery. Though it was written nearly 100 years ago it still holds a strong story. This book never gets old and is a must read for me." - Teddy S, Y8.



## World Book Day

Outwood Academy Portland once again celebrated World Book Day with a range of exciting activities. All week students were encouraged to take part in solving the mystery of the Missing Portland Tiara, solving the case by unravelling the World Book Day related clues.

On the day itself, staff contributed to a book swap coffee morning and also dressed up as their favourite literary characters. The day was celebrated with book themed starters in lessons and many students said it was the "best World Book Day ever!"









# D OF E LITTER PICKING

D OF E GROUPS LITTER PICK AROUND WORKSOP FOR VOLUNTEERING SECTION

Every Saturday morning 10 pupils from Year 9 at Outwood Academy Portland spend an hour out and about around Worksop litter picking and improving the local area. These individuals are aiming to complete their volunteering section for their Bronze D of E award. The students have shown dedication to the task and have diligently worked to clean up the local area.

The students are Wiktoria O, Lewie C, Chad G, Katie B, Ethan S, Liam B, Gabriel, H, Alfie P, Oliver K and Diane W all in Year 9.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

# D OF E PRACTICE WALK

D OF E GROUPS "IN THE FIELD" TRAINING IN HOW TO READ A MAP



Over a number of weekends groups of students from Year 9 at Outwood Academy Portland have completed an 11 km walk in the local countryside to learn to map read and navigate safely.

The students learn how to use six figure grid references in an after school session and then plan a route. At the weekend they walk this route to ensure they can follow it safely. The plan is for them to do their expeditions in July and September of this year.

The students signed up to do their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award in October 2021 and a number have managed to complete some of the sections for their award already.



# MATILDA PRODUCTION 2022

## AT OUTWOOD ACADEMY VALLEY

Our first school production was a tremendous success and was highly enjoyable for all involved. Mrs Longmore and Mrs Blakeley have always had a desire to stage Matilda the Musical and their dream came true this year when Outwood Academy Valley students performed to four audiences. Students auditioned in September 2021 for main roles and the quality and confidence of all participants involved was outstanding. Students prepared an audition that would be performed in front of a panel and, after the pandemic, we were unsure how students might react to this but we were pleasantly surprised by their determination to get back into the performing arts industry. Rehearsals began soon after which were well attended with students seizing the moment to become the characters of Matilda on the stage.

Our leading actresses, Zara J (Y7) and Hermione H (Y9) were amongst the youngest students ever cast in an Outwood Academy Valley production. Zara had only just begun her journey at Outwood Academy Valley when she auditioned and we were very pleasantly surprised at her ability to sing and characterise Matilda at the same time. She was especially dedicated and stood out as being a promising star for the future. When Hermione auditioned we were blown away by her voice and presence on stage. She lived and breathed the role of the Trunchbull and absolutely smashed it in every performance; we even had audience members asking us if she was a professional. That being said, the rest of the cast were also shining stars and everyone at OAV were so proud of what they have achieved. We have been waiting for such a long time to stage a production and when the time came we were so excited to show everyone because each and every student who was involved made the Creative Performing Arts team proud! We can't wait until September when we start auditions again!



The CPA team at OAV would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who supported their children to take part, and of course, all staff who were involved in the creation of the production and also supported the event by coming to watch or help in the evening. #valuedatvalley



# LEGO Robotics Competition

On 12th May 2020, 6 students from Outwood Academy Portland attended the regional final of the 'Tomorrow's Engineers LEGO Robotics' competition which was held at the Sheaf Engineering Building at Sheffield Hallam University.

The Y10 students have spent the past 6 months designing and testing a programmable robot to complete a number of challenges and tasks. These included:

## 1) Speed Challenge

A race to a fragile wall and back over a distance of 4m. Our students managed this without damaging the wall at all!

## 2) Robot Challenge

The Robot Challenge consists of a series of missions. Teams try to complete as many as possible under time pressure using the unique robots that they have built.

## 3) Robot Design

This could be compared to a real-world engineering design review. After completing the speed challenge and missions, our students presented the software and physical designs they had created for the challenge to judges.

## 4) Research Project

Students researched, designed and presented their own solution to a contemporary engineering problem faced by STEM professionals. This year the students chose to design a solution to the water shortages that are faced by many countries. They had to present their solution to a real engineer, who then asked questions about their ideas.

## 5) Teamwork Challenge

The group split into two. Half the students got to see a secret Lego object and had to describe it to the remainder of the team to construct. They were not allowed to say some keywords to make the task even more challenging! The judges commended our students on their cooperation and their collaborative solution.

The students met twice per week during enrichment time and split into teams to focus on each of the tasks. At the end of each session, the teams had a debrief where they informed the rest of the group what they had achieved that week and set targets for the next session.

The students had a great day at SHU and demonstrated great levels of maturity and teamwork. Well done to all those students that took part.







# Readathon

In March 2022, Outwood Academy Valley celebrated World Book Day. As part of these celebrations, the academy ran a whole school readathon that raised money for the Read for Good charity. Staff and students worked together, logging books as they completed them and racing to get to the top of the leaderboard by the end of the month.

Miss Henson was absolutely blown away by the number of books read during this month. Year 7 and Year 8 students exceeded their usual reading totals and it was fantastic to hear from students in Years 9, 10 and 11 too. We really did prove that everyone is a reader!

Well done to everyone who logged their reading during this event and a special congratulations to AJ M (Y8) and Melissa M (Y8) who read the most books in March and came top of our student leaderboard! Both AJ and Melissa received a certificate and a token to spend in the book vending machine (it's exactly what it sounds like!).

Interestingly, a variety of genres and types of books were read and logged which was very exciting to see. Make sure to share your recommendations with friends and peers so that we can continue to celebrate and embrace reading throughout the year.

## Worksop Music Festival

This year, the festival took place over two weekends in March with a different focus for each day. On the first weekend, 12th and 13th March, it was woodwind and brass in the spotlight, followed by piano and strings on the Sunday.

Collectively, Outwood Academy Portland students achieved a total of 12 first place prizes in the woodwind and piano classes. The second weekend saw the success continue as the talented students won 11 classes, with an incredible seven first places secured on the vocals day. Outwood Academy Portland also won a further 13 second and third place prizes.

On the schools' day, Outwood Academy Portland won four categories including distinctions for both Choir and Concert Band.

Mrs Nelson-Fish and Mrs Pilsworth said "We are very proud of our students. They are exceptionally talented young people who work very hard on their skills and this incredible set of first place finishes at the Worksop Music Festival is a testament to their hard work and dedication."

One stand out performer was Matthew F in Year 13 who came first in four categories across the first weekend. Matthew won the Grade 8 Brass Solo, Grade 8 Piano Solo, Romantic Solo, and Two Skills categories.

A 'Winners' concert was held at the school on Tuesday 29th March 2022 celebrating the success with older students' amazing performances inspiring those for whom it was their first OAP concert.

The other first place finishers were:

Day one. Grade 1 Woodwind Solo - Patricia G-W Year 8, Grade 3 Woodwind Solo - Rubie S-R Year 8, Grade 7 Woodwind Solo - Mia S Year 13, Grade 1 Brass Solo - Leila F Year 7, Grade 3 Brass Solo - Amy C Year 7.

Day two. Grade 5 Piano Solo - Isabelle M Year 11, Piano Duet Y9 & Under - Sophie Tyrell Year 9 and Diane Wong Year 9, Piano Duet Y11 - Isabelle M Year 11 and Ewan T Year 10.

Day three. Choir Open - OA Portland Choir, School Band - OA Portland Concert Band, Wind Ensemble - OA Portland Trumpet Quartet, Ensemble Y7-Y13 - OA Portland Flutes.

Day four. Vocal Solo Y9 & Under; Oliver E Year 8, Popular Vocal Solo Y9 & Under - Mary L Year 9, Musical Theatre Solo Y13 & Under - Joseph T Year 12, Musical Show Male Voice - Reuben A Year 12, Vocal Trio - Sophie T Year 9, Diane W Year 9, Mary L Year 9, Vocal Duet - Millie M Year 10 & Daisy B Year 10, Vocal Solo Male Y13 & Under - Reuben A Year 12.



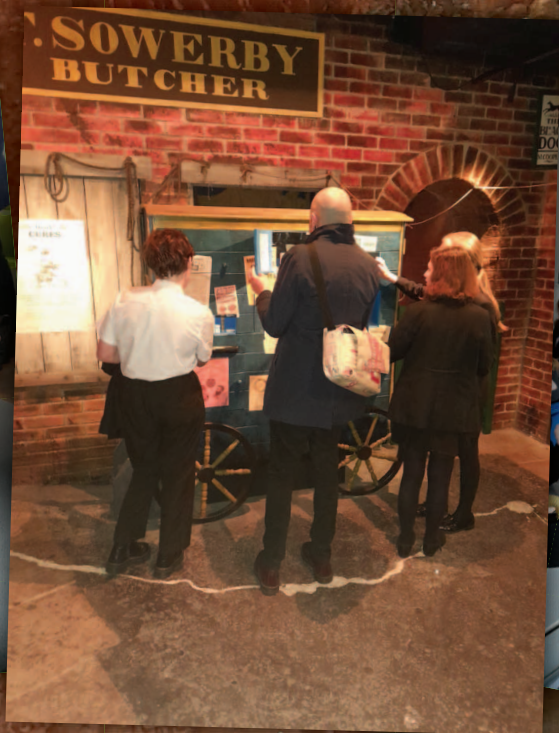
# Thackray Medical Museum Trip: Year 10

**Year 10 historians visit Leeds to explore medical development through time.**

On the 5th of July the History department at Outwood Academy Portland took 35 year 10 students to Leeds Thackray Medical Museum for a day of exciting history. The students took part in a WWI workshop where they were able to handle real medical artefacts such as gas masks, brodie helmets and even a magnetic brain surgery kit. The highlight of the session was when the students were able to smell the scents of the trenches; the sewers, gunpowder and the different gasses! They were not the nicest of smells!

Students were then able to explore Disease Street. This was a recreation of an industrial revolution street with some of the health problems clear. Then students visited an apothecary to see how medicines were mixed, a world at war exhibition, a NHS display and even tried on a pregnancy suit.

Our students were incredible! They conducted themselves beautifully and really represented themselves and the school impeccably! They were a delight to take out for the day! Well done historians!





# SPORTING SUCCESS



**YEAR 8 GIRLS COUNTY CUP WINNERS!**  
It doesn't get much better than this  
**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU ALL!**

## **Y7 Sportshall Athletics**

Super AMAZING performance from our  
INCREDIBLE Y7 girls at the Sportshall Athletics  
@YourSchoolGames event.

They did fantastic to finish 5th overall in the County

We are super proud of you all, well done!



## **The Dojo Worksop @ Huddersfield**

Layland H Year 10 and Rudi G Year 7 both had their  
first kick boxing fights yesterday at Huddersfield.

It was an absolute privilege to witness such amazing skills,  
not to mention the incredible courage, determination  
and resilience needed in that ring!

Congratulations boys - You are AWESOME, and  
we are so proud of you both!







### **Portland Pelicans Regional Finalists !**

Our Portland Pelicans held their nerve to win the East Midlands Junior NBA conference final by 1 point against Becket Academy.

They then played NSBSport in a tough final game, they did themselves (and us) proud achieving silver medals.

**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU ALL!**

### **Y7 Queens Jubilee Baton Relay**

Congratulations to our Y7 students who were selected to take part in the Queen's Jubilee Baton Relay event at Sherwood Pines.

The day involved them working together co-operatively as teams to complete as many 800m races as possible.

Well done to you all, we are so proud you



### **Y7 Football Team – Bassetlaw Champs!**

Our Y7 football team are working so hard and showing exceptional team work and determination in playing football together.

As a result, they were crowned Bassetlaw Champions in their tournament at Retford Oaks!

Well done boys, yet another FANTASTIC achievement!!!



# Valley Action News

Student Voice have always had satellite groups, focussing on one particular area in the school. One group, however, has made itself known throughout Outwood Academy Valley this last year - the Publicity, Broadcast and Journalism satellite group.

They decided they wanted to showcase all the great things that students get up to both in and out of school, and created a news show: Valley Action News. Episode 1 aired and took the school by storm. The professionalism of the Lead Anchor, Hermione H (Y9) and Co Anchor, Cole M (Y8) was impressive from the off. Neither of them had done anything like it before, and they took to it like a duck takes to water. After 24 weekly episodes (at time of writing) they don't show any signs of stopping yet.

Behind the scenes, Leo C (Y9) and Cameron H (Y9) work as script editors for the shows, while Calvin R (Y8), Alana C (Y8) and Libby B (Y8) spend the week collecting stories to be aired. Friday, when the new episode is released, has now become 'Valley Action News' day to many at Valley as they eagerly await the week's news and of course, the amazing joke that always rounds off the episode. They cover all kinds of stories, including breaking stories such as a man who took an Airline company to court after his luggage went missing. He lost his case (that's a joke, we went to the wrong airport).

Everyone at Valley is incredibly proud of the Valley Action News Team, and rightly so - they're doing a great job! Check out all the episodes on YouTube now.



## The Spelling Bee Championship Returns to Valley!

A schoolwide Spelling Bee hadn't taken place at Outwood Academy Valley for nearly a decade so when it was announced that 2022 would be the year of resurgence, both students and staff alike were excited for the big event!

The competition started after February half-term, with every single student taking part in a spelling test during tutor time. Those students that got all of their spellings correct progressed to the next round. Week after week, students went head to head against others in their year group verbally spelling some very difficult words. The semi-finals were tense, and all students who took part put up an awesome fight but from the 5 students competing in each year group, only two could progress into the finals. The finalists were: Alan B & Ethan G (Year 7), Nissi A & Adrian M (Year 8), Daniel C & Inez G-L (Year 9), Xanthe M & Taya W (Year 10), and Diesel F & George M (Year 11).

The day of the final arrived, Thursday 31st March. The finalists were in position on the stage with the semi-finalists and staff members proudly watching their peers and pupils. Firstly, each student went against the other finalist in their year group to narrow down our finalists from ten to five. Alan (Year 7), and Nissi (Year 8) competed for the Key Stage 3 title, both getting their first word correct. However, Alan managed to reach for the crown, and his winning word was deodorise. Then it was time for the KS4 battle where Ines (Year 9), Xanthe (Year 10) and Diesel (Year 11) went head-to-head! All three students got a string of words correct; the audience were on the edge of their seats! Who on earth was going to win? The competition was eventually narrowed down to Ines and Diesel striving for the top spot, but Diesel swooped in with the immaculate spelling of ambidextrous.

Six weeks of spelling feats were finally over and the students' hard work had all paid off. All finalists received an Easter egg, our year group champions Nissi, Ines and Xanthe each received a gift voucher along with their chocolate treat, with the Key Stage Four champions: Alan and Diesel both winning a brand new Amazon Kindle!

Thank you to each and every student who took part, whether the first round or the finals were your last. Your efforts created an exciting and tense competition, one which we look forward to organising again!

