

LAL/SAL

December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As we draw to the end of a long and busy first term there is much to celebrate at Outwood Academy Freeton. Following record breaking results for Year 11 in the summer our new Year 11 have made a wonderful start, showing dedication and commitment to what is required in the following months. Initial indications from the November mock exams are extremely pleasing and I know you will continue to support us and your child through this exciting time. To think that in 6 months (end of June) they will have completed their final exams brings to light the importance of 100% attendance and focused commitment to every minute of learning.

The majority of Year 10 too have final exams this academic year, I know you too will support your child to stay focused on these very real qualifications. Year 10 have also started the guided pathway introduction to look at possible extra GCSE courses or extra English, maths or science to build on their existing studies. We have an extra SLT dedicated parents evening on the 13th January 2020, whereby you can book online to speak to a member of the senior team about your child's options.

Year 7 students have settled in very quickly. This is our largest year group, being nearly at full capacity, our predicted numbers for the future show this will continue.

Year 8 students have been focusing on preparing for graduation at the end of the year, I look forward to seeing all of you at the ceremony. Year 8 have been introduced to our Guided Pathways, whereby they will choose courses to study for GCSE or BTEC in September 2020. We have a forthcoming parents presentation evening on the 14th January 2020, which you can pre-book tickets online.

Starting GCSE's and understanding the commitment that goes with these qualifications is a task that Year 9 have been mastering. We look forward to seeing how they progress over the coming years.

Christmas has very much found our academy. Many Year 7 students have enjoyed a visit to the Wakefield Theatre to watch Jack and the Beanstalk and lots of our students have been involved in the Christmas Showcase helping off stage or showing their amazing talent on stage. They were all absolutely marvellous and a credit to parents and carers. I wish to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to the Freeton Foundation who have paid for new lighting and sound equipment for our stage, making this and future events truly magnificent.

Charity at Christmas time has been a major focus, including thinking of those who may be less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you for donations to our Foodbank appeal, all donations will be gratefully received by the Well Project in Normanton before we break up. Your donations of presents for the Mission Christmas Appeal will also be thankfully welcomed by the charity. In January we launch our Random Acts of Kindness strategy, I look forward to seeing many names on our beautiful tree displayed in the dining room.

Please remember that on our return after Christmas there will be no cash payments. For food, the re-value machines will still be available for checking the amount of funds on a students account, however, the machines will not accept money. If you have not yet logged on to iPayImpact please do so before January.

As a Trust we have launched a Wellbeing Strategy, please see our website for further details. If you would like to be involved in the parent/carer focus group please contact the academy.

Attendance is vitally important to aid learning, retention and understanding of knowledge and to ensure progress is being made. Please do not book holidays during term time as this will be counted as an unauthorised holiday and may incur a fine. Students must be in the academy unless they are too ill to leave their home or we have been informed of a prior appointment. Like the vast majority of schools across the country we suffered poor attendance for two weeks, we now look forward to returning to the very positive improvement in attendance that we were seeing prior to this time.

This term saw the launch of ACE (Academy Conduct Expectations), this has been well received by the vast majority of our students. The overarching aim of our behaviour policy is to promote positive behaviour, to ensure our students grow into safe, respectful and responsible citizens and to allow them to learn in a calm environment.

Be safe, be respectful, be responsible.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas break. I hope you all have time to make memories with family and friends wherever you may spend the holiday.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Allott', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lisa Allott
Principal