

July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to firstly thank all parents, carers and wider family members and their friends for supporting our young people through this year. We have received many lovely comments verbally on the phone, by email and cards thanking us for our work this year, this means a lot to our staff family.

It was wonderful to recently meet our new Year 7 cohort, they were absolutely amazing.

Student Uniform and Resources

All students to please ensure they have their bag (large enough for an A4 folder) a pencil case with all their equipment. In addition, students must have a reading book at all times. Students will receive their planner on their first day of return which then must be brought into the academy every day.

Please ensure that new uniform where required is purchased in plenty of time. Uniform can be purchased from Jags (in Normanton) or the Trutex shop in Wakefield. Trutex also offers an online shop, details of this are on our [website here](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform expectations:

- Full Academy uniform is expected at all times including uniform for PE
- Plain black socks when wearing trousers
- Jumpers must be plain black "V neck" and are optional. They are not a replacement for blazers.
- Plain black tights (at least 40 denier) when wearing a skirt (skirt should NOT be rolled over)
- Plain black, below the ankle, polishable, sensible school shoes (no canvas / plastic / trainers / boots, etc)
- **No jewellery** except a wristwatch (smart watches which connect to the internet/record media etc are not allowed). In all assessments and external exams, watches are NOT allowed to be worn as per JCQ regulations. Please remember that new metal piercings will be expected to be removed on return to the academy.
- Make-up must be very discrete, eyebrows of normal shape and colour, fake eyelashes are not allowed.
- No nail varnish or false nails and hair must be a natural hair colour.

- Chewing gum, fizzy pop (including energy drinks), big bags of sweets and crisps etc are **NOT** allowed anywhere on site. We are aiming to be a healthy eating site. We encourage students to bring a refillable water bottle – there are water stations in the Dining Room and Sports Block where free fresh water can be accessed. Please note that students **MUST** have a water bottle to be able to use these water dispensers.
- We are a **no mobile phone site**, phones are not allowed anywhere on the academy site. If your child chooses to bring in a phone, it must be switched off and in their bag (we must have no knowledge it is with them on site). We are not liable for any breakages or theft. If a phone is seen it will be confiscated for collection at the end of the academy day.
- It is essential that students also have their **own basic equipment** (pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, glue stick, whiteboard pen etc). Students must also have in their bag a reading book. We ask that for safety reasons pencil sharpeners are NOT brought onto the academy site, every room has a heavy duty sharpener for students to use.

Skirts - please note there is a separate letter regarding skirts for September. Please read this carefully and ensure this is followed for September. No pencil or stretchy skirts allowed. Only academy logo or box pleats.

If possible it would be appreciated if your child could bring their own scientific calculator.

I know that some students find it very difficult to be organised in bringing their own planner and equipment to school every day, however, this is part of becoming a young adult. Please support this routine with your child.

IPAY

Please remember to top up your child's IPay account if they need to purchase food at break or lunch. Please also note that the price of a lunch ie main, pudding and bottle of water will increase from £2.35 to £2.59 on 1st September 2023. The prices of individual items will also increase.

Bike Storage

Students who wish to use the bike storage must obtain a permit in September. For the safety of all students using this area the rules on the permit must be adhered to otherwise the permit will be removed, this includes wearing a cycle helmet to and from the academy and arriving on time to use the storage facility.

Contact with parents and carers

Our priority is to be with and to support students in the academy. Please contact us to arrange a time for discussion by phone or a meeting on site during the academy day on 01924 302560 or via email on enquiries@freeston.outwood.com or via our contact page on the website <https://www.freeston.outwood.com/contact> or text us. We aim to get back to you within 48 school hours but this is not always possible.

Please remember that we need to be able to make contact with you. If you have changed your contact details it is vital that you inform us of any changes. We must have at least two contact numbers in case of emergencies.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that we teach our young people to be safe, respectful and responsible. I would like to thank you for modelling this yourself in all communications with us.

Safer Schools Liaison Officer

Please note that in September we will have for two days a week PC Ami Perkins on site who is a Safer Schools Liaison Officer. She will support the whole school, targeted groups and individual intervention and support packages. We will introduce PC Perkins to students in the September.

Parent Portal

The parent portal is an online tool that will allow you to access real-time information about your child's academic progress. Through the portal, you will be able to view attendance records, view praise given to your child by teachers, number of sanctions issued in school and access overviews of Praising Stars reports including academic & effort grades. The portal will provide you with a clear and comprehensive overview of your child's academic progress and will help you to stay informed about your child's performance at school.

Once we have your email address on our system (please allow up to 1 week for this to become live, Visit portal.outwood.com and save this as a favourite on your web browser.

1. Enter your email address
2. Check your inbox for a special "magic link"
3. Tap on the link to sign-in!

Attendance to the academy is vitally important

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 for another reason or we have been informed of a prior appointment. Positive attendance is critical for your child to succeed. If you know that your child is going to be absent, please telephone the Academy where possible before 8:30am.

Punctuality affects learning and attendance

Please ensure your child arrives on site in time, between 8am and 8.20am. If a student arrives after the new legal closure of the register at **8.55am** this will result in an absent code for the whole morning session - this will affect their attendance and could lead to prosecution including fines. If your child is late due to a medical appointment please bring in evidence of this.

Outwood Honours Launch

We are pleased to launch to Years 7 and 8 our brand new student Honours programme. More information on this will come out in September.

First Week Arrangements for September

- **Monday 4th September** - no students on site, staff INSET day
- **Tuesday 5th September** - no students on site, staff INSET day
- **Wednesday 6th September**
 - **Year 7 students to enter and leave** via the gate at the turning circle on Favell Avenue next to the caretakers house (this first day only) and go straight to the dining room
 - **Year 11 students to enter and leave** via the normal two gates on Favell Avenue and Snyderdale Road then check tutor sheets on display in the quad and go straight to tutor for their bespoke day.
 - **Year 9 students on the Graduation Reward Trip** will attend in the HUB to depart by 8:30am.
- **Thursday 7th September** - All year groups on site. Year 7 to go to the dining room and Year 11 go straight to tutor. Years 8, 9 and 10 check the displayed tutor sheets in the quad and go straight to tutor.
- **Friday 8th September** - return to normal timetable for all students

Please note that we close for the summer on Friday 21st July at 2.30pm if you have any concerns after this time please use enquiries@freeston.outwood.com or our contact page on the website <https://www.freeston.outwood.com/contact>. There will be a delay in response but someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Remember that our website holds all information and that every Friday during term time we release a Principal's Blog, please access these for information.

I have attached a calendar of events taking place in school for your information.

I wish you all a lovely summer and look forward to seeing all students return in September.

Yours faithfully



Lisa Allott
Principal

Outwood Academy Freeston – Calendar of Events 2023/24

Monday 4 & Tuesday 5 September 2023	INSET Days - staff training
Wednesday 6 September 2023	Y7 & 11 students ONLY return to the academy Invited Y10 students on the Alton Towers trip
Thursday 7 September 2023	ALL students return to the academy
Tuesday 12 September 2023	Y9 Photographs from 1:30pm
Tuesday 26 September 2023	Open Evening
Tuesday 3 October 2023	Lower School Prize giving Y7-8 (2022/23)
Thursday 26 October 2023	Students finish at 2:30pm for October half term
Friday 27 October 2023	Disaggregated staff training day - students not in the academy
Monday 6 November 2023	Students return to the academy
Tuesday 7 November 2023	Y11 Parent/Carer Evening 4-7pm
Tuesday 21 November 2023	Upper School Prize giving Y9-11 (2022/23)
Friday 15 December 2023	Flu Immunisations (not all students)
Thursday 21 December 2023	Students finish at 2:30pm for Christmas holidays
Friday 22 December 2023	Disaggregated staff training day - students not in the academy
Monday 8 January 2024	Students return to the academy
Tuesday 9 January 2024	Y9 Parent/Carer Evening 3:30-6:30pm (virtual)
Tuesday 16 January 2024	Y9 IAG Evening 5:00-6:30pm
Tuesday 6 February 2024	Y7 Parent/Carer Evening 3:30-6:30 (virtual)
Friday 9 February 2024	Students finish at 2:30 for February half term
Monday 19 February 2024	Students return to the academy
Tuesday 27 February 2024	Y8 HPV Immunisations
Tuesday 19 March 2024	Y10 Parent/Carer Evening 3:30-6:30pm (virtual)
Friday 22 March 2024	Students finish at 2:30pm for Easter holidays
Monday 8 April 2024	Students return to the academy
Monday 6 May 2024	Bank holiday - academy closed
Tuesday 21 May 2024	Y8 Parent/Carer Evening 3:30-6:30pm (Virtual)
Friday 24 May 2024	Students finish at 2:30pm for May half term
Monday 3 June 2024	Students return to the academy
Tuesday 4 June 2024	Y9 DTP/Meningitis Immunisations
Monday 8 July 2024	Immunisation 'Mop-Up'
Wednesday 10 July 2024	Y6 Transition Day and Y6 Parent/Carer Information Evening
Friday 19 July 2024	Students break up at 2:30pm for Summer holiday
Monday 22 July 2024	Disaggregated staff training day - students not in the academy