

January 2024

Dear parent/carer,

Happy New Year! I hope your festive break has been filled with love and laughter and that you and your child/children have taken this time to do all the things we neglect to do during the rest of the year.

In the summer, prior to our September start, I wrote to you all to introduce myself and highlighted my aspirations for Outwood Academy Carlton and the children we serve. I want to take this opportunity to revisit a section of this letter:

*'I fundamentally believe that greatness, exceptional and outstanding do not happen in isolation and that collaboration is the key to success. With this in mind, I want students, parents, community members and staff to work collegiately to ensure that Carlton Academy becomes the highest performing academy in the North of England.'*

As we approach the start of term 2, I remain committed to the sentiment I shared in this initial letter. The children of Carlton and its surrounding areas deserve, and are entitled to the very best education and I continue to seek out collaboration to make this a reality. The collegiate approach we developed last term, through your unwavering support, remains pivotal in driving us towards being an educational beacon of excellence in the North of England.

Due to the academic calendar, term 2 is only 10 weeks long, with February half term coming at the end of week 5. With this in mind, it is important that we keep the 'main thing' (transformative teaching and learning), the 'main thing'! To do this, I ask that we work together to ensure we waste little time addressing the basic standards and expectations that all students are already aware of. To ensure this happens, I have included 2 links. The first is to the [academy uniform policy](#) and the second is a link to the academy's. ['Positive Discipline for Learning and Life'](#).

As you will be aware, all students are greeted every morning on the 'purple line', at this point any uniform misdemeanours are addressed so that students are dressed in-line with the uniform policy as they enter the academy. However, on occasions, a small proportion of students then make amendments to their uniform during the day and this results in sanctions being issued. I wanted to take this opportunity to seek out your support and ask that you remind your child/children of the more common uniform misdemeanours that occur after the 'purple line':

- Removal of the academy blazer - please note that students are not expected to wear blazers for the 5 hours and 20 minutes they are in lessons. They are expected to arrive in their blazer, leave in their blazer and wear it as they move around the academy.
- Rolled sleeves on the academy blazer.
- Incorrect footwear - plain black school shoes only.
- False eyelashes and false/painted nails are not allowed.
- Round neck jumpers - v-neck jumpers are allowed to be worn under the blazer.
- Rolled skirts at the waist.
- Coats and hoodies - not to be worn in the academy, but hung at reception or placed in school bags.
- Jewellery - earrings and nose piercings, including clear spacers are not permitted.

Once again, I would like to wish you all the best for 2024 and I look forward to working with you this year to raise standards at Outwood Academy Carlton and transform the lives of all of our students.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Mr Paul Taylor