Outwood Academy Carlton
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Principal: Mr Paul Taylor

12th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As I look back over the start of Term 2, there are many events that fill me with pride. I am blown away by the number of Praise points issued since the start of the academic year: **50727**! Students are being recognised by staff for their efforts in lessons, their conduct around school and for kindness, every day.

Seeing students receive their Praising Stars 3, and discussing their achievements and attendance with peers, as well as staff. I greatly look forward to our Praising Stars events as there is a genuine buzz and excitement around the school. Whilst I spoke to students about 'Effort' being King, we considered what their attainment score says about their effort and their character, as this is a calculation of their 8 best performing subjects at GCSE level. It is pertinent to talk to students about this in the current educational landscape as now, more than ever, further education providers (inclusive of apprenticeships) and employers are paying particular attention to Attainment 8 scores and we are passionate about protecting the futures of our students.

Attainment 8 is a measure that takes into account performance and effort applied across all of your child's subjects:

Bucket 1	**Bucket 2**	**Bucket 3**
Maths & English are the only subjects where scores are doubled. Maths is always doubled, however English is only doubled if both Literature and Language are taken.	A student's three highest scoring Ebacc subjects will fill this bucket.	Three highest scoring DfE approved or remaining English & Ebacc subjects

In order to find out a student's individual Attainment 8 score, the grades from the three buckets are added together and then divided by 10 - this will then tell us the Attainment 8 score. Grades are divided by 10 to reflect the 8 subjects taken - Maths and English count as two slots due to their double weighting.

Looking forward to the half term ahead, half term 4 is just 5 weeks long, and, 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.
- Socks that aren't black - socks should be black 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.

I look forward to continuing to work with you this year to raise standards at Outwood Academy Carlton and transform the lives of all of our students.

Yours faithfully

Mr Paul Taylor