

IN TOUCH

newsletter

Message from the Principal

As the Spring term comes to a close it is a good time to reflect on the successes of our students since the Christmas break. Year 11 students have been working hard and making significant progress in their efforts to 'do well' in the GCSE exams which are now only a few weeks away.

It has been great to see our students celebrate each other's achievements on 'Proud Thursdays' and for all to take time to look at the work our students are producing.

Lessons are calm and purposeful and it is fabulous to see students and staff working well together to make every second, in lessons, count.

Of course this has all been made possible by your continued support of the academy in its endeavour to raise standards and improve outcomes for our students.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful Easter holiday, and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 15th April 2024.

Mr Golden

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The DEEPs

As our culture change continues to take effect the numbers of students becoming involved in the Consequences system is reducing. The instances of poor behaviour are reducing and are now limited to a clearly identifiable minority. We will continue to work with the students and their families to bring about positive change. Our planner and equipment checks on the gate help ensure students are ready to learn and lessons can get off to a swift start so we can maximise learning in the classroom. Having provided these for all students repeat offenders will be held accountable for not being prepared. If they have lost planners already they need to purchase a new one to get them through the year. In order to support students to do this, we will be issuing them with a new set of equipment and a school planner in September. Similarly uniform breaches are all too often the same students and again they will and must be accountable if they are to be better prepared for the world of work.

Areas of Focus 'LEARNING'

Being prepared for learning
Meeting expectations
Praise

Areas of Focus 'BELONGING'

Enhancing a sense of identity
across tutor groups and the
whole school

EVENTS THIS HALF TERM - LIBRARY NEWS

Accelerated Reading

A massive well-done to students in Years 7 and 8 who have been busy reading and taking quizzes on their AR books. To date, they have read 28,085,221 words, passing quizzes on 1,140 books. Eight students have read over a million words each.

The Brilliant Book Award

This is an award run by the Education Library Service and sees young people across Nottinghamshire reading, discussing and voting for the best in new Young Adult fiction. This year more than 20 students from years 7, 8 and 9 have been participating. Our favourite book on the shortlist is *Jamie* by L.D. Lapinski.

Author visits

We have been pleased to welcome two authors to school this term. L.D. Lapinski and Sufiya Ahmed spoke about their books *Jamie* and *Rosie Raja: Churchill's Spy*, both of which are on this year's *Brilliant Book Award* shortlist as well as about some of the wider issues that concern them.

World Book Day

The World Book Day vouchers are valid until 31st March and can be used at bookshops and many supermarkets such as Morrisons. There are several special World Book Day titles which can be exchanged for a voucher, or you can use the voucher to receive £1 off any book costing £2.99 or more.

Reading Buddies

The first group of students have finished their visits to one of our feeder primary schools where they have been reading with pupils in Year 3. The class teacher reports that the children who read with our students love the sessions and are showing a different attitude to reading. The girls have certainly been brilliant ambassadors for Outwood Academy Kirkby and it has been a delight to take them.



MORE LIBRARY NEWS

Accessit

After the holiday we are leaving our existing Library Management System and moving to Accessit which is used by most schools in the OGAT family. It has many exciting features, including an app which can be used from home to search the catalogue, make reservations and read reviews. More details later.

Young Editors

Four students in Year 9 have taken the opportunity to work as Young Editors with publishing house Barrington Stoke. The girls have been reading two pre publication manuscripts, noting any errors they spot and giving feedback regarding plot, setting and characters. The books will be published later this year - look out for a copy of each in the library!



Harry Potter Night 2024

This annual event, which was held a little later than usual, was attended by 18 wizards, muggles and assorted others. We enjoyed games and activities on a Harry Potter theme and consumed the now traditional chocolate wands thanks to Miss Evans and her son.



EVENTS THIS HALF TERM

Take Over Arts Festival 2024

Takeover is a programme powered by the government's Volunteering Futures Fund, aimed at fostering the creative talents of young people in Mansfield and Ashfield aged 14-24yrs. On 9th March young people took over the old Debenhams site in The Four Seasons shopping Centre in Mansfield. All Year 10 Art students were involved in the creation of the artwork, with some photography students taking part on the day. OAKi's aim was to create puppets and the theme was bugs. Students created shadow puppets and a giant spider puppet over 5ft wide created from recycled materials including an umbrella, newspapers and plastic saved from landfill. The festival space was dressed with home made foliage and flowers as well as a bubble machine and a seated area. There were a host of activities on the day including circus skills, DJing, printing, photography workshop, games, silent disco and various crafts.

It was a fantastic day for all who attended and nearly 2,000 came to see the talented young people including local press, Inspire, families, friends and the general public. To quote a primary aged youngster who attended, 'wow that spider's amazing. I want to go to Kirkby so I can make amazing art!'



EVENTS THIS HALF TERM

Outwood Academy Kirkby published authors!

"Building Word Power!" is our mantra in the English department and we have some exciting news to share!

26 of our wonderful students have been chosen to have their short stories published by YoungWriters.

This is a fantastic achievement. We are so proud!

Students entered a 100 word saga into a national competition and will see their work in print on March 15th 2024.

Ms Walker - Head of English



EVENTS THIS HALF TERM



EMPOWERING PARENTS, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

The 'Being a Parent - Living with Teenagers' Course.

What is EPEC?

Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities Being A Parent - living with Teenagers Course is a free, volunteer-led, evidence-based parenting programme



Each session is delivered by two Parent Group Leaders (PGLs) who have received 60+ hours training to deliver EPEC courses and have **lived experience** of parenting teenagers.

Our sessions empower parents to share experiences, learn new skills and practice these alongside other parents, who are facing similar circumstances.

Who is it suitable for?

If you are a parent/carer with pre teen/s or a teenager/s and you are unsure about some of the behaviours presenting and feel that some support and guidance would be helpful. This course is for you.

Our course offers support to parents/carers, helping them to learn more about parenting a teenager. Along with helping parents/carers to manage emotion and behavioural difficulties that their young person may be experiencing.



The course gives lots of opportunity for discussion around shared experiences in an accepting and supportive environment.

Course Content

Session 1

Key issues for teenagers and their parents - Setting goals. Looking after yourself as a parent.

Session 2

Effective communication skills - Parenting Styles. Listening skills

Session 3

Building your teenager's self-esteem - Needs behind behaviour. Feelings. Valuing your teenager and building their self-esteem

Session 4

Positive parenting strategies - Family meetings. Focused activities.

Session 5

Managing conflict - Negotiation. Discipline.

Session 6

Discipline strategies - Parenting strategy review

Session 7

Protecting them from risk - What's normal? what's worrying? What makes a difference helping teenagers manage risk? Raising difficult issues. Supporting problem solving

Session 8

Using your 'toolkit' - Building independence. Ending and Celebration

How is it delivered?

Being a Parent course, Living with Teenagers courses are run in person and online throughout the year.

For more information and to book a place email - epec@nottscc.gov.uk



[Click here to watch our EPEC summary video](#)



EMPOWERING PARENTS
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Easter Provision at The Acre Youth Club will be open during the daytime on Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th of April 10am until 2pm, for young people to come and have a breakfast and some lunch and also use the facilities

SPORTING EVENTS



Congratulations to our Year 8 VX squad that won the VX competition hosted at Outwood Academy Kirkby on 6th March

Great performance all round, fantastic teamwork and integrity

This is the first event of its kind in the Ashfield district - Sutton Community Academy and Quarrydale were the other schools in attendance



Year 7 Ashfield District Athletics Competition was hosted at Kirkby Leisure Centre and we finished with bronze medals!

Some outstanding performances in track and field events and everyone put in 100%. Great sportsperson behaviour encouraging one another and celebrating the achievements of all the schools in the medals presentations



Congratulations to our Year 7 students, won the VX tournament last week. They demonstrated fantastic honesty, integrity and sportsmanship during the games

SPORTING EVENTS



Year 9 Sports Leaders

The Year 9 Sports Leaders did a fabulous job at the Y5/6 Sports Athletics District finals hosted at Kirkby Leisure Centre this afternoon

Very proud of how they conducted themselves and carried out their leadership responsibilities with great competence

SPORTING DIARY OF SOPHIE PEET

January 2024

Sophie has won a Bronze medal in U15g Shot Put at the Midlands Counties Athletics Assoc indoor championships at the Loughborough University HiPAC centre. Sophie also managed to get into the finals of the U15g Long Jump and U15g 60m hurdles attaining a PB in the hurdles.

Picture attached with her Bronze medal.

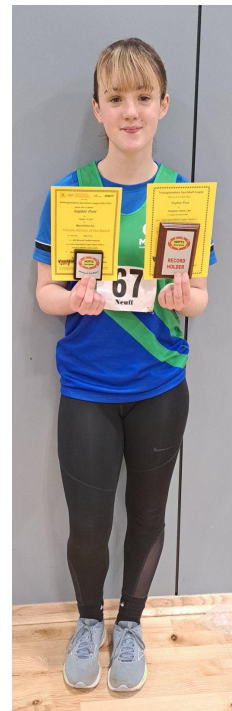
Sophie has since been selected to represent Notts in the Regional Sportshall Final in March.



February 2024

Sophie competed in the Notts Mini League Sportshall match at Kirkby Leisure Centre on Sunday, where she won 'Athlete of the Match' for attaining the most points in various events at the competition. Sophie also received an award for being the new record holder for the 'ball push' discipline (like indoor shot put).

Also the U13g Mansfield Harriers team, which Sophie is part of, won the U13's team overall competition.

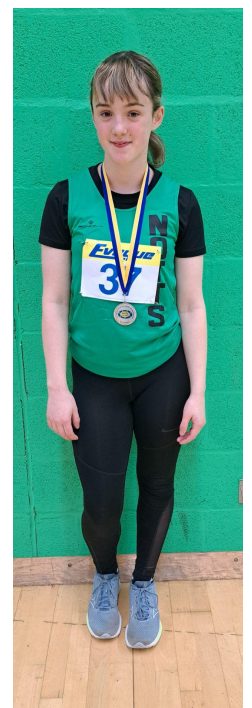


March 2024

Sophie Peet represented Notts in the Regional Sportshall Final at Grantham on Saturday.

Sophie competed in the Shot Put, 2 Lap Race & 4x 2 Lap Relay. Sophie won the U13g Shot Put competition with a throw of 8.50m, so as well as being the Notts U13g County Champion (outdoors), she is now also the East Midlands Sportshall regional champion at the Indoor Shot Put.

This was the last competition that Sophie could compete as an U13. She now moves up to U15.



DEEP LEARNING

Who are we?

Ms E Crookes	Associate Vice Principal
Mrs L Burrell	Associate Assistant Principal
Mr B Heard	Aspiring Leader

What do we do?

Our primary focus is to support staff to deliver the best possible lessons for students in the most engaging way possible. We also support all aspects of training and development for staff.



Love to Learn Week

As we approached half term students were invited to share with staff the amazing things they had learned each day. We used these to create an enormous heart made up of all of their learning. It was fantastic to see how much students had learned and the range of topics they covered. We have truly brilliant learners.

Learners also competed to find a place on the Classroom Champions board on ten occasions over the week. We were proud of everyone who made it

Just One Thing

Are you struggling to get your child to tell you what they have done at school?

Is the usual response 'Nothing', 'not much', 'not sure'?

Use the Parent Portal to find a subject they have studied and try asking 'Tell me one thing you learned in that subject today?'

You'd be amazed at what they actually do!

Supporting Year 11 with exam preparation

There is a huge amount of support for Year 11 as they are in the run up to their final GCSE exams. Just a few of the things on offer to year 11 are:

- Intervention classes in a number of subjects including; English, Maths, Science and Geography
- Revision sessions at lunch and after school
- Additional sessions in the Easter holidays - students should have brought letters and permission slips home
- Positively You - focusing on managing exam stress and preparation for exams
- Total Recall quizzes each half term
- Booster sessions prior to each exam

If your child is in Year 11 please encourage them to take up all the opportunities of offer - it is never too late!

Should you have any concerns about how your child is managing their exam preparation please contact Miss Meakin, Year 11 Learning Manager in the first instance.

DEEP LEARNING

Satchel One

Thank you for your patience whilst we sorted out some technical issues with Satchel One and access their homework tasks. I am pleased to let you know that following a lot of background work the IT team have resolved the issue and Satchel One should now be available to all students.

To log in your child needs to follow the simple steps detailed below:

1. Put Satchel One in the browser
2. Click on log in
3. Click the 'Student' tab and then choose 'I **already** have an account'.
4. Choose sign in with Google and then use their school account details

As a parent please contact the school if you require an updated log in for yourself so that you are able to see what homework your child has and support them with completion of the homework.

Many thanks for your patience and support.



Our Easter Initiative

To maintain our focus on praise and rewards we are running our Easter Champions Challenge - all students who earn a place on the Classroom Champions board eight times in the last two weeks of term will receive an Easter themed prize

Staff are all joining in the Easter learning fun by trying out one of six new Collaborative Learning Structures in their lessons to develop their skills and provide opportunities for students to learn in new ways.'



British Sign Language Club

OAKi's British Sign Language club has continued this term. Students have practised over 200 signs and know how to construct basic conversation in BSL. I am incredibly proud of our students for wanting to learn a language and understand more about the deaf community.

Ms Walker - Head of English



Outwood Honours



Thank you to all of our students who have engaged with the Honours programme to date. The Programme has ran for 18 weeks now and we have been able to award an incredible 1,149 badges to our students in Year 7 and Year 8.

To access the Honours Programme please follow the steps below:

1. Visit the [Outwood Portal](#).
2. Parents can sign in with their registered email address and students can access this with their student email.
3. Use the tabs at the top of the page to view awarded badges and to see which badges are still available to request.
4. Select a badge you wish to request and type a short summary of the things you/your child did to meet the badge criteria.

Please see below some key statistics which highlight our students' achievements so far.

Mr Pickett - Associate Assistant Principal

1,149

Total number of badges awarded

67%

Percentage of badges claimed

121

Students awarded Bronze Ace Achiever

443

Total number of Year 7 badges awarded

Luxembourg

The tutor group with the most badges

73

Students awarded PE Champion

706

Total number of Year 8 badges awarded

72

Highest individual badge total

62

Students awarded 50k Reader



DEEP EXPERIENCE

Who are we?

Mr J Conlon Assistant Principal
 Mr A Norwood Associate Assistant Principal

What do we do?

Our primary focus is to develop school culture, with ownership of SMSC and the delivery of British Values at school. Deep Experience takes responsibility for attendance, careers, primary transition the after-school enrichment programme.



Outwood Student Voice Conference

Students from our School attended the Outwood Student Voice Conference at Elland Road in Leeds. The event saw students from every school come together to discuss initiatives to be launched across the Trust. Discussions included support for mental health, promotion of equality initiatives and concerns about sustainability in school. Our students represented the school amazingly and are looking forward to the next event in July.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

≤90%

PERSISTENTLY ABSENT

At 90% you have missed almost 100 lessons in a year. Attendance at 90% each year means that by Year 11, you will have missed out on 6 months of learning.

**>90%
<93%**

IMPROVEMENT REQUIRED

92% equals 3 weeks of lost learning every year. Between Year 7 and Year 11, this means 15 weeks lost in total.

**≥93%
<96%**

COULD BE BETTER

95% means a half-day missed every 2 weeks. In a year, that's 43 lessons to catch up on.

**≥96%
<100%**

VERY GOOD

At this level, you give yourself the best chance of achieving your potential. 96% equals 7.5 days absence in a year.

**100%
PERFECTION**

DEEP EXPERIENCE

Careers Programme for Easter Term

It has been another busy term for Careers, with several events taking place to raise awareness of the options available to students.

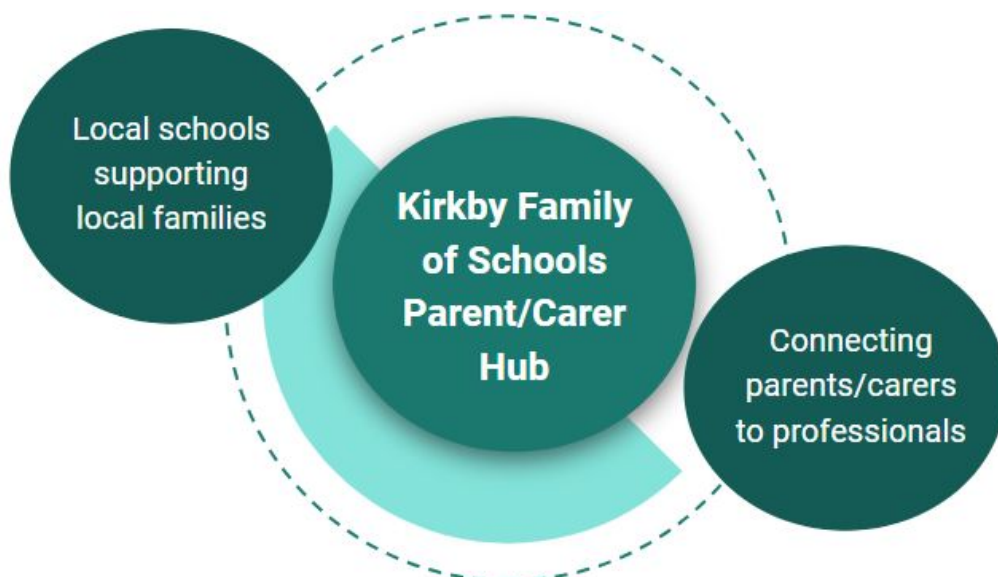
Early in the term we had a Mock Interview Day for Years 10 and 11, with an opportunity for individual interview time and feedback from a range of local employers. We had professionals from the civil service, engineering, manufacturing and creative industries offer their support to students. All were very impressed by the quality and professionalism of the students on the day. We have also had events this term for Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, as well as further use of the Unifrog platform.

In the Summer Term we have a range of university and college visits planned, as well as 'Drop Down Day' careers opportunities for year groups. We are looking to further establish a parents and alumni careers network - if you (or your business) are interested in supporting here, please do contact j.conlon@kirkby.outwood.com

Attendance Announcement

So this term we have initiated "FRIYAY", where the highest attending tutor group gets a sweet treat.

Also we have given out 10 large Easter eggs, 2 to each year group for students that have had 100% attendance this half term and have had consistent effort in school



SAVE THE DATE

Kirkby Family of Schools
Parent and Carers Hub

16th April 2024.
9:00am to 11.00am.

Join us for a cup of tea and a chance to talk to professionals supporting many areas of parenting.

DEEP EXPERIENCE

Links to Magdalena College, Oxford University

This year the school has developed its links with Magdalen College, part of a long term partnership. This has included a visit and tour of Oxford for our Y10 and Y11 students, as well as participating in a two-day Coram Shakespeare Festival, where OAK students are performing 'The Tempest'.



New Catering Services at Outwood Academy Kirkby

Catering Services for Outwood Academy- Kirkby

Caterlink are delighted to be working in Partnership with Outwood Academy in Kirkby and would like to tell you about us and our catering services for your children.

We love food and hope you will love what we provide for the students at your school. We embrace natural ingredients, love seasonal produce, and develop ethical trading with many of our suppliers. Our meat, fruit & vegetables and bakery is all sourced from suppliers as near to the school as we can. Our menu meets and exceeds all Government Guidelines.

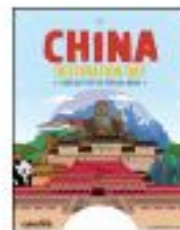
The Price is Right.....

We believe in keeping prices as low as we possibly can, by providing a range of meal deals and loyalty schemes to ensure best value for you and your children's school meals... all our meal deals are £2.50 and look out for our monthly promotions and special offers!

ITEM	PRICE
3 course meal deal or pasta / jacket meal deal	£2.50
Grab and Go items	From £1.00
Hot Snacks at Break	From 30p
Dessert and Fruit Pots	From 55p
Modern Bakery	From 75p

Our menus are refreshed every term to ensure we reflect the changing seasons and trends from the high street. 90% of all our food is freshly prepared from scratch on site by our team, so if you have a fantastic recipe, you would like us to consider, come and talk to us at any time you visit the facilities.

Look out for our special offers and promotions throughout the year! We are also proud to say all our meals are nutritionally compliant the Government Standards for Food Served in Schools



You can find out more about us on our website www.caterlinkltd.co.uk

New Catering Services at Outwood Academy Kirkby

WE ARE YOUR SCHOOL'S NEW CATERERS!

caterlink
feeding the imagination

We are proud of our catering service, but we want to make sure that we are providing the service that **YOU** want!

EXCITING CONCEPTS








WAR ON WASTE





MONTHLY EVENTS








Come along and see us at your onsite catering outlets.

SEASONAL PRODUCE




Smaller portions that doesn't cost the earth priced from £1.00





And it doesn't stop there...

New Cashless Catering Services at Outwood Academy Kirkby

Have you provided biometric consent for our new cashless catering services? Please complete this form asap so your child's access to catering services after Easter remain unaffected [here](#)

TT Rockstars

Times tables are an incredibly important Mathematical tool that will support your child to embed the basics of multiplication. TTRockstars is a fun way to support your child in developing this vital knowledge.

Visit trockstars.com/parents/ for more info.



Website

The website is a fabulous one-stop shop for lots of news and information.

Take a look at <https://www.kirkby.outwood.com/> to find out more about us and what your child is learning in school.

Updates

You can keep up to date with all the latest Academy news on our Twitter (X) account

Follow us at [@OutwoodKirkby](https://twitter.com/OutwoodKirkby)



USEFUL CONTACTS

Pastoral Support

Year 7 Learning Manager

Mrs Waring

d.waring@kirkby.outwood.com

Year 8 Learning Manager

Ms Storey

i.storey@kirkby.outwood.com

Year 9 Learning Manager

Miss Palmer

d.palmer@kirkby.outwood.com

Year 10 Learning Manager

Miss Daley

r.daley@kirkby.outwood.com

Year 11 Learning Manager

Miss Meakin

c.meakin@kirkby.outwood.com

Lead Learning Manager

Mrs Wood

b.wood@kirkby.outwood.com

Inclusion Support

Inclusion Coordinator

Mrs Jones

i.jones@kirkby.outwood.com

Inclusion Administrator

Miss Havard

l.havard@kirkby.outwood.com

SENDCO

Ms T Whitehouse

Starting on 15th April 2024

Attendance Team

Attendance Email

attendance@kirkby.outwood.com

EWO/Attendance Manager

Miss Pitt

l.pitt@kirkby.outwood.com

Attendance Assistant

Miss Dennett

m.dennett@kirkby.outwood.com