

27th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Y13 Update

I thought it appropriate to write to you as Year 13 students work towards their final exams. There are a number of strategies in place to support students to maximise their achievements but also a couple of issues to raise that need careful consideration.

Interventions

The majority of Y13 teachers are running intervention sessions, with most of them being after school. These are a good place for students to develop subject knowledge, further exam technique and address any misconceptions they have in the subject. Attendance to these interventions has been very poor so far and I would encourage as many students to attend them. Students will need to check with their individual teachers as to the specific times of the intervention session.

Up Learn

Up Learn is an internet based resource that supports students. According to the website Up Learn provides everything you need to get an A*/A at A Level in your subject, as efficiently as possible. No need for textbooks or tutors. It is a great resource that the Academy has paid for so students in the Sciences, Psychology and Maths can benefit from it. The number of hours completed on Up Learn has, in the majority of subjects, been declining which needs to change.

Outside of Academy Hours Work.

I appreciate that many students are working in jobs outside of the Academy hours. Clearly this is a great opportunity to earn some extra money and develop some important skills. However with exams approaching I would encourage students to talk to their bosses and reduce their hours, allowing them to complete more revision. There is a direct correlation between the amount of school work completed and the final grade and students need to apply themselves to their school studies for one final push.

Gambling

There has been an increase in the number of conversations around placing bets between members of the year group and I believe some students are placing bets whilst in the Academy. Clearly the minimum legal age for UK is 18 but it is not something that should be happening whilst in the Academy itself. There is a

significant amount of information about gambling on <https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/public-and-players/home>. Can I ask that you have an honest conversation with your child about gambling and address the need for them to concentrate whilst in the Academy at this very important time of their school careers.

I will write to you again early in the new term with an update on the plans for Year 13 students as their time at Outwood Academy Newbold draws to a close.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Mitchell
Assistant Principal