

Dear parents & carers,

I am writing to inform you of our intention to return to the Vertical Mentoring Group (VMG) system of tutoring at Outwood Academy Newbold.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic we operated the VMG system and only stopped when the government guidance was for schools to reopen using a year group “bubble” system. We then moved to a more traditional year group system with 6 tutor groups in each year group. Having reviewed the pastoral and tutoring provision at Outwood Academy Newbold I think that now is the time to revert to the VMG system.

Each VMG will be made up of students from each year group (Years 7 to 11). We will have approximately 30 tutor groups and they will contain between 5 and 8 students from each year group. The names of each VMG will continue to be named after a country and the continental system of organisation will be maintained. The Learning Managers will still be assigned to just one year group. We have no plans to change the Learning Managers’ year groups for the next academic year.

In each classroom the students will sit at tables of 4 and the tutor will select students from different year groups to be on each table. These seating plans will be amended every half term in line with the changes to subject seating plans. The activities that the students will complete during tutor time will be suitable for everyone. They will also give the older students an opportunity to coach and mentor younger students. My experience of working with VMGs is that they play a really pivotal role in building a more cohesive academy community with students from all year groups celebrating the achievements and supporting the challenges of everyone.

Over the next few weeks the academy leadership team and the Learning Managers will work together to produce the new VMG lists taking into account our knowledge of who works well together and making sure that all students are happy and have someone that they know in their new group. We will not be putting the students into friendship groups and I would ask that you don’t contact the Learning Managers with specific requests as there will be extensive consideration given to making sure that the mix and balance in each group gives all students a positive experience.

The change to VMGs will take place on Monday 3rd July when we roll our timetable forward and students start in their new classes. We will share the new groups with students and parents in advance of these changes, hopefully by Friday 16th June.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Southern
Principal