

27 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have felt compelled to write to you all as parents and carers in Year 7 to tell you how proud we are of the start that they have made to their journey at Outwood Academy Newbold.

Whilst we all acknowledge that the last two years have provided all of us with challenges and obstacles to overcome, we have made a point of talking to the students about the opportunities on offer at the academy to do more, both academically and in a wider sense, than they have ever imagined possible. This year's Year 7 students have grasped every opportunity so far and have impressed the academy staff with their positivity and maturity. I am really excited to see them strive hard to reach their full potential over the next five to seven years of their time with us.

I hope that you are already aware of the following successes, however, I do know that not all 11 year olds are great at sharing information with their parents!

All of our students took part in a series of lessons and assemblies in their first week that are collectively known as the ACE Programme (Academy Conduct & Expectations). These sessions are delivered by senior members of the academy staff and focus on the way in which Newbold students are expected to work and conduct themselves within the academy. I was particularly impressed with the way in which students worked in the "positive mindset" session - they spoke passionately about how their actions and words can impact positively on other people. The first week ended with a celebration assembly including certificates for all students and some hand-picked awards for students that had stood out to Mrs Nicholas, the Year 7 Learning Manager.

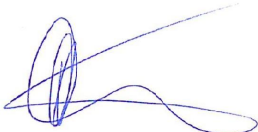
We had record numbers of students attending the first two weeks of enrichments including boys and girls football and a chess club that had so many participants that there weren't enough seats. We've had to move the venue for next week to accommodate everyone. On Wednesday 15th September we played our first competitive football match against our friends at Outwood Academy Hasland Hall. It was wonderful to see so many parents join us to watch and celebrate the successes of our players. I hope you were made to feel welcome at our academy and continue to join us for sporting, cultural and academic events. The students demonstrated the sportsmanship and determination that we expect of them and we hope to see this repeated many times over the coming years.

Within their lessons students have shown enthusiasm and a genuine desire to learn something every lesson and get as much out of their day as they can. I am in the privileged position of being able to drop into lessons every day and I can say that, without exception, all of the Year 7 lessons have been positive and full of smiling faces and success stories. This positivity has been replicated during social times. We are lucky to have such polite and well mannered students, they really are a credit to you and your families.

We would love to hear your feedback on the start to Year 7. I hope that you've only got great stories to tell of happy and content children but I also want to hear if there's anything we can do to make academy life better. Please follow this [link](#) to a very short questionnaire that will enable you to share your experiences. Please do not underestimate the impact your feedback can have on our staff, we work tirelessly to provide the best for our students and I would like to share some of your thoughts and feelings with them during our weekly staff briefings.

I will be writing to you soon with details of events that will be running at the academy. These include a Year 7 Information evening and a Year 7 Parents evening in this half term.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Southern
Head of School