



10 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

This letter contains important information for current Year 6 pupils and their parents/carers who are looking to apply for a Year 7 place (September 2024), at Outwood Academy Riverside.

If you attended the Open Evening at Russell Street on Tuesday 3 October 2023 you will already be aware of some of this information.

Outwood Academy Riverside is a free school where the intention is to build a state of the art, permanent building, on Pioneering Way, adjacent to Middlesbrough College. Work between Outwood Grange Academies Trust, the Department for Education and the Middlesbrough Local Authority is ongoing to secure this.

In the interim the current site at Russell Street will not be able to accommodate an additional year group of students in 2024.

We are delighted to announce that we have secured a temporary site for Outwood Academy Riverside on the cleared site of the former Eston Park School, Burns Road, Redcar. Our Year 7 students will start at this site in September 2024 and remain here for two years, alongside the September 2025 Year 7 cohort, while our new state of the art school is constructed for us.

The temporary site will have all classroom and dining facilities, will accommodate all new Year 7 pupils, and provide a safe and high quality environment for their education. This situation is, of course, not ideal and we understand the concerns that pupils, parents and carers may have. The following information will hopefully address many of those broader questions.

- The school buildings will be entirely fit for purpose and provide a high quality environment in which to learn. There will be specialist rooms for all aspects of the curriculum and access to high quality facilities for PE/ outdoor learning
- The Academy day will be the same format as that of Russell Street
- The facility is for the sole use of Riverside Year 7 students in 2024/2025 and then Year 7 and 8 pupils in 2025/2026
- The Academy is entirely self contained and full, robust safeguarding procedures are in place, as with all of our Academies
- Free transport will be provided to and from the Academy with a journey time of between 10-15 minutes, from as close to Russell Street as possible
- The Riverside values led approach to education will be entirely the same in the new building

- Year 7 pupils will be in a place where there is wrap around care, clear routines and high expectations will rapidly develop them as young people
- Year 7 pupils will be offered the same opportunities at this new site

We will provide further opportunities for prospective pupils, parents and carers to meet the leadership team at Riverside to have a face to face discussion on how plans develop. Allowing parents and carers to give feedback, supporting the decisions we make of the provision for the pupils.



Steve Merifield
Associative Executive Principal



Melissa Brant-Smith
Academy Principal