



16 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Term Newsletter

As we approach the Christmas holiday season, I would like to wish each and every family a wonderful Christmas break. This year has been one full of incredible challenges for everyone. The difficulties we have faced have been a testament to our resilience, compassion and fundamental understanding of each other. I am incredibly proud of our Riverside family of students and staff.

Praising Stars Reports

All students should have received their Praising Stars report. Reports for any students who are self-isolating or absent will be posted out. I would remind parents and carers to update all contact details for priority contacts, addresses and telephone numbers if they change to ensure we can contact you.

Praise Points

We have given out 5927 praise points this term to recognise all the hard work the students are doing. Each week the student with the most praise points is given a sweet treat to share with their tutor group on Friday. Watch this space for praise point competitions and rewards in the new year.

Staffing

We are sad to say goodbye to Miss Bargello, our Spanish teacher, as she leaves us at the end of term to start an exciting new adventure. We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs McCabe on reception and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank both members of staff for all their hard work. We have a new 1-2-1 tutor, Mrs Jones, who joined us last week. We are incredibly lucky to have a 1-2-1 tutor who is initially helping close any gaps made due to the summer lockdown. In addition, we have Miss Louisy who is our Discovery Manager. She is part of our Deep Support team and will be working with students who have English as an additional language or any that need additional support in the classroom.

Russell Street

The move to our temporary building has been postponed until after February half term now as the building work is not going to be fully completed by January. Whilst this further delay is a disappointment, we are extremely excited to move in February and cannot wait for the students to see their new fabulous facilities.

Hardship Fund

The Hardship Fund is a discretionary source of financial help available to all registered full-time academy students. The aim of the fund is to help students who have difficulties in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits and year group residential (up to 100% of the cost)
- Uniform, shoes or sports kit
- Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies
- Expenses to attend seminars, interviews or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expense

The Academy will consider requests for hardship funding from the following groups of students:

- students living alone outside the family home
- students in receipt of free school meals
- students in families with very low incomes
- students with disabilities
- students who are or have been in care/foster care
- students who have been subject to other exceptional circumstances

Your children may be eligible for grants from our hardship fund if:

- a household income is below £25,000
- a student whose parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/ Child Tax Credit, Income Based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal Credit, who is not entitled to free school meals
- at the decision of the Principal, any student who does not fall under the categories listed above, but consider themselves to be in financial hardship

Hamper Raffle

12 students have won a Christmas hamper in our 'Riverside Hamper Raffle'. The hampers will be delivered to your home this afternoon and students have been informed today.

Christmas Gifts

All students will receive a small gift from staff at Outwood Academy Riverside and Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation - who have been working in close partnership with us this term. This is to say thank you and well done for all their hard work and commitment to creating a wonderful Riverside family.

We know the holiday season can be a joyous occasion for many, but for some the stresses and strains can be a challenge. Help and support for mental health and wellbeing can be accessed through the 'green buttons' on our website: <https://www.riverside.outwood.com/mentalhealth>

If you have not seen our Christmas spirit video, bring some joy into your world by taking a look here: <https://youtube/GRjzEbDMIDo>

Students return to the academy on Monday 4 January 2021. A letter from Trust regarding reporting positive COVID-19 cases over the holidays will be posted on the website by Friday 18 December 2020. I would like to thank parents and carers for their support throughout the term. We are sure the holiday will be a time for joy, celebration and hope for the New Year to come.

Finally, may I wish you all a peaceful holiday.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully



Melissa Brant-Smith
Principal