

19.5.2023

Dear families,

I would like to take this opportunity to: thank you all for the warm welcome that you have extended to me since joining the academy at the start of this week; give a brief introduction about myself; and send a few reminders to support your children at school.

Some of you will have seen me working at Outwood Primary Academy Lofthouse Gate over the last term, supporting Mrs Hewitt and the academy and some of you may even remember my first stint here working as Vice Principal under Mrs Savage. Since then, I have worked as Principal at Outwood Primary Academy Darfield in Barnsley and Outwood Junior Academy Brumby in North Lincolnshire (moving both academies to Good with Outstanding Leadership and Management). During my time at Outwood Junior Academy Brumby, I became Lead Principal and now work across several of our schools across North Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and Wakefield. After Brumby, I was based at Outwood Primary Academy Greystone for a short time alongside supporting here at Lofthouse Gate. I am incredibly proud to be back at Lofthouse Gate and look forward to working in partnership with you and your children to continue to deliver a world class education.

I spoke to the children about two things that they would get from me: Unconditional Positive Regard and Relentlessly High Expectations. We care deeply about children at Outwood Primary Academy Lofthouse Gate and we want the very best for them in every aspect of their lives so to this end, we will show them Unconditional Positive Regards. We will ensure every interaction with a child (and between children) is a positive interaction and every conversation is an opportunity for them to learn. We have Relentlessly High Expectations for all our children because we want each and every one of them to be the best they can be and feel that sense of pride when they achieve something they didn't think they could.

We also spoke to the children about the importance of Look Smart; Act Smart; Feel Smart. Pride in their presentation is central to this theme so we ask children to Look Smart (t-shirts tucked in and top button fastened and in correct uniform). When children Look Smart, they Act Smart (sit up straighter in class, the presentation in their books improve, their behaviour and attitudes improve) and when they Act Smart, they Feel Smart - something we want all children to feel.

With this in mind, we ask you to support us as best you can at home and a few reminders on how you can do this are set out overleaf.

### **School Uniform consists of:**

- Purple sweatshirt or cardigan (with Trust logo)
- White polo shirt
- Grey skirt or trousers (**not leggings**)
- Grey socks or tights
- **Black shoes** (not boots or trainers)

The summer uniform consists of a purple dress and white socks or grey shorts and grey socks with black shoes, and may be worn after the Easter holidays until October half term.

If you have any uniform that your children have grown out of, we would welcome any donations towards our Uniform Recycling Point and also for spares when children forget an item of uniform they require for that day.

### **Jewellery:**

A sensible watch can be worn. Smartwatches should not be worn. Fitbits (models that cannot send or receive messages) can be worn.

If any pupil is thinking about having their ears pierced, this should be done at the start of the summer holiday, as no student will be allowed to wear earrings or any other jewellery at any time.

### **Hair and Nail Polish:**

During PE, for safety reasons, children with hair long enough to be fastened back should do so. This will also apply to other activities, such as Food Technology, in respect of food hygiene – to save time, it would help if children came to school with their hair already tied up and it also means it isn't falling in their face when they are trying to work and helps to stop the spread of head lice. Hair accessories can only be worn in the hair and must be black or school purple.

Nail Polish is not to be worn in school.

### **Playtime Snacks**

We welcome children bringing fruit into the academy as a snack at playtime. Children should not bring anything that is in a wrapper or anything that may contain nuts. Children also have access to their water bottles throughout the day. These bottles should not contain juice.

Thank you for your warm welcome and continued support. It has been a pleasure to spend my first full week working alongside your wonderful children - I am incredibly excited about the journey ahead.

Warmest regards,

Matthew Vickers  
Lead Principal