



# NEWSLETTER

DATE 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023



## UP COMING DATES

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - Break up for the summer holidays

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September** - INSET day

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September** - INSET day

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September** - First day back at school. Welcome back!

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October** - Break up for the October half term

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October** - INSET day

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** - Return to school

Please see our website for next year's term dates and INSET days. <https://www.lofthousegate.outwood.co.uk/term-dates-and-closures>

## What a Year, Lofthouse Family!

We cannot quite believe we are coming to the end of another academic year! We are incredibly proud of all our staff, children and families for, as always, coming together as a team. You just need to read our **OUTSTANDING** Ofsted report, scroll through Twitter, look at the newsletters and speak to your child/children to know that high quality learning, Diploma events, a vast range of assemblies, trips, visitors and children's roles have taken place! From everybody at OPA Lofthouse Gate, we wish you all a safe and fun Summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you all back (including our new starters!) on Wednesday, 6th September.

*We are so proud of you*

## Goodbye and Good Luck Year 6!

And we've come to an end of an era Year 6! What a busy and amazing year you have had. We are so proud of each and every one of you and everything you have achieved! Let's make your end of year celebrations one to remember as you raised a very impressive amount money! Parents/carers of Y6, please remember you are invited to the leaver's assembly on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 9.15am. We are sad to see them go, but know they are ready for their next adventure. Everyone at OPALG wishes you all the very best for your time ahead at high school.



## School Transition

Transitioning to a new phase of school can be a difficult time for some. Mentally Healthy Schools have pulled together lots of resources to help prepare children for the change and help them manage and understand their emotions at this time: <https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/moving-up-the-transition-to-secondary-school/>

There are lots of free and low cost enriching activities that are taking place in Wakefield in the Summer holidays. Please see the Wakefield Council website for more information: <https://wakefieldcouncil.coordinate.cloud/>

## IQM Centre of Excellence Award

We are delighted to announce that at our recent annual IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark) review, we have secured the status of Centre of Excellence for another year and have been put forward to be a flagship school in the future. We are very proud of this achievement! "Thank you for an inspirational day visiting your academy. I was so impressed by all the children and staff I met, the beautiful work on display and the way you all work together to help everyone. It was also a privilege to join assembly and hear the amazing renditions of songs from musicals. You must all be very proud of your academy."

## Artist of the Year

Congratulations to all our Artist of the Year finalists - the work was of such a high standard! A special well done to Bethan in Y5 who was Lofthouse Gate's winner. Her work will be displayed at the Hepworth Gallery and on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July where the final Artist of the Year winner will be announced.



## The Lofthouse Team!

Following the class transition letter, you will notice that we are welcoming some new staff members to the Lofthouse team and sadly saying goodbye to others, who are moving to different roles or academies within the Trust. We are also sadly saying goodbye to Mr Brickwood (who is moving to OPA Parkhill), Miss Rogers (who is moving to OPA Greenhill), Miss Bowe and Miss Hudson (who are returning to their teacher coach roles across the Trust) and Miss Pickersgill (who is leaving for maternity leave). We would like to thank them for all they have done at OPA Lofthouse Gate and I'm sure you will join me in wishing them well and a fond farewell. And finally, we say goodbye to Richard Lee who has been an incredible asset to our Academy Council over the years! We are very much looking forward to welcoming a few new and fantastic additions to our staff team.

Mr Ledger is an experienced teacher and will be teaching in Y6 (6L).



Miss Jones is an experienced teacher and will be teaching in Reception alongside Mrs Spencer (RSJ).

Mrs Webb (formally Miss Cooper, who used to work here at OPALG) will be joining us as Vice Principal, alongside Miss Cleasby.

