

11<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### Outwood Academy Easingwold Newsletter

With the Spring term coming to a close and Easter fast approaching, it is a perfect time to share all the good tidings from our academy and keep you up to date with the array of fantastic things that have been happening.

**Examinations:** We have now completed our second successful mock examination period and students in year 10 and 11 have celebrated their successes in their Praise assemblies. Please remember that if your son/daughter is completing an exam this summer there are revision materials and an Easter Revision timetable available on the Outwood Academy Easingwold website to support their revision.

**Charity:** Working with Student Voice, Mr Neary and Mr Garnham have facilitated students in providing a number of charitable events this term. Students have participated in and supported events that have varied from a sponsored row to bake sales and of course the highly popular teacher leg waxing! The cumulative efforts of these events, including those immediately prior to Christmas, have raised a hugely impressive £2,145.70 for a range of charitable organisations including: The Blue Cross, British Heart Foundation, Comic Relief, Dementia UK and the NSPCC. Thank you to all the students involved thus far and everyone's continued support of these worthy and enjoyable events.

**Sixth Form News:** Our year 13 students are fast approaching the end of their schooling and are busily preparing for their examinations and next steps in work and education. We are very impressed by their excellent commitment to their studies and wish them every success in the coming weeks. We are proud to announce that 85% of this current cohort of students have applications for Russell Group universities. Not to miss out on the accolades, several year 12 students recently attended an Oxbridge application workshop. Year 12 have received high praise from staff and students alike for their peer mentoring, these sessions have allowed students to support their younger peers within lessons, the inclusion area, the library and during extra-curricular activities. Our sixth form students have, and continue to be, wonderful advocates for the academy raising the aspirations of our younger students. We are delighted to report two Year 12 students were chosen to represent the academy in the national "Lessons from Auschwitz Project" and residential trip to Poland run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. This Easter there is an amazing Sixth form trip to CERN, Switzerland. We wish all involved a safe journey and a wonderful experience.

**Careers Fair:** On the 26<sup>th</sup> March the academy hosted a Careers Fair for all year groups focussing especially on students in year 9 – 13. Mr Thompson, in collaboration with CareersInc, were very successful in securing a high profile and local further education providers and a good number of career representatives. The number of parents and students that attended was fantastic and there were some excellent conversations during and after the evening. Mr Thompson already has bigger and bolder plans for the next fair!

**Sporting news:** We would like to acknowledge the efforts of all those who have represented the academy in sporting fixtures this term but are unfortunately unable to report on all results. We have achieved many successes across all year groups. Notably the year 7 boys' basketball team won the Hambleton and Richmondshire Basketball Rally and secured 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the North Yorkshire Competition. The same year group displayed further sporting prowess as impressive runners up in the Hambleton and Richmondshire Plate football final. Other successes have included the Year 9/10 Girl's gymnastics team who won the Hambleton and Richmondshire competition. Well done to all students engaging events and activities.

**Creative Arts:** We were extremely proud this term of all those students who performed in the Winter Concert which took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. It was a pleasure to see the students excel in a variety of performances supported by large audiences. Thank you! The Creative Arts department and students have transferred their focus to Oliver! Both evenings the students delivered performances that once again did not disappoint. A highly appreciative audience gave standing ovations with many commenting on the high calibre performances. Thank you to everyone for their support on stage, front of stage and behind stage.

**Staff:** This term we say farewell to Mr Dickinson as our inclusion coordinator, he has worked tirelessly over the short period of time he has been at the academy to implement excellent working practices and strong relationships with students. We welcome to our team Hannah James as Bridge Manager; Mr Price our new Head of Design Technology and Mr Smith our new Head of Computer Science joined us in January. This half term we welcomed Mr Warriner our new DT Technician, Mr Pounder as Science Technician and our new Teaching Assistants Ms Hussain, Ms Myers and Ms Armitage. Finally, we are delighted to have appointed Mr Jennings as Facilities Manager. This term saw the return of Mr Willan from his cycling injury, it is fantastic to have him back in the academy he was much missed during his recovery and it is wonderful to see him now returning to near top fitness!

**Emotional Well Being and Mental Health:** We have recently updated our website to include information, advice and guidance for students and parents who may require a greater understanding of the support available and how to access it. Information is accessible via the information section of our home page. Our Sixth Form guidance programme has raised awareness of emotional well-being, resilience and mindfulness. We have operated a 9 weeks mindfulness programme with a cohort of students that has been well received. Our school Life Coach continues to offer invaluable support to nearly 80 students across all year groups. Year groups taking

summer examinations have received guidance on staying healthy and looking after themselves during exam season with advice on managing workload, time and apprehension. There are guides to further support on our website. Our summer term assembly programme will focus resilience, safety and kindness.

**Friends of Easingwold School:** We would like, once again, to offer our continued thanks to FOES whose fundraising efforts have allowed a number of exciting events to occur in the academy this term such as the whole of year 10 benefitting from a travelling Shakespeare company who delivered an interactive presentation to the entire year group.

We hope this gives a flavour of Easingwold life. Thanks to our fantastic staff, who show huge commitment in driving change and continued improvement across the school. Well done to our students whose curiosity and engagement fills the school. We would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support and useful feedback. It is greatly appreciated. We wish you all a relaxing, safe and enjoyable Easter and look forward to welcoming our students back to the academy on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours faithfully



Lynn James  
Executive Principal



Will Pratt  
Associate Principal