

11 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: Return to school**

I have been delighted to welcome all our students back into the academy and I hope you and your families have had a restful summer break. Our new Year 7 students have settled into the Academy in such a positive manner and it was a delight to see all our Year 7 students looking so wonderful in their new uniforms at the start of term!

**Meet the Tutor - Tuesday 19th September (4:30 - 6:30)**

I would like to invite you to attend our Meet the Tutor event on Tuesday 19th September between 4:30 and 6:30pm. This event will be for students in Y7 only. This evening is the ideal opportunity for you to meet with your child's tutor, ask any questions you have and hear about how they are settling and progressing here at Outwood Academy Acklam. Students have a page in their planner - page 172 - where they can note appointment times. Students need to approach their tutor and agree on an appointment time.

**Schools in the News**

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces are being closed.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this issue, as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal.

We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub at <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/08/31/new-guidance-on-raac-in-education-settings/>

I hope that this offers reassurance.

**Year 7 Events**

Please see below key dates and events during our first term. These dates are detailed below for you and I ask for you to save these dates and look forward to seeing you at our events throughout the year.

Date	Event
18-Sep-2023	Anti-Bullying Awareness Day
19-Sep-2023	Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event
2-Oct-2023	Parent information evening (all year groups)
25-Oct-2023	Year 7 Halloween Disco

<b>26th &amp; 27th Oct 2023</b>	<b>PD Days</b>
<b>30th Oct to 5th Nov '23</b>	<b>October Half Term</b>
<b>22nd Dec '22 to 7th Jan '24</b>	<b>Christmas holiday</b>

### **Year 7 Enrichment**

Enrichment sessions run after school on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Enrichment sessions below are open to Year 7, but not all are exclusive; other year groups may be attending. It is important that for sessions such as Catering (where numbers are limited) that students sign up with their teacher. If students do not get a place this half term, the group will change each half term.

Enrichment sessions will start as of MONDAY 18th September.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Futsal, Athletics, Sewing &amp; Crafting, Match of the Day</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Library Club English, Yin Yoga, Rounders &amp; Cricket, MFL, Maths Masters, Eco Club, Computing, Food Cooking</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Sparx, Drama, MFC Football, Art, History, KS3 Science, MFL</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Multi Sports</b>

### **Free school meals**

I would like to draw to the attention of parents/carers the eligibility criteria for accessing free school meals. As we are beginning a new academy year and the cost of living continues to have an impact on all of us, I am aware people who may previously have not been entitled to free school meals may well be.

Not only does applying for free school meals ensure that children get a hot meal at school it also provides additional funding for school so we can better support our students.

Children may be able to receive free school meals if their parent/carer receives at least one of the following:

- Universal Credit – with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- The Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit – provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'Run On'- paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

### **How to apply?**

You need to complete an online application, via Middlesbrough Local Authority, if you are not currently in receipt of free meals but believe that you qualify. The link is below: [Free School Meals Application](#) - you will need to sign up for a Middlesbrough Council account to do so.

### **Uniform**

Obviously the Academy has provided students with their first full uniform bundle, however, parents may wish to order additional items, or replace items as the year progresses. If there are any issues you require support with in ensuring your child is fully equipped for school please liaise with academy staff. However, should you need further support financially please follow the link to our hardship policy application, which can be found [HERE](#). Should there be any queries regarding our uniform policy please follow the link to policy which can be found [HERE](#).

Thank you in advance for your continuing support of all we do as an academy in our pursuit of supporting all our students to be the best they can be.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Skidmore', written in a cursive style.

Mr Skidmore  
Principal