

4 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we enter the new term I am delighted to be joining the team at Outwood Academy Acklam, as Principal. I will be working with the leadership team to continue the development and improvement of the Academy. I will be leading assemblies this week to introduce myself to the students. The theme for these assemblies, and my personal philosophy, is 'being the best we can be' and I will be discussing what this means with the students.

It has been a pleasure to spend some time in the Academy before the Christmas break, and I am incredibly excited to get started and work with the brilliant students and dedicated staff I have seen already.

I am moving to Acklam, from Outwood Academy Redcar, following a successful period of time as Head of School, in which significant improvements were made and I am happy to be leaving the school in a strong position for the next Head of School, whom you will be familiar with, Mr Lee Johnson. I am sure you join me in wishing Mr Johnson well in his new role at Redcar.

This has resulted in some changes to the Senior Leadership team here at Acklam. The team is now as follows:

Graham Skidmore	Principal
Mark Gray	Vice Principal (Head of Deep Learning)
Tim Bennett	Vice Principal (Head of Deep Support)
Jason Rhodes	Vice Principal (Head of Deep Experience)
Phil Baines	Associate Vice Principal
Emma Bone	Assistant Principal
Kate Mitchell	Assistant Principal
Luke Chapman	Assistant Principal
Emma Jones	Business Manager

Mark Hassack and Steve Merifield will continue to provide Executive Leadership for the academy and work across our eight academies in the northern region.

During this first week back, when there is a staggered return and a mixture of face to face learning in school alongside home learning, it is important that positive learning habits and routines are quickly reformed; my expectations are high and I am keen that the Academy works closely with you to ensure that all students are ready to learn, equipped and dressed appropriately for school. With that in mind, there are some reminders below about standards that we will be insisting upon.

Please could I ask that you are familiar with these expectations and ensure that your child is able to meet our expectations ahead of the new term starting. If there are any issues, questions or concerns, please can I request that you contact your child's Learning Manager in the first instance, so we can support you in ensuring your child will be successful.

Uniform

The following list is the required academy uniform that all students should have:

- Plain white long or short sleeved shirt with a stiff collar.
- Academy trousers or skirt - black. *Note, these should NOT be altered/taken in to give tighter/shorter appearance.*
- Academy clip-on tie.
- Academy blazer - black.
- Plain **black** socks (with trousers only) or min. 40 denier plain black tights (with skirts).
- Plain black shoes - no trainers, boots, pumps or canvas shoes will be allowed.

The following is optional academy uniform:

- Academy V neck jumper - sleeves need to be at full length.

Shirts, Jumpers and Jackets:

- Blazers must be worn with the sleeves down.
- Sleeves on shirts, jumpers or jackets must not be rolled up at any time.
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- Only badges issued by the academy may be worn on jackets. Other badges, e.g. charity badges, must only be on outdoor coats or bags.

Jewellery

No jewellery is allowed except a wrist watch and a Medic Alert necklace or bracelet. Smart watches are not allowed in the Academy. If any student is thinking about having their ears pierced, or any other piercing, 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.

Make-up

Noticeable make-up is not allowed. Any make-up must be discreet. The decision as to what qualifies as discreet rests with the Principal and Executive Principal of the individual Academy. This is not negotiable. False eyelashes are not to be worn and henna is not allowed. Nail varnish of any colour is not allowed.

Shoes

Only plain black shoes are allowed to be worn with the uniform. The shoes should be free from embellishments and decorations. No trainer-like shoes, boots, pumps or canvas shoes (including 'Vans') will be allowed. Heels should be no higher than 2.5cm/1 inch. Students arriving at the Academy not in appropriate footwear will be expected to borrow a pair of shoes from Student Services/Learning Manager.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are not allowed in the academy. If a student has their mobile phone out, they will be expected to hand it to a member of staff.

Planners

All students should have their planner and these will also be checked each morning. If your child needs a new planner, they should see their Learning Manager.

Equipment

As a minimum, students should be arriving at the Academy with a bag, their planner, and basic equipment to be ready in lessons - a pen and pencil.

All aspects listed above are expected to be as described above and where this is not the case, students will be issued with a consequence, for example, a detention, and if student refusal to follow a reasonable request (e.g refusal to wear shoes or borrow uniform) continues, it may result in suspension from the academy.

Thank you for supporting the academy; it is really appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Learning Manager.

I look forward to working closely with you, your child and the staff over the coming months.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GSKM', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Skidmore
Principal