

Summer 2021

outlook

The news magazine of Outwood Family of Schools, Worksop



Introduction from the Principals

Mr Cavill, Principal of Outwood Academy Valley

Summertime is now truly upon us and I'm happy to say we finally appear to be getting back to some kind of normality! It's been yet another unusual year but hopefully the end to the restrictions is in sight. Thank you to you all for ensuring we keep each other as safe as possible in school and in the wider community.

We've recently had 'Mental Health Week' and the 'Connect with Nature' competition. Students and staff have been out and about and have produced some absolutely amazing photographs and prizes were given out for day passes for Clumber Park and Rufford Abbey. Keeping with the theme of mental health, I've also seen some very colourful work produced by students in English lessons and many positive quotes from students in Health and Social Care. Our StudentVoice team also produced a mental health awareness podcast for ValleyFm, which was brilliant. In main reception you can see the Tree of Reflection which connects memories and celebrates achievements, each leaf represents a student's personal contribution, what a powerful symbol this is. Keeping active and talking about feelings with one another has certainly given us all the strength to get through this unusual time.

We have had many things to celebrate over the last few months including the launch of Proud Podium, which has given students the chance to show off their incredible work, at the same time giving inspiration to others. Certificates and rewards have been given to our very deserving EI students, of which there were many. Other celebrations include the promotion of Earth Day by the Eco Committee, World Book Day, Comic Relief, along with lots of different exciting sporting triumphs. The amount of stunning work that has been produced is phenomenal including robots, eyeball cakes and various interesting models - the list is endless. The students at Outwood Academy Valley really do make me proud every single day.

Congratulations must go to our HeppSY+ graduates who were able to take part in a graduation ceremony, which was a well-deserved reward for all their hard work. I can't tell you how excited I am that our Year 8 students will be able to graduate later this year and other events such as StudentVoice Awards and Sports Day should also be taking place too!

I'm delighted to share with you that we have been awarded with the Inclusion Quality Mark Inclusive School Award and some of the wonderful comments received from students by the assessor were that Y7 students 'had settled in well and were enjoying their time at school', students also said that 'they felt they had been well supported and were able to keep up with their work through the online remote lessons'. The students' the assessor met during her visit were 'well motivated and were keen to do well and achieve their very best', which is all we ever ask for.

I'm sad to say that it's that time of year when our Year 11 students are leaving us now to go on to embark upon their chosen post 16 pathways. I would like to wish them all the very best for their future and cannot wait to welcome them back for the celebration Afternoon Tea and look forward to welcoming them back to celebrate all their hard work and commitment on GCSE results day.

Mr Dzoboku, Principal of Outwood Academy Portland

I am proud to say that students at Outwood Academy Portland have had a great year despite all the challenges that they faced due to COVID-19. Students have shown amazing resilience, creativity and dedication throughout the academic year. Hopefully, the lifting of restrictions will enable us to return to some form of normality. As we enjoy warmer days and brighter evenings, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support which has ensured that we have kept each other as safe as possible during this unusual year.

We continue to celebrate our students' achievement on a daily basis through praise cards, praise certificates and praise stickers. The introduction of Cause for Applause, Proud Podium and Thirst for Knowledge Thursdays has led to more students being celebrated for their achievements. The 'Kind Student' initiative has also led to more students being recognized for their Random Acts of Kindness.

Our Year 11 students worked hard throughout the academic year in spite of all the disruptions caused by COVID-19. It was therefore great to see so many of them return for the Year 11 celebration event. The main hall looked amazing and the event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Awards included specific subject awards for the highest achiever, consistent effort and most improved, Learning Manager award and the Principal's award. As they leave us to continue the next stage of their education, I would like to wish them all the best for the future and I look forward to seeing them on GCSE results day.

It was also pleasing and lovely to recognize and celebrate the resilience and hard work of Year 8 students as they graduated into Year 9. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to the graduation ceremony next year.

Some initiatives and events were organized in the course of the year to support students and staff mental wellbeing. These included the Feel-Good Friday quiz, weekly drop-in sessions, Kindness bingo competition and the 'Go Home Laughing' activity during the 'Mental Health Week'. The 'No Screen Time' during the lock down in January, allowed students to take up new hobbies such as cooking, baking, walking, biking and Art. It was amazing to see work produced by students and some parents who got involved. Some students have also been supported through the 'Mental Power' workshops organized by Dr Foljambe from Larwood Surgery. The workshops discussed topics such as, Empathy, How to manage stress and anxiety, Learning about how to recognise if someone has mental health issues, Difference between empathy and sympathy, The signs and symptoms of mental health issues and Coping strategies when I am feeling low, anxious or stressed.

We are looking forward to Sports Day this term and the students are preparing with excitement for the event. Lee Thompson an ex-student of Outwood Academy Portland will be representing Great Britain in the 4 x 400m relay in the Tokyo Olympics. We wish Lee and the Great Britain team all the best in the Olympic Games.



ART BENCH

The Art department at Outwood Academy Portland have been involved in the North Notts 'Journeys' project in association with Wild in Art. Staff and a group of GCSE students in Year 10 have been busy decorating the book bench to create the finished design.

In 2019, schools, colleges and BID members were invited to enter a design competition to win a Book Bench sculpture to decorate with designs inspired by journeys, adventure, freedom and pioneering spirit.

The finished bench is part of the Art trail across the region and you can see the benches on public display in galleries, libraries and other public and cultural venues.

2020 marked the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower setting sail to America and many of the benches including ours, celebrate the regions close links to that journey. Our bench is called 'Reuse the Past, Recycle the Present and Save the Future.' We wanted visitors to the trail to look at the beautiful oceans 400 years ago as represented in our designs and think how we can preserve the world around us for future generations.

If you would like to visit the Art trail, maps can be collected from school or downloaded from the website. You can see our bench on display inside Worksop bus station. Please let us know if you spot it?

<https://www.northnottsjourneys.co.uk/>



EARTH DAY

On Thursday 22nd April 2021, the World celebrated Earth Day. Earth Day is an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22nd, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EarthDay.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.

The theme this year is 'Restore Our Earth' and students at Outwood Academy Valley have played a small part in achieving this by planting wildflowers in their gardens. Geography students also took part in Earth Day themed starters in their lessons, to learn more about Earth Day and how they can play their part in environmental protection.



D OF E PRACTICE WALK

Over a number of weekends groups of students from Year 9 at Outwood Academy Portland have been going out to do an 11km walk in the local countryside to learn to map read and navigate safely.

The students signed up to do their Duke of Edinburgh's bronze award in October 2020 and a number have managed to complete some of the sections for their award already.

The students learn how to use 6 figure grid references in an after school session and then plan a route, at the weekend they then walk this route to ensure they can follow it safely, the plan is for them to do their expeditions in July and September of this year.



Geography Students Get Creative



Students in Year 7 at Outwood Academy Valley were asked to complete a homework task to support their upcoming Praising Stars Assessment, which centred on their current Landforms topic.

Students were given a selection of keywords and asked to create and film a rap, appropriately titled, 'Spit Some Bars'. Miss Kirk and the Geography team were blown away by the amazing effort shown by students and recognised their achievements with a certificate and medal.

1st Place were Ben C and Max B.

2nd Place runners up were Daniel M, Luke A and Charlie P.

3rd Place were Emma D and Yasmine El-K.

Well done!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH ACHIEVEMENTS

The last year or so has been difficult for reasons you do not need to be reminded of, but during this time some of our Year 9 students have shown how resilient they are.

During October 2020 Year 9 were shown a recorded assembly introducing them to the Duke of Edinburgh's award and inviting them to join. Once signed up students attended a meeting in school and started work on the 3 sections they do independently, these are physical, skills and volunteering.

One student Issy J, has completed all 3 sections and only needs to complete her expedition to have completed the award, other students Ava M, Kendy W and Beth H have managed to complete 2 sections, and this has all been done independently with the only guidance being from staff.



MATHS

In February a number of Year 9, 10 and 11 students from Outwood Academy Valley competed in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

There were some amazing results with the following students qualifying for the follow on rounds: Grace W (Y 9), Ruby C (Y 11), Oliver T (Y 11), Matthew D (Y 11), Harvey H (Y 11) and Alysha L (Y 11). Oliver did particularly well in the follow on round and received a Certificate of Merit!

Harvey H. excelled in the challenge and is one of only 120 students across the country to be selected to attend the UKMT Summer School. We would like to congratulate all the students who took part who received a certificate!

LITTER PICKING IN THE COMMUNITY

Every Saturday morning 6 pupils from Year 9 and 10 of Outwood Academy Portland spent an hour out and about around Worksop litter picking and improving the local area.

These individuals are completing their volunteering section for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. The students have shown dedication to the task and have diligently worked to clean up the local area.

The students are

- Lucy S (Yr 10)
- Kendy W (Yr 9)
- Will S (Yr 9)
- Saskia S (Yr 9)
- Sabita P (Yr 9)
- Izzy L (Yr 9)





YEAR 11 LEAVERS' CELEBRATION

On Friday 25th June 2021 we said goodbye to our Year 11 students with a leaver's event in the school hall. It maybe wasn't the prom they had been expecting but hopefully they enjoyed the chance to get dressed up and say goodbye to each other.

The kitchen staff put on a lovely spread which was served by the Year 10 catering students and the Year 10 photography students took pictures of the event, as well as having the hire of a "magic mirror" photo booth.

Speeches were given by Mrs Smith, Mrs Perry, Mrs Ellis and Mr Dzoboku as well as a pre-recorded message from Dr Smith.



Year 11 Message from Ms. Pike


I haven't seen a year group work harder than this one, not only one lockdown but three periods of disruption to their learning and everyday lives. As their learning manager my head was in a full spin trying to keep up with the constant evolving COVID19 restrictions. It's been a privilege to see how adaptable all of the year group became when they rose to the challenges and just got on with it! This is definitely credit and testament to their desire to be as successful as possible.

A few key words and phrases that this year group are going to remember forever have to include: Mask on, Single file, sanitise, it's on the google classroom, mini assessment.

Each and every student will be remembered for the part they played in creating this year group and I can honestly say that I wouldn't change any one of them. Supporting and watching them grow and develop into young people of the future, is by far the best highlight of my role. We are going to have many future teachers, doctors, nurses, architects, service personnel, beauticians, famous footballers and basketball players.

It is fair to say that this year group are going to be missed by everyone, but they will hold a special place in not only mine, but many others' hearts for being, simply, the best!

Best wishes for the future from Ms Pike.



The end of the year at Outwood Academy Valley saw Year 11 students celebrating with a fantastic afternoon tea event, where all students who attended, made an incredible effort with their outfits and looked stunning.

Students were amazed by the decorations and loved using the flower wall as a backdrop to take their final photos with their friends and make magic memories. Thanks to All Occasions for supplying the decorations for the event.

Mr Cavill gave a live farewell speech and was very proud to be wearing his dicky bow to say goodbye and good luck for the future! Several awards were given out to students, with categories ranging from 'most likely to become a millionaire' to the person 'most likely to be the next Prime Minister'. Also included was the King of the year group, which went to Jonathan D'A and the Queen of the year group going to Skye A.

Congratulations to all award winners!
A great time was had by all students and staff!



HeppSY University Graduates

Outwood Academy Valley has been working in partnership with HeppSY and Sheffield University delivering The Scholars Programme.

The programme was delivered over several weeks, where our Year 9 students attended tutorials taught by PhD tutors from University. The students then completed a final assignment which was marked by the University. 16 of our Year 9 students completed assignments and all received A or B grades at an equivalent A level standard.

Extra congratulations to Lily S, Chloe W and Elysia W who received 1st final assignment grades which is equivalent to an A*/A A level.



"When I first started to write up the final essay it was very complicated and I wanted to just give up, especially with the topic being something I have never been interested in, but after I began to write, it became easier. Looking back I am proud of my final grade and quite surprised that I was able to write so much about the difficult topic." - Lily S.

HeppSY Scholars Programme

Outwood Academy Portland students attended a series of lectures delivered by PhD tutors from Sheffield University. They learned all about DNA mapping of zebrafish to a university level. The programme was delivered over several weeks where students attended tutorials with PhD tutors from University. The students then completed a final assignment which was marked by the University.

Feedback received from The Scholars Programme Team

"It was a pleasure to work with the pupils from Outwood Academy Portland during the autumn term"

"This is a fantastic achievement, and we hope that all pupils are all proud of their hard work on the programme"

Elisha M Year 9 said:

When I first started the programme, I thought it was going to be difficult but as I did more tutorials, I understood more of it and the tutor that I had was very thorough in explaining what we had to do. She would also answer any questions any of us would have. Overall, I feel as though being a part of this programme was a very intuitive experience.



Following the January 2021 lockdown, a Student Voice meet was held via Google Classroom to discuss how Outwood Academy Valley could capture and reflect on our experiences of working from home. It just so happened that at the same time, the theme of 'Nature' for Mental Health Awareness week was being promoted on social media and as a collective the Student Team started to formulate ideas centred on this theme.

Cole M in Year 7 took lead on the project and proposed a tree be built and installed in the reception area with each leaf containing a few words of what students' had learnt over lockdown. A Google form was then shared with form tutors which had students submit their experiences of the lockdown and what they learnt as students/individuals.

The responses were overwhelming however 25 answers were selected to feature on the tree. The tree was designed, built and installed by the amazing D & T team and also features sound devices containing audio recordings and soundscape compositions created by the Outwood Academy Valley A-Level Music Technology cohort.

The soundscapes also explore the theme of nature by using sound recordings of Clumber Park and Sherwood Forest which were then processed and edited using audio manipulation software. It just goes to show that big things can happen when students use their voice!

The 'connect with nature' theme in partnership with Rufford Abbey, Clumber Park and Sherwood Pines was a huge hit. It was great to see so many students and staff look after their own mental health and help raise awareness with others. Student Voice at Outwood Academy Valley created a show reel which was shown to all tutors and they decided on the winning entries. The following received either a Rufford Abbey, Clumber Park and Sherwood Pines day pass. Well done!

- Y7 Cole M, Finlay M, Lily J
- Y8 Lilly W, Hermione H, William S
- Y9, Alice M, Andrew F
- Y10 Katie T, Ben C, Harley B
- Y11: Ola M, Skye A, Megan E



In addition students used the stimulus to support in lessons too, some examples from English and health and social care.



UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Eighty of our students in Year 7 and Year 8 at Outwood Academy Portland have taken part in the UKMT junior mathematics challenge. This is a national competition which encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency.

The highest performers in the country are awarded certificates, with us obtaining twelve bronze certificates, nine silver certificates and two gold certificates.

Well done to everyone that achieved one of these awards. Further congratulations are needed for two of our students, Ruben B in Year 7 and Victoria P in Year 8, not only were they the best in their respective year groups they have also scored high enough to move on to the second round. They will both be taking part in the Junior Kangaroo, which is an invitation only event; this is a brilliant achievement and everyone at Outwood Academy Portland is so proud of you.

Alongside their certificates these two students have also been rewarded with an Amazon gift card from Mr Dzoboku.

What an achievement!





Prison Me No Way visited the academy on Monday 26th April 2021. All of the Year 9 students were involved and had a wonderful experience in a range of workshops focussing on the impact of crime. Students got to experience a replica cell from a prison.

The aim of the workshops was to raise awareness amongst our students about the cause, consequences, penalties and impact on crime and hopefully inspiring them to be staying safe and law abiding citizens.

Workshops were delivered by a range of outside providers for example ex prison officers and ex-offenders, fire service and family members affected by criminal activities.

Finally - Back To Sport

Now the lockdown is beginning to be lifted, students at Outwood Academy Valley have been back at their sports!

It has been amazing to see these pictures of them finally getting active again. There are so many students involved in sports outside of school from Dancing, Karate, Horse Riding, Golf and so many more...

If you take part in any sports outside of school send a picture or video to Mrs Wells in the PE department k.wells@valley.outwood.com and look out for them appearing on Twitter and around school.



Former Student, Isaac Brooks, Completes Teacher Training

Former student Isaac Brooks, who attended Portland and then Outwood Academy Portland from 2007 – 2012, has successfully completed his teacher training through the Outwood Institute of Education and Sheffield Hallam University. Following Isaac's time at Portland, he attended Outwood Academy Post 16 Centre Worksop and then the University of Manchester, studying BA (Hons) Geography with International Study, including a year abroad at Arizona State University.

Isaac was a student at Portland when the school was taken over by Outwood Grange Academies Trust, and it was seeing the difference effective leadership can make on student outcomes that inspired Isaac to pursue a career in education. Following a first placement at Outwood Academy Newbold, Isaac joined us in February for his second placement, and under the expert mentorship of teacher of geography, George Robson and the whole Humanities Department, Isaac has been recommended for Qualifying Teacher Status at a high level. Despite securing an ECT role outside the Outwood family, Isaac says he plans to continue to put 'students first' and hopes to provide students with every opportunity available to them in the same way his teachers did with him during his time at Outwood Academy Portland.



Praise for EI Students

168 students at Outwood Academy Valley received all EIs in their Praising Stars this term.

Such a huge achievement and students were recognised with a certificate, EI Superstar pen and a star rubber as a small token of recognition.

Students were also recognised for receiving a Hat Trick, identified as a quantum learner or quintuple champion. This means that during the academic year they have received 3, 4 or 5 Praising Stars cycles with all EIs including Praising Stars 5.

It was such a lovely way to spend break and lunchtime recognising the amazing efforts of our students so far. They should all be very proud!
#ValuedAtValley



The TLS Group support the 'Be More Bailey Foundation'

The Be More Bailey Charitable Foundation was established to promote inclusivity by helping children and young people with disabilities to participate in sport alongside children and young people without disabilities. The charity's primary aim is to encourage and facilitate inclusive participation in triathlon or the individual disciplines of swimming, cycling and running.

The charity's origins date back to 2015 when Bailey M, who currently attends Outwood Academy Valley was thrust into the spotlight after completing the Castle Howard junior triathlon aged just 8 years old. A video of Bailey casting aside his walking frame and crossing the finish line unaided was shared around the world on social media, Bailey's desire to overcome the challenges that his Cerebral Palsy presented earned him further recognition in the form of a Pride of Britain award and the Helen Rollason award at the BBC Sports Personality awards that same year. Bailey's desire to participate in sport was matched by a similar desire to help other children with disabilities experience the physical, mental and emotional benefits that sport offers. The awards and the media attention helped provide the platform for Bailey to launch the charity.

To achieve the charitable aims the charity provides funding in the form of grants towards the purchase of specialist equipment that children and young people with disabilities require to enable them to participate in sport. The charity also provides and is developing inclusive training and event environments where children, regardless of ability, can participate together. Alongside the financial and practical support and opportunities, the charity is also developing a framework to encourage, inspire and motivate children and young people to get involved in and to remain involved with sport and to help coaches and parents to support and motivate the children throughout their sporting life.

Paul Chamley and Mark Midson the serial entrepreneurs and owners of the TLS Group of companies in Retford were proud to present the 'Be More Bailey Foundation' a cheque for the sum of £1,600 after hearing about the charity and wanted to support and be involved. Staff at the company donated varying amounts, some even offered holiday pay to the value of a day for the cause.

Mr. Chamley said "How could we not support such a fantastic cause, as soon as we heard Bailey's story, we just knew we wanted to get involved. What an inspiring young man." The money will go towards helping fund equipment.

