

Autumn 2021

# outlook

The news magazine of Outwood Family of Schools, Worksop







# Introduction from the Principals

## Mr Cavill, Principal of Outwood Academy Valley

I want to start by saying a huge thank you to you all for your continued support in ensuring that we have kept the children and families of our community as safe as possible this year, as the covid pandemic continues. I'm very happy to report that I have lots of exciting things to share with you. Here are just some of the exciting opportunities which our students have had the chance to take part in this term.

The Proud Podium is proving to be a highlight of the week, not just for students but for staff too. We are delighted to have the opportunity to celebrate students' achievements on Fridays, this is exactly what we all come to school for!

The Student Prime Minister elections were very exciting indeed. 7 students in Y11 put themselves forward and delivered brilliant presentations to SLT. The final 4 candidates led assemblies and their own personal campaigns culminating in an election day when all students voted. This was followed by a reveal which was streamed live, so that all could see. James D was successfully elected as our new Student Prime Minister - Good luck to James in representing our students over this next academic year.

We have held Y7 and Y11 Parents Information Evenings where parents and carers were given information on how best to support their child with their education. Thank you to our amazing Creative Performing Arts team who led and supported students in putting on a stunning dramatised display which included acting, dancing, singing, musicians and recognising students in military uniform. The Academy reflected on past events and came together as a community to remember them for Remembrance Day. Students across the school joined together in a 2 minute silence and brought their own marks of remembrance into the academy. As always, this was very moving for us all.

I'm thrilled that The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme is back up and running and 115 students have signed up to this year's award. Our students will benefit immensely from being able to get outdoors, supporting them in taking on their own challenges and discovering new talents they never knew they had.

Students and staff showed their generosity this term by donating 160kg of food items to Bassetlaw Foodbank during the Bassetlaw Food Bank Harvest Festival. I'm sure these donations will be warmly welcomed by the people of the community who need our help. Donations were also made to Macmillan following a staff bake sale, with a grand total of £300, and £100 was very kindly donated by staff to the recent Children in Need appeal.

I would like to say how extremely proud I am of our students and the resilience they show day in and day out, their passion and devotion to learning never ceases to amaze me.

## Mrs Sheehan Principal of Outwood Academy Portland

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Autumn edition of Outlook, our termly magazine that celebrates recent events at the Academy, as well as the individual successes of students in a range of activities.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the students and families that have contributed and continue to contribute to the collection of food for the vulnerable in Worksop during the festive period. The response and desire of the students and parents at Portland to support and help our local community has been amazing.

During this term, we have had many things to celebrate including 'Tea with SLT', our event to celebrate all our students who achieved all EIs in all subjects. Over 100 students attended the event. Other celebrations include the weekly Proud Podium where students show off their amazing work and also inspire others to excel; Praising Stars assemblies, where students in each year group received certificates for their achievements in the various subjects. Our various sports teams also continue to excel in the various competitions that they are involved.

I'm excited to share with you that during this term, we have been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Inclusive School Award and the Bronze Status by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health Award. This is a great achievement for the academy and we are very proud of the effort of students, parents/guardians, governors and staff in achieving these awards.

Within the assessment report for the Carnegie Mental Health Award is glowing praise of the academy's work in forging strong relationships between staff, students, and the wider community. It stated: "The school has strong relationships with parents and as far as possible operates an open-door policy and works hard to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for parents".

The academy's 'embedded praise culture' was only spoken of positively in the Inclusion Quality Mark report: "All positives are celebrated with parents and carers using the school's messaging system, social media, letters, and postcards home. During the assessment process, the prevalence of praise and rewards were mentioned by everyone spoken to and it is clearly an area of strength. The students, families and staff value the praise culture."

The amazing work of the students and staff is what makes Outwood Academy Portland the special place it is, and the support from families is something we are always very grateful for.





# Reading Rewards Prize Winner Announced

In June 2021 Outwood Academy Portland celebrated the reading rewards scheme with students attempting to 'read their way around the world'. Two students succeeded in reading their way around the whole globe, reading over 7,000 pages in Year 7.

Over 170 students won a total of 468 prizes and made themselves eligible for the prize draw which was won by Alexis H Year 8. The grand prize was an iPad – well done, Alexis!

Watch this space this year for more prizes, more competitions and more opportunities to get involved in reading.



## Tea with SLT

Students at Outwood Academy Portland had the opportunity of having Tea with SLT on Friday 12th November 2021. A selection of our star students, any students with all EIs on their Praising Stars I, were invited to the exclusive event with a buffet meal, board games, music and chat.

Students really enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate their success and progress at school with their peers and their teachers and we look forward to seeing even more students when it comes to Tea with SLT next Praising Stars cycle.



## Children's Book Week & National Poetry day

Children's Book Week at Outwood Academy Valley was supported by students and staff reading their favourite books and was shared by the Trust and National Poetry Day, which this year was celebrated on October 7th 2021. Its theme, "Choices", was recognised with the Worksop Guardian covering the event. Grainne G in Year 7 composed the winning poem entitled "Worksop". Many congratulations to all that took part, the poetry you created was outstanding.





# The Paper Birds Event

The Paper Birds Theatre Company visited Outwood Academy Valley to perform 'Broke'. Afterwards there was a Q&A session with the performers, during which KS3 and KS4 drama students got to pose questions to them such as 'What is it like to be an actor?', 'How do you feel performing in front of people?' and 'Where to begin in the acting industry?'

As part of the performing arts course, students are required to watch professional performances and create a report on it. Getting to the theatre has been tricky recently due to the pandemic, so we decided to bring the theatre to us. OAV hosted students from across the southern region of the Trust, and every student was a credit to their school.

The play was about Sally who is British and broke. The premise of Broke was: If Britain owes over £900 billion in National debt and Sally has been on minimum wage for most of her working life with the interest on her debt being equal to her monthly outgoings, then who is more broke, Britain or Sally? Based on interviews taken across the UK in 2014, multi award winners The Paper Birds explore, with real life stories from the front line of poverty and debt, what it means to be broke in this visually stunning new production. A heartfelt and urgent look at the debt of a nation from displaced families and gambling addictions to beans on toast.



## THE GREAT PORTLAND BAKE OFF

On Tuesday 28th September 2021, staff at Outwood Academy Portland once again hosted The Great Portland Bake Off, a chance for staff to get their aprons on and bake their showstopper in the hope of winning a signed copy of Happy Cooking by Candice Brown and to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

All the tasty bakes were made by staff at the Academy and the Principal, Mr Dzoboku, got to take on the role of head judge to award the winner the prize and title of Star Baker. The donations made by staff led to the academy raising over £260.00 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Macmillan Cancer Support provides support to people affected by cancer, helping with specialist health care, information, and financial aspect as well as the social, practical, and emotional impact that cancer can bring.

The Great Portland Bake Off Star Baker was our head of history, Mrs Lakin, with a delicious vanilla sponge covered with butter cream and decorated with chocolate fingers.

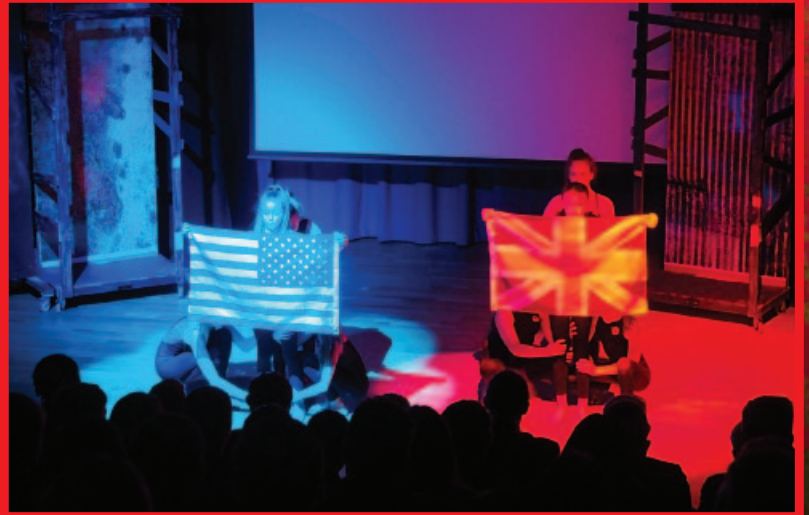




# REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY

Every year the staff and students at Outwood Academy Valley unite to make sure that no-one is forgotten and to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom. Last year at Outwood Academy Valley and around the world, annual events and celebrations have been hugely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, we now find ourselves able to return to our traditions and this was fantastically demonstrated on the 11th November 2021.



Over eighty students worked tirelessly over four weeks to perfect the academy's Remembrance Day production. On the day, the incredible cast performed an incredible six times to allow each year group to watch the performance, as well as a performance for families. There was breath taking music and the pupils were fortunate enough to enjoy magical dance routines, as elegant as swans. Brilliant quotes and poems were read and acted



out by the drama team, who outdid themselves. As a whole, the show was mesmerising, and yet, with a heart breaking, melancholic tone. Fallen soldiers would most definitely be proud if they had witnessed it.

Mrs Tyrell, who is responsible for the music aspect of the production said:


"The performances have been incredible and it's really exciting to get a chance to perform to an audience after so long." Hermione H Year 9, who was part of the show, said "I think we've all performed well and we have put so much effort in, to really show respect to fallen soldiers and victims of conflict and terrorism." Lewis K in Year 9, said "Remembrance Day means peace, to me, and remembering those who sacrificed themselves." Keeping their admirable posture for hours on end were the cadets. One of them, Rylan T in Year 9, told us "I feel really good and proud about myself and the team."

The day was most definitely a momentous one. Everyone was impressed by the sheer beauty and professionalism. Lest we forget.

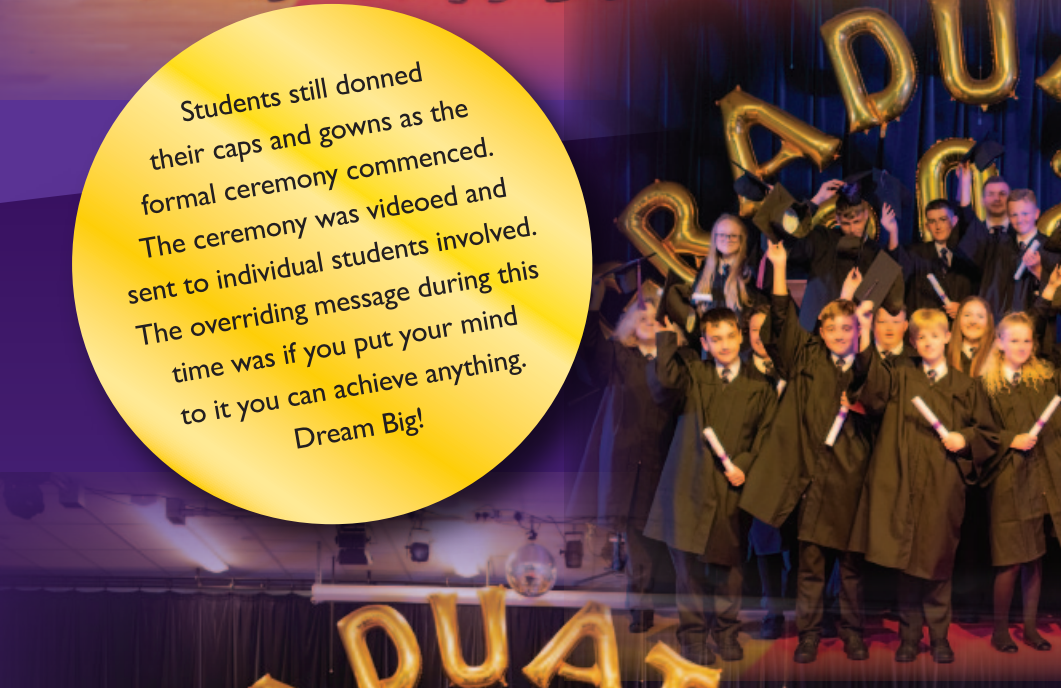





# YEAR 8 GRADUATION



June 2021. Due to Covid restrictions the Year 8 graduation ceremony was done in a slightly different style as unfortunately we couldn't invite parents in to see the ceremony. Year 8s graduated over 3 days on Monday 28th June through to Wednesday 30th June 2021.



Students still donned their caps and gowns as the formal ceremony commenced. The ceremony was videoed and sent to individual students involved. The overriding message during this time was if you put your mind to it you can achieve anything. Dream Big!



Mr Dzoboku gave a speech to all the students and then they were invited one by one up to the stage to receive their scroll.

Massive thanks to Mr Ruddlesdin and Miss McGill for organising the ceremony.



# Student Voice Prime Minister Elections

Wednesday 3rd of November 2021 saw over one thousand students at Outwood Academy Valley take to the polling booths to vote in their new Student Voice Prime Minister. Some candidates suggested hoodies to keep themselves toasty during the winter PE months, others were keen to see a change to the options in the canteen's cuisine. Although everyone was heavily occupied with casting their vote, the Student Voice Publicity and Journalism team managed to get some interesting quotes from many of the teachers and candidates. Our first question was whether they valued how imperative a Student PM is. Promise O in Y8 responded with, "A student Prime Minister allows other pupils to get their opinions heard" whilst Ashton H from Year 7 said: "Today is important because a PM is vital to running the academy."



What the candidates had to say:

Issy SYII: "I have a well-rounded view of the school, I have participated in CPA, music and PE competitions. I want emphasis on all subjects, not just academics."

James DYII: "More down to earth: I can understand others the best."

Ben C and Sam W in Year II were both feeling mixed emotions as they encouraged their peers to vote for them by the booths - they were each to win, but very supportive of their fellow candidates.

The day came to an exciting close with A-Level Politics students counting the 1,500 votes to determine our new Student Prime Minister. On Thursday 4th November 2021 the results were declared on a live Google Meet to the whole academy - James D was voted in as Student Voice Prime Minister for 2021-22. James will be assisted by three deputies: Ben C, Sam W and Issy S. Although, James was the successful candidate, everyone who stood for election was a winner. Congratulations to James and well done to the entire team. Now the hard work begins.

# Student Parliament Election



In the final weeks of this first half term, students in Year 7 to Year 11 at Outwood Academy Portland bravely campaigned to be elected this year's Student Parliament Prime Minister. Nominees shared their fantastic ideas for moving the school forwards via video on the Tutor Portal giving all voters the chance to make an informed decision.



When the big day came, the main hall was transformed into a Polling Station with the help of some handy student volunteers. There were genuine polling booths, signs and ballot boxes kindly loaned to the academy by Bassetlaw Council. It was extremely exciting for staff to be able to answer students' questions about democracy and how British general elections work. Voting lasted all day and the count was extremely tense, it was so close that there were several recounts! Finally, we had a winner!



The results were announced via video at the end of Period 5 on the last Friday of term and every class across the school watched with excitement. It was a DRAW!



However, the British electoral system has a solution for that, "Flip a coin". Mr Dzoboku did the honours and students across the school watched as the winner was decided on video. Rakitha S in Year 9 won the toss, and was announced as our new Student Parliament Prime Minister. He has already taken brilliantly to the role, leading meetings and sharing video announcements with the student body in tutor. His team have just launched their 'Kindness before Christmas' campaign and have already rallied a lot of support from students.

Well done Rakitha and the team!



# Sports Roundup

The students and the PE department at Outwood Academy Portland have been very busy again this term. Here is a brief roundup of their fixtures.

Well done to our amazing Year 8 football team against Quarrydale school.



Year 9&10 girls football team made a fantastic effort against Rushcliffe. Well done!

Anna M in Y11 got 1st place in the Nottinghamshire County Cross Country league out of approximately 60 runners. We are very proud of you well done!



Year 9 football team put in an amazing effort against Kimberly.



Year 9 girls football team played Ashfield in the County cup and won 4-2 and then went on to beat Magnus Academy 7-0. Well done!



Year 10 football team beat Rawmarsh school 5-0 and then went on to play Tuxford school. They were 2-0 down in the first 7 minutes but made a fantastic comeback to win 4-2. Well done lads!



The Year 10 netball team went to the Nottinghamshire schools Netball competition. They lost in the first round but in the 2nd round they won all of their matches. The final game was very close but the girls showed determination and grit and went on to win 6-5. Well done girls!





# Praise for E1 students

A total of 244 students at Outwood Academy Valley achieved all E1s in Praising Stars 1 this term, which is absolutely amazing! Year 7 had a total of 57 students, Year 8 had 36, Year 9 had 41, Year 10 had 52 and Year 11 had 58 students. What an amazing start to the year!  
#ValuedAtValley



## The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Everyone was so proud of the Year 10 Performing Arts students at Outwood Academy Valley when they performed extracts from *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* on 18th November 2021. Due to the pandemic the Creative Performing Arts department hasn't been able to put on any shows or events, so everyone involved was thrilled to be back performing again.





# London Art Galleries Trip

On Tuesday 16th November 2021 ninety students from Year 10 and 11 at Outwood Academy Valley, who study art and photography visited central London as an opportunity to produce their own art work and to visit the globally significant art galleries at the National Gallery.

Initially at Paternoster Square, to the rear of St Paul's cathedral, photographers were challenged to capture aspects of London life; people at work, architecture, transportation and tourists. Artists on the other hand were issued with mini sketchbooks and had the opportunity to draw architectural details, structures and panoramic views. The South Bank is a dynamic area at the heart of London's cultural scene and a short walk across Millennium Bridge. Views from the bridge offered another great photo opportunity down the Thames toward Tower Bridge and other great modern skyscrapers like the Shard, Gherkin and the Radio. A picnic lunch at Tate Modern led to the next opportunity to create art along the South Bank area; from The Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (in the style of Elizabethan architecture), past the National Theatre (a huge concrete megastructure) to the Underbanks Skate Park with its walls full of urban graffiti and the challenge of photographing fast action skateboarders.

Walking along from Westminster to Trafalgar Square provided more drawing and photographic highlights; students having an artistic focus now on shape, light and colour as the afternoon sun set. Highlights included the unveiled clock face on Big Ben/Queen Elizabeth Tower at Parliament, the National Cenotaph still adorned with poppy wreaths from Remembrance Sunday, 10 Downing Street and the Horse Guards at attention. We reached the National Gallery before peak traffic rush hour and it was an oasis of calm in the centre of Trafalgar Square amongst the majestic lions.

Inside the National Gallery students could photograph and draw from the national collection of Old Masters; from Caravaggio to Van Gogh.

Well done to all the hard working GCSE artists and photographers and ten staff without whom the trip would not have been possible.





# Nusic School Tour

On Tuesday 16th November 2021 the hall was alive with the sound of Nusic at Outwood Academy Valley. It's not a typo - the N in Nusic is down to the group being based in Nottingham.

Year 8 students were treated to performances by Rob Green and Chloe Rodgers, who run the group and tour around schools in Nottinghamshire. With musicians as their focus, they support young people in Nottinghamshire with aspirations in the creative industries.

Rob Green has also performed at Glastonbury, so it was a real treat for the Year 8s in attendance.

The arts are back with a bang at Outwood Academy Valley this year, and this event was no exception.



# PUDSEY PROUD PODIUM FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

The Proud Podium at Outwood Academy Valley has become a Friday tradition, where students from all year groups bring some work they are really proud of to display to the whole school.

Friday the 19th of November 2021 was a Pudsey Proud Podium, in aid of Children in Need. For every piece of work displayed, £1 would be donated by the Senior Leadership Team to Children in Need. Over £100 was donated to the wonderful charity.

Great job, everyone!





# North Star science visit

On Wednesday 24th November 2021 11 Year 9 students and 2 teachers visited Gulliver's Valley in Sheffield to take part in the North star STEAM event.

They were greeted and sent off to two workshops, one with the Royal Navy where they learnt how to build circuits and pneumatic systems and about life on board a nuclear submarine and also how to program a device to move around a space without crashing into the walls. Workshop 2 involved information from Barratt homes on how to build a carbon zero house via the medium of a game, students then got to model hard hats and high viz jackets and ask any questions they might have. The team, including Gabriel S, Jayden R, Skye M, Masie M and Savannah B beat the previous fastest time at the challenge by almost a minute.



The next event was the much anticipated talk from Brian Cox, he entered the room via a zoom call and described the wonders of the Universe as well as answering some questions from the audience. There were another 2 talks before lunch from people who work within STEAM areas detailing what kinds of things they do in their work.

After lunch was the squashed tomatoes challenge, in 2 minutes the group, which included Diane W, Gabriel H, Maisie M and Gabriel S managed to successfully transport 141 tomatoes across the valley safely. This meant they won the overall competition.

The last activity of the day was building bricks with STEM students from Wales High School, we were told we had made the most bricks of any of the other groups so far. Gabriel H was given a special mention for the number of bricks he managed to create and Diane W won the Amazon gift card for the best brick.

All students were absolute stars throughout the whole day and made the school proud.

