

Ref: ABR/TKE/Parent/CarerEOT/56P

21st December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this letter finds you well and that your preparations for Christmas are well underway. Today we break up for the Christmas break at 2.30pm.

Since the academy Christmas tree went up at the start of this month we've enjoyed an array of festive themed events. Students who are taking GCSE Music performed a Festive Concert for our Year 3 students from Outwood Junior Academy Brumby, where they were entertained by some extremely talented students. On Tuesday our Year 11 students were entertained by the Initiate Theatre Group with the performance of the Christmas Carol and then on Wednesday we had the academy Christmas dinner.

We have been extremely proud of how Year 11 completed their mock exams and their ongoing commitment to GCSE preparation and revision. With just 71 days from January until the summer examinations they are working very hard in their lessons and engaging with additional study and revision associated with exceptional outcomes.

During the final week before the Christmas break we hosted our Praising Stars assemblies. This has become a highlight in the calendar. Each half-term students receive their Praising Stars certificates and celebrate their effort and predictions, and are rightfully rewarded. I hope that you're able to share these celebrations at home as they bring to you their certificates or you access via the new Outwood parent portal on your mobile devices.

We are always proud of our students, your children, but at several points this term there have been points where their maturity and character has really shone through. A well deserved mention is our Student Parliament who hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning for students and staff to raise money for Cancer Research.

Education and learning has extended outside of the classroom. We have seen a big uplift in the numbers of students attending enrichment activities beyond 14:30, and the new calendar of clubs and activities will be coming out to you in readiness for January 2024. Students have successfully competed in sporting fixtures and we've many future superstars and champions in a range of sports, some already competing at international levels.

This year we introduced our very first BIOSH (Brumby Inclusion One-Stop Shop) where agencies attended for parents/carers to chat with to find out what support that they may be able to access. We felt that the parents/carers who attended left with a mountain of information that we will be holding another one next year. Details will be shared closer to the event.

I expect next term will be as equally busy and rewarding as this term and I look forward to again welcoming parents and carers into the academy to share the progress of students. This term we welcomed many of you through transition & exam preparation evenings and parents evening. Next term we'll be hosting the year 9 guided pathways evening on Tuesday 9th January.

The Christmas break for many is time to relax and spend time with family and friends, but we also want to ensure everyone has access to support services should anyone have concerns for a young person and you can access support via <https://mentalwellbeing.outwood.com/>

We return to the academy on Monday 8th January, with students as always on site by 8.15am. I am sure you will support us in ensuring that students return for a positive new year, prepared and ready for learning.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year from us all at the academy.

Yours faithfully



Amber Bradley
Head of School