



December 2021

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Dear Parent/Carer

**Principal:** Mrs Samantha Broome

## **End of term celebrations and New Year update**

As we reach the end of our first term, I am delighted to be able to share with you some of this term's highlights and most recent positive recognition celebrations alongside some updates for the New Year. I want to begin my communication by thanking all parents and carers for their continued support despite the on-going difficulties presented by the pandemic. I hope you enjoy reading about this term's highlights as much as I have enjoyed seeing our pupils participate in them.

### **Celebrating our pupils**

#### **Above and Beyond recognition**

This term our teachers have sent home over 9000 positive messages to parents/carers through our MCAS system and I am incredibly proud of our pupils for the efforts they have put into their learning to warrant this recognition.

#### **Ossy's observations – sharing the best in learning via our Student SharePoint platform**

Academy leaders have been able to capture the fantastic work of our young people across the course of this term and share some examples of this via our Student SharePoint platform. Over a hundred pupils have had their work showcased to others and once again I am incredibly proud of the efforts of our pupils and students. Thank you to all pupils and students who allowed us to share their work. We hope you are as proud as we are and that you got the chance to see your work on SharePoint this term.

#### **Pre Public Examinations for Year 11 and 13**

This term our pupils/students in Year 11 and 13 have sat a full suite of pre public examinations to help them prepare for the real thing in summer. The maturity and manner in which our pupils/students approached these examinations was superb. We hope the PPEs gave our Year 11 and 13 pupils/students an opportunity to experience the process of formal examinations. I hope the feedback from their teachers gives our pupils/students an excellent platform to push forward again with their learning and revision next term.

#### **End of term positive recognition**

During the final two weeks of this term, we have been able to celebrate our pupils through a variety of positive recognition events. Each Year group held their own celebratory event and individuals have been recognised for their academy contributions. In addition to this, we have held our own 'Challenge cup' of inter-form activities and it has been fantastic to see so many of our pupils supporting their form groups to collect points by engaging in our daily challenges. Thank

you to everyone who got involved. I look forward to seeing the winning forms receive their reward this afternoon.

### **Extracurricular/Sporting Fixtures Information**

We currently have lots of pupils that regularly attend a broad range of extracurricular clubs on a weekly basis. We have seen remarkable success and enjoyment through attending 40+ sporting fixtures this term.

The Year 9 Boys football team have recently won the Wakefield schools 5 aside tournament. The tournament hosted 16 different schools and provided the opportunity for around 700+ students to play in, enjoy and experience a football tournament. Our Year 9 boys have also competed in an enthralling run of games to be announced as the County Cup Champions. The Year 7 team reached the semi-finals and the Year 8's reached the quarter finals of this competition. This is a tremendous achievement for our young people. To add to our sporting successes, The Accord Sixth Form Football team are now in the last 16 for the English Schools FA Cup. They face their next opponents at Sunderland.

Our sporting successes have not been solely limited to football and we have also experienced a high level of success this term in a number of other sports. Our Year 10 Girls rugby team have made it through to the second round of the Championship Schools Rugby Competition and the Year 10 boys have started their season undefeated. The girls netball teams are dominating leagues with the Year 7,8 and 10's winning all of their league games to date. The Year 7 girls football team came runners up in the Wakefield schools 5 aside tournament.

I would like to congratulate all of our pupils who have engaged in extra-curricular activities this term. It is fantastic to see so many pupils getting involved and being so successful.

### **Fundraising efforts**

Our pupils and students (with the support of their parents and carers) have been able to support the academy in its fundraising efforts this term. As an academy we managed to raise almost £900 in support of Children in Need and a further £1400 from our Christmas Jumper day and Carol Concert. Further to this, we have managed to raise over £300 in support of our local foodbank thanks to your generous donations. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fund-raising efforts. Your support and generosity are very much appreciated.

### **Our Christmas Carol Concert**

I was delighted we were able to go ahead with our Christmas Carol Concert (albeit with coronavirus restrictions) this year. I am hopeful our carol concert represents Ossett Academy's first musical performance of many and that over the coming year our young musicians can come back stronger than ever before. Thank you to all our pupils and students involved in the concert and to Mr Delaney, Mr Littlewood and Mr Cooper for bringing some musical magic back to Ossett Academy.

### **Trust newsletter**

I would like to signpost all parents and carers to our trust newsletter. This can be found by following the link shown <https://accordmat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/accord-Annual-Report-2021-Digital-1-2.pdf>

## **New Year updates**

### **Christmas Closure**

The academy will be maintaining its normal curriculum for pupils until the end of the day today **Friday 17 December 2021**. Following the Christmas break, the academy will reopen to pupils for the Spring Term in line with our revised January re-opening letter sent on 15 December 2021.

### **Upcoming dates for your diary**

- Friday 17 December 2021 - Christmas Break
- Tuesday 4 January 2022 - Academy re-opens with on site testing for those who have requested it and for Year 11 and 13 only from 10am for face to face lessons. All other Year groups should participate in on line learning via teams
- Wednesday 5 January 2022 - Academy fully re-opens to all pupils and students at the normal time
- Thursday 27 January 2022 - Parent Forum (now being held half-termly)
- Thursday 17 February 2022 - Half Term
- Monday 28 February 2022 - Academy re-opens
- Tuesday 5 April 2022 - Parent Forum
- Friday 8 April 2022 - Easter Break
- Monday 25 April 2022 - Academy re-opens

### **Coronavirus case management and risk mitigations**

As I am sure you are aware, the coronavirus national guidance remains under constant review by the government. Currently, it is our expectation and hope that the academy will open to Year 11 and Year 13 only on Tuesday 4 January 2022 at 10 am. All other pupils/students will work online on Tuesday 4 January 2022 from 10 am. All pupils and students will then be back to normal on Wednesday 5 January 2022 at their usual starting times. Should there be any changes to this the academy will make contact with you via our usual channels.

In the meantime, it is our recommendation that all pupils and students continue to test regularly during the Christmas break especially prior to our return in January 2022. Pupils and students should only return to the academy in the New Year, if they are free from coronavirus symptoms and have tested negative on an LFD. For the most up to date Coronavirus guidance please follow the link shown at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

### **Academy Uniform**

As we return to the academy in January colleagues will continue to make daily checks on pupils' uniform. It is important that our pupils return to the academy in the correct uniform (including appropriate footwear). As we return to the academy in January, it is my full expectation that all pupils attend wearing the correct uniform.

Further to this, I would also like to stress to pupils and parents/carers that pupils must not return to the academy wearing jewellery or having had any piercings that are not able to be removed. Additionally, the wearing of false nails or false eyelashes, fake tan and excessive make up is also not allowed. Where pupils are found to be in breach of these standards appropriate sanctions will be put in place. I would kindly request that all parents/carers support the academy in ensuring our

standards for success are adhered to. If you require any further details regarding this please refer to our website <https://ossett.accordmat.org/parents-carers/uniform/>

## **Pupil Attendance**

It is our expectation that all pupils and students will return to the academy following the Christmas break as outlined in the letter I shared yesterday, unless they are not well enough to do so or are subject to self-isolation due to coronavirus. Where you need to report your child's absence, please use our dedicated attendance phone line 01924 232832. Remember to include your child's full name on the message and the reason for the absence.

## **Adverse Weather Conditions**

As we move into the winter months, I wanted to ensure all parents/carers understand our academy closure procedures. Whilst we would always try to remain open to pupils and staff sometimes adverse weather conditions make this impossible. This is due to the nature of our academy site which can become treacherous during significant periods of snow and cold temperatures. This can present a risk to the safety of pupils and staff. In the event of a closure for pupils, we will communicate our intentions via our text messaging service, MCAS, the academy website, Facebook and Twitter, as well as providing updates on Greatest Hits Radio West Yorkshire & Pulse 1. All pupils will be able to access work remotely via Microsoft Teams with information regarding their learning being shared with pupils via our Accord SharePoint platform.

Given the reduced temperatures, it is also important that pupils arrive to the academy suitably equipped for any cold and/or severe weather. As parents/carers and pupils are aware, our coronavirus risk assessment states that we need to continue to maintain a good circulation of fresh air into all buildings and classrooms. Pupils are encouraged to continue to wear layers when and where possible as well as ensuring they have the following items including a coat, their blazer and where necessary an academy jumper, with a reminder that hoodies are not an acceptable form of uniform and are not sufficient to protect pupils from adverse weather. In all indoor areas pupils are required to remove their coats and outerwear.

## **Support for Families over the Festive Period**

As the majority of staff, pupils, parents and carers look forward to the Christmas break, I understand that the holiday season can present a real challenge for some of our pupils and their families. As such please find attached a list of useful telephone numbers, websites and points of contact should you require them over the holiday period. I hope these services are able to provide you with the support you may need, should you wish to make contact with them.

All that remains for me to say is on behalf of the academy, I wish all our pupils and their families a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year. I very much look forward to welcoming all our young people back to the academy in the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Broome  
Principal

## **Useful Numbers for Families over Christmas**

### **Child line**

Support and advice for children online and over the phone. 0800 1111 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk).

### **Citizen's Advice**

An independent, local charity which offers free, confidential and impartial advice to the citizens of the Wakefield District for a wide range of issues e.g. housing, debt, family, employment... For telephone advice or for an appointment please call the advice line 03444 111 444 – Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm.

### **Kooth**

Free, safe and anonymous online mental health support for young people <https://kooth.com/>.

### **Inspiring Futures (Young Persons, Families and Carers Service)**

A substance and alcohol misuse service for young people, providing free and confidential service to young people, families, friends and significant others that are residents in the Wakefield District. Tel: 0300 123 1912

<https://www.turning-point.co.uk/services/wakefield#about>

### **Star Bereavement & Support Service**

Emotional and practical support to children and young people aged 4 – 18 who live in the Wakefield District and have suffered bereavement or significant loss. 01924 787384. <https://starbereavement.org.uk/support/>

### **The resource food bank (Christ Church Ossett)**

This operates on a referral basis from Job Centres, Social Services, Local Authority Crisis Units, Schools and Children's Centres, Homeless Shelters and Benefit Centres, Refuges and Vulnerable adult organisations. For further information contact 01924 263311 or [christchurchsouthossett@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchsouthossett@gmail.com).

### **Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service**

Support is available for people who are experiencing abuse, and also for those who recognise that they are using abusive behaviours and want to make changes. Tel: 0800 915 1561 or <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/health-care-and-advice/adults-and-older-people-services/domestic-abuse>

### **Worried About a Child?**

If you have concerns about a child's safety or well-being you should contact Social Care Direct free on 0345 8503 503. They will deal with your concerns and can offer advice and support on what to do.