

February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Please find enclosed the latest Praising Stars report for your child.

If you have any questions about the report, please contact your child's Learning Manager who will be happy to discuss these with you.

Lessons

Pupils have continued to show great resilience and adaptability in dealing with the evolving learning environment implemented to respond to the pandemic. The wide range of live lessons have been well received and pupils have risen to the challenges of home learning. We will be continuing to celebrate and recognise the students' hard work and commitment to their learning. For the Praising Stars 3 awards, staff will be selecting students within their departments that have been working hard and showing great resilience during these strange and difficult times. Successful students will receive a certificate of recognition and a small token of appreciation.

Keep an eye out for Members of SLT and Learning Managers who will be making some surprise visits into live lessons on Friday afternoons to award the Learning Star of the Week.

You have probably seen on our social media pages the wonderful showcase of pupils' work every week for PROUD Thursday. We have been delighted by the number of submissions we receive on a weekly basis. It is a real privilege to receive these amazing submissions and admire the pupils' commitment and talents.

The Brilliant Club

Twelve Year 9 students at Carlton are taking part in the universities' Scholars Programme called 'The Brilliant Club'. And that is just what they are - brilliant! Their contribution and level of work so far has been of a very high standard and they have been commended by the tutor. They have 6 tutorials, one a week, with a University of Sheffield PhD Tutor and have to complete an assignment after each one. This builds up to a mini dissertation of 2,000 words at the end of the programme. The project, called 'Who needs Dirt?', is focusing on *Soil Science* and *Pollution* and all the work is pitched at a level above their year group.

Congratulations to the students so far. They have made an excellent start in learning about the importance of soil in our everyday lives from cultivating food and providing pharmaceutical resources to climate regulation.

Future Fit

We are delighted to announce that Outwood Grange Academies Trust is introducing the new "FutureFIT" programme to our secondary schools, as part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring your child is supported and prepared in considering their future education and career pathways. The FutureFIT programme is designed to meet the challenges of delivering impactful and authentic future learning and career insights in the school curriculum, while maintaining a focus on national curriculum learning outcomes. FutureFIT is a series of video resources that will help students to link the knowledge and skills they are learning in the classroom to future learning and employment opportunities. The FutureFIT programme brings a fantastic range of contributors from industry and higher education to talk about their experience and careers, to inspire and empower our students on their career journey. The FutureFIT programme will be launched in lessons after the Easter holiday.

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.



National Apprenticeship Week- 8th February 2021

If you are interested in apprenticeships please register to take part in the national apprenticeship virtual show. Please register using the link below:

<https://nas.vfairs.com/>

Positive Mental Health

We encourage our students at our OACa to talk openly about their mental health. Wellbeing forms an important part of maintaining positive mental health. Here are a few ideas on how you can support your child and yourself over the next few weeks:

Routine: Having a routine is critical, it frees the mind for creativity.

It may seem that routine is mundane, repetitive - even boring at times but actually having a routine helps us focus on other important tasks such as remote learning/working from home. Try to build some wellbeing strategies into your routine, make it a habit. Look after your bodies and mind - Walk your way to happiness, watch nature programmes or even better, get outside and look for signs of spring!

Screen Time

Taking time away from screens is vital. We know this can be challenging when we are all using them for work and home learning. Try to make some downtime away from screens as part of your routine.

We may be having to work harder at looking after our mental health and wellbeing right now, here are some useful links if you need further support:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/youth-mental-health/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/>

<https://www.themix.org.uk/your-body/sleeping>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Yours faithfully



P Haynes
Principal