

ADB/kb  
 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### Return to School September 2023

Welcome back after the summer holidays and thank you for getting your sons and daughters ready and back to school; they look very smart, and we are all raring to go. I would like to share with you the key messages we have shared with pupils as we start the new year.

We know that the weather is going to be warm this coming week. However, we have made the decision that pupils must still bring their blazers to school. In essence many parents will have spent a lot of money getting new uniform for their children and it does not seem right to immediately say there is no need to bring it to school. We also have our school photographs starting this week and into next week and pupils will need to wear their full uniform for these. The first week is also our opportunity to identify and remedy any uniform issues, an amnesty week of sorts, ready for the rest of the term and year ahead. What we have said to the pupils is they can take their blazers off in lessons and indeed if they are walking around the school. We have just asked them not to screw them up and shove into the bottom of their bags, again in view of the school photographs being imminent. We will continue to monitor the situation.

We have also discussed the experiences curriculum and the opportunities that will be on offer to pupils as the year progresses. We shall publish these on the website in the coming weeks as the timetables for extra-curricular activities for example is finalised. As communicated last year we have also amended our trips and visits policy so that where pupils are unsuccessful in gaining a place on a trip they will be prioritised for a future trip. We also look forward to the production of Les Misérables this year and seeing the large numbers of staff and pupils working together.

We also looked back, as we do every September, at the summer exam results and the correlation between the progress pupils make with their attendance at school and their behaviour whilst they are here. The following slide was shown to the pupils:

Key Stage 4 – Attendance & Behaviour						
	Name	Average Grade	P8	Total Achievement Points	Total Behaviour Points	% Attendance
1		7.3	2.969	180	0	99.4
2		7.6	2.866	114	0	100
3		7	2.669	107	1	96.4
4		8.6	2.616	46	0	99.4
5		6.4	2.604	124	0	92.5
6		7.5	2.507	161	2	93.8
7		6.3	2.504	119	4	98.1
8		7.95	2.459	88	1	96.1
9		8.4	2.416	108	0	96.1
10		8.6	2.353	185	0	96.8
	Average	7.565	2.5963	123.2	0.8	96.86

  

	Name	Average Grade	P8	Total Achievement Points	Total Behaviour Points	% Attendance
1		2.45	-1.882	70	29	80.8
2		4.1	-1.884	57	52	86.4
3		4.1	-1.884	78	65	94.2
4		4.9	-2.121	165	21	100
5		2.28	-2.234	95	61	84.7
6		0.2	-2.358	21	19	64.9
7		3.6	-2.384	82	46	87.9
8		1.9	-2.432	87	93	87.7
9		2.2	-2.793	85	39	88.9
10		0.4	-4.199	5	0	3.6
	Average	2.613	-2.4171	74.5	42.5	77.91

The green box covers the names of pupils who achieved the best progress in the exams i.e. comparing their results to their targets. It shows that on average they achieved 2 and a half grades higher than their target in every exam subject taken. It also shows on average the behaviour (positive and negative) for those pupils and their average school attendance. This is in stark contrast to the table on the right where the red box covers the names of the 10 worst performing pupils in terms of progress against targets i.e. they achieved 2 and a half grades lower than their targets in each subject taken. The difference in behaviour and attendance and the impact on progress is very clear to see. We use this comparison each year and it always shows the same thing i.e. good attendance at school, and good behaviour where pupils are working well is what determines success in the exams and qualifications gained. All pupils and their parents can check the attendance and behaviour profile by accessing the ClassCharts app. All parents and pupils have been sent these details last year, and new Y7 parents will receive them shortly, but please do contact the school if you have lost access.

We also have new caterers at both campuses starting this year. There will inevitably be a few teething issues as we move through the first week but already the offer is a clear improvement on the previous year.

It has also been a great relief to see the unions agree the pay award that has in principle been agreed by the government. Hopefully, there are no more strikes this year: a year without school closures and further disruption is very much to be welcomed.

And lastly a reassurance over RAAC. We have had a lot of work completed on our school roofs both last year and this year at Newport Pagnell which has meant structural engineers, architects and roofing contractors pouring over our buildings. This has not been necessary at Olney with it being built between 2006/2007 and having no flat roofs. Our roofs at NP are mostly pitched and covered with old and failing felting or tiles which is why they are being replaced. As a result of all this work we were given assurances that RAAC is not present and so we notified the DfE of this last year i.e. that to the best of our knowledge we have no RAAC in our school. By means of a 'belt and braces' approach we continue to ask our roofing contractors to keep inspecting and double checking the roofs whilst they are working on them. Should anything have been missed I will notify you immediately and take the appropriate actions. To re-iterate though, we do not believe there is any RAAC in our school and have not discovered any.

Thank you again for supporting us in the education of your sons and daughters. I look forward to another successful year working together at Ousedale.

Yours faithfully



Andy Burton  
Headteacher