

## Introduction

### Personal Development Highlights

Welcome to the fourth edition of our Personal Development newsletter. We felt it was important to share some of the highlights your child has experienced so far this academic year.

Our inclusive curriculum celebrates diversity and promotes tolerance and mutual respect of others. Our academy carefully maps how our curriculum provision supports our students' personal growth and promotes fundamental British Values; social, moral, spiritual and cultural awareness; personal, social and health education and relationship and sex education.

### ACE-Year 7



It has been a fantastic start to the year as we have launched ACE to Year 7. As we approach our new term, we have students who have successfully completed their Bronze, Silver and Gold ACE status already. Even some students are now striving for the Platinum award. We are so proud of year 7 and how they have settled in at Shafton. Their kindness and positive attitudes to learning is an honour to be around each day.

#### So many personal development opportunities have taken place this year from...

Charity events  
Senior Citizens Luncheon  
School trips  
Sports events  
Assemblies  
Workshops  
Competitions  
Celebration Events  
Revision Festival



## Personal Development

So far this year, we have welcomed a variety of external providers into the academy for age appropriate assemblies, activities and workshops- focused on enhancing students personal development opportunities.

These include:

- The Self Esteem Team
- SY Police engagement team
- DriveStart
- Spectrum
- SY Fire Service
- The Money Charity
- Think for the Future
- Active Futures
- CompassBe
- Kooth
- NHS Organ Donation
- Further Education providers



More external agencies are booked to work with our students throughout this academic year.

### Life Curriculum Overview

*Students have been given opportunity in Life lessons to develop age appropriate knowledge and skills to make informed choices when managing risk, leading safe and healthy lifestyles and having respectful relationships. Within Life lessons and the wider curriculum, students have also been able to:*

- Support their own and others mental health
- Develop into responsible, respectful and active citizens
- Prepare for next steps
- Develop an understanding of fundamental British Values
- Ensure respect of the protected characteristics
- Celebrate diversity and communities

## Outwood Honours

This academic year is the launch of the Outwood Honours Programme. Students have the chance to collect badges around the academy through the curriculum and enrichment activities. Students can also collect badges on the Outwood Portal if they're doing something extraordinary out of school or in our community. Don't forget to log onto the Portal to ensure you're not missing out on this fantastic opportunity. Already, we have awarded over 600 badges during this academic year. What a fantastic achievement.



### Children's Mental Health Week

Our students requested more sessions focused on their wellbeing in the enhanced curriculum. We have been mindful in the Life curriculum to raise awareness of looking after our mental health and during Children's Mental Health Week we have:

- **A student focused Life lesson**
- **Drop in sessions at lunchtime from CompassBe, the Community Health Team and Kooth**
- **Form time activities**
- **The preparation of our new 'WELLNESS HUB' on Wednesdays**



### Life Curriculum Overview (February-Easter)

#### Y7- Religion, Faith and Belief

Topic Question: What is religion, faith and belief?

#### Y7- Let's Talk About Anti Semitism

Topic Question: What is anti semitism and how can we tackle it today?

#### Y8- Wellbeing

Topic Question: Emotional Wellbeing: Why is it important?

#### Y8- Wider World RE (Philosophy and Ethics)

Topic Question: What are the big questions of life and morality?

#### Y9- Relationships Being Safe Online

Topic Question: How can we lead a safe and healthy lifestyle online?

#### Y9- Wider World Christianity

Topic Question: What are the beliefs and teachings of Jesus Christ in the Bible?

#### Y10- Wider World RE: The Way of the Buddha

Topic Question: What are the practices and beliefs of Buddhism?

#### Y10- Wider World (Finance)

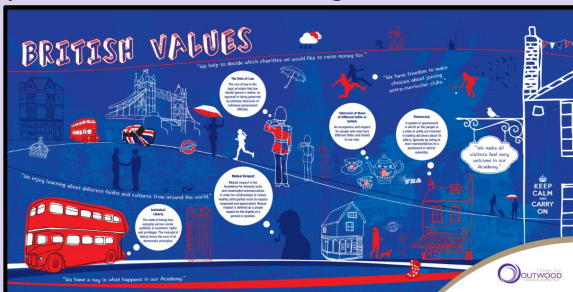
The Money Charity- external provider

### BRITISH VALUES

During the first half of the academic year students have experienced a range of assemblies and form time activities linked to the British Values and respect of the protected characteristic.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ALL YEARS	Learning Star Certificates / Marvellous	Attendance		PROUD Thursday	In it to Win it
Year 7	Awareness	My Future	Cultural Capital	Our Community	All About Me
Year 8	All About Me	Awareness	My Future	Cultural Capital	Our Community
Year 9	Our Community	All About Me	Awareness	My Future	Cultural Capital
Year 10	Cultural Capital	Our Community	All About Me	Awareness	My Future
Year 11	My Future	Cultural Capital	Our Community	All About Me	Awareness

We are excited that our new display is now in the academy and supports student understanding on Level 4 Maths area..



### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Most recently students have commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day with Mr Crowcroft leading a powerful and informative assembly. Students in Y9 were also nominated to represent the academy during a live testimony from Holocaust survivor Hedi Argent MBE.

Last year 600 schools joined online for the successful event. Hedi, now 94, fled persecution and came to England as a refugee.



We continue to BEE Kind and have a number of students trained by Kirsty at CompassBe as Anti Bullying Ambassadors. They have started to think about their action plan, sharing their ideas with Mrs McQueen. This has started with a weekly drop in group called the BEE KIND club with Ms Fletcher every Thursday. All students are welcome for a drink, biscuit, chat, mindful colouring, planning future activities and so much more!

A fantastic addition to ethos and culture of the academy and towards being united against bullying.



## Student Voice at OAS

Beau in Y9 is our current Student Voice Prime Minister. It was a pleasure to see so many students taking part in our democratic election to vote for their new Prime Minister. Beau works alongside her deputies Joe and Brooklyn who are keen to support students in the academy. Ben and Reece also support the Student Voice Leadership team and represent students every week at the early morning Deep Experience meeting with members of staff. Their input is invaluable.



Mrs Rushforth is excited to take a number of our Y7 SV members to visit the Town Hall this term to meet the mayor and have an oversight on how the council runs. She will also be taking the leadership team to the OGAT Wellbeing Conference at Elland Road where members of Student Voice gather from across the trust. Such an exciting event where our students can collaborate with students from other academies.

Finally, our student voice team are once again organising their Senior Citizens Easter Afternoon Tea- watch this space for more information!

## ANTI VIOLENCE CAMPAIGNER

Our Y8 and Y9 students were very fortunate to take part in this powerful assembly. Alison works tirelessly to help prevent youth violence by sharing her son's unique life and death story to help educate young people on the realities and consequences of youth violence.

*One member of staff said 'It was singularly the most powerful thing I've seen in school, in over 20 years'.*

'Her powerful presentations convey: the importance of prevention, the emotive realisation of how choices affect loved ones and how young people retain hope for the future'.

*Alison Cope 2024*

## Praise at OAS



Learning Star certificates are received by gaining 5 praise points or more every week. Learning Stars of the Week are awarded to students with the top praise points in their year group on Marvelous Mondays! We have had over 6145 praise logs since September!



We continue to enjoy Proud Thursday every week and celebrate our Proud Principal winners from each year! 'Class Acts' continue to be a popular addition to Marvelous Monday where teachers nominate their class to win the lucky dip box! We are delighted to share that 3388 Proud Thursday's have been logged since September!



## PRAISING STARS CELEBRATION

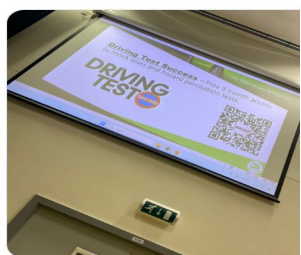
Staff and students have absolutely loved being part of Praising Stars celebrations. All students took part in form time assemblies, individual awards and collected their results in the atrium- such a buzz around the academy!



## Internal Alternative Provision



OA Shafton @OutwoodShafton · Feb 1  
#Thankyou to @sytweet for speaking to our #Y11 students today about preparing to #drive and having the right #skills and #attitude for the future!



### Support/ Useful Links for Students

**Road Safety:** [Explore education resources](#)  
**Spectrum Community Health CIC** have a specialist Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Team who deliver classes and events to secondary schools, colleges and youth groups with structured learning and education.  
<https://spectrumhealth.org.uk/services/sexual-health/rse/>

**Barnsley Metropolitan Council link:**  
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/healthy-living>

**Young Minds - Children's Mental Health service:** [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

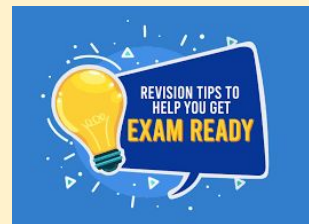
**Careers Outwood Shafton:**  
[progress-education.org.uk](http://progress-education.org.uk)

**Branching Minds Barnsley - joining up** mental health and wellbeing support for local children and young people - South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

## Y11 Revision Festival

There is so much support for our Y11's - most recently our fabulous revision festival! Students were able to collect revision packs, receive advice, find out about wellbeing activities and look at their future Post 16 and career opportunities.

Some of the most successful coping strategies for GCSE exams include:



1. Getting at least 8 hours of sleep every night, especially the nights right before the exam
2. Taking deep breaths when any thoughts or feelings of anxiety pop up
3. Allowing yourself regular breaks during study time and on the weekends
4. Staying calm before the exam and believing in your abilities
5. Listening to tips and advice from older siblings, cousins, friends, etc. who have recently taken the GCSEs
6. Talking about your feelings and emotions with someone you trust and who actively listens to you

**Key contact for Y11 support during the exam periods:**

[J.bray@shafton.outwood.com](mailto:J.bray@shafton.outwood.com)

[C.Wrend@shafton.outwood.com](mailto:C.Wrend@shafton.outwood.com)

[C.gabraitis@shafton.outwood.com](mailto:C.gabraitis@shafton.outwood.com)

Your health is just as important as your school work. Make sure you're looking after both every day.