

19 March 2021

Dear Parent/carer,

### **Year 10 and 11 Parents' Evening March 25<sup>th</sup> 2021- Online Appointment Booking**

I would like to invite you to attend our **Online** Parents' Evening on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 between 3.30pm and 6.00pm. This is an important evening and will provide you with an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, including what actions they need to take over the remainder of the time they have left on their Key Stage 4 qualifications.

This is a really important time for students in years 10 and 11. The closure of schools has impacted on the normal running of exams during this summer. The Department for Education outlined that:

- GCSEs and A and AS Level exams will not go ahead this summer\*
- Although exams are the fairest way we have of assessing what a student knows, the impact of this pandemic now means that it is not possible to have these exams this year
- A form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to schools will be used to ensure these grades are awarded fairly and consistently.

\*It is important to note that preparation for vocational coursework and vocational examinations will continue as normal.

Since this time Ofqual (the exam regulator) has published its guidance for the awarding of grades this summer. Although we are waiting for the exam boards to issue guidance and training on how teacher assessed grades (often referred to as TAGs) should be determined, we will be taking into account:

- Submitted work - both physically and online
- Evidence from external/personal tutors (where appropriate)
- Off-site records from Alternative Provision providers
- Tests/assessments completed over the duration of the course
- Ensuring impact of access arrangements have been taken into account

The final grades have to be submitted to the exam boards by June 18, and the GCSE results this year will be released earlier than normal on August 12.

It is therefore imperative at this time that your child maximises their time in the Academy, continues to try hard across all lessons and tries to demonstrate their abilities to their teachers when assessed opportunities arise. It is unclear at this point whether the closure of schools will be considered next summer when the current Year 10 sit their GCSE exams, which emphasises the importance of Year 10 students embarking on the summer term with a determined attitude to their learning.

In order to best help you support your child and help them focus on the remaining time in the Academy, we have introduced an easy to use online appointment booking system for the parents evening. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments. We

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.

are confident this will be an improvement to the previous system and welcome any feedback you might have.

Appointments can be made from 8.00am 12<sup>th</sup> March and will close on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.00pm Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office.

Please visit <https://outwoodbishopsgarth.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointments. (A short guide on how to add appointments is included with this letter.) Login with the following information:

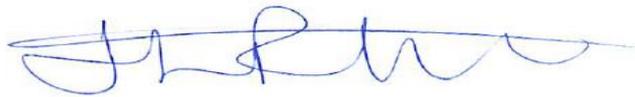
Student's First Name:

Student's Surname:

Student's Date of Birth

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to add appointments on your behalf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason Rhodes', written in a cursive style.

Jason Rhodes  
Vice Principal