



“The key to accepting responsibility for your life is to accept the fact that your choices, every one of them, are leading you inexorably to either success or failure, however you define those terms.” Neal Boortz

This year has been one of highs with lots of the restoration work at City Fields, but also many many low points. As a school we have not given in to the pressures we have faced and we have now come to see them as challenges that have made the Academy stronger. During lock down we have reflected on areas we need to improve on and we will share these exciting new initiatives with you. If you have not seen it on social media already this is just a little reflection of some of the work we have done.



IMPACT Ed

As students have returned to school this September, we are keen to understand the impact this challenging period has had on them. We also need to understand how our students are feeling and responding to the present situation so that we can provide the support they need. We are working with a non-profit organisation, ImpactEd, to conduct student surveys covering areas such as their engagement with learning during this period and their broader wellbeing. The results of this survey will enable us to offer appropriate intervention and support and identify any areas of concern. We thank you for your support in completing these surveys.

Google classroom

Every teacher has spent time this week setting up Google Classrooms for every student in every subject - please make sure that students have logged on and accepted their classroom invites!

This week we will work with Year 7 students to familiarise them with G Suite and Google Classroom. It is an invaluable tool that teachers will use to set work for students who are not in school, as well as where we will set extended learning opportunities.



We will soon be adding Google Guardians to the G Suite. This means that, as a parent/carer, you are able to keep up to date with deadlines that your child or children have.

This week's experiences

This week in Music, students have been using their bodies as musical instruments. It has been exciting (and sometimes intriguing) to see how students have enjoyed something different. Most of them particularly enjoyed the ukulele session.

If your child is interested in music lessons please speak to Mrs Le Page.

We have conducted some Science experiments this week following a clear risk assessment too. Students in Year 11 have taken part in sampling activities, which will help them further understand the required practicals for their GCSEs.

Next week food lessons will begin for KS4 and KS3 will spend time building their ICT skills in the computer rooms in school.



Time Capsule

A reflection in time from 1968. Lots of different activities from table tennis, wood carving to visits from the local clergy.

Monday, 16th September: After school today I visited three new extra-curricular activities; 30 children turned up to try out the Table Tennis tables in the South Wing, fifteen boys were trying their hands at Wood Carving and a number of Fourth Year girls assisted Mrs Evans to produce Floral Decorations for the Main Entrance, the Hall and the platform.

Wednesday, 18th September: The hymn this morning was played by the school orchestra composed of violins, clarinets, and descant, Treble + tenor recorders. Mr. Atack left school at 10.30 a.m. on a Careers' Masters' Visit to the N.C.B. Training Centre at Alulton Bywater.

Thursday, 19th September: Rev. G. Widdett, Vicar of St Andrews and St. Brithin's visited the school at my invitation. He made a tour of the classrooms + met the staff at Break.

Friday, 20th September: Mr. Atack absent ill.

Saturday, 21st September: G. City 7-a-side Competition for the Intermediate age group held at Surpethope in atrocious weather conditions. Our team lost

Our COVID Risk Assessment has been updated and is on our website.

Introductions

This week we thought we would introduce our Heads of Department. All bring with them a variety of strengths and different, complimentary expertise.

Ryan Thomas
Head of English

I have worked at Outwood Academy City Fields, formerly W.C.A., for 7 years. In that time, we have had outstanding results every year and fostered a generation of life-long readers along the way too... we hope ☺ As the Head of English, I work closely with the English team who are consistently among the best in the region and country in terms of outcomes for students at GCSE. This success comes from a relentless drive to help students to be the best version of themselves from the first day they join the Academy. As we all well remember, being a teenager has its challenges. It is for this reason that I feel very privileged to work in a school that prepares young people for the real world, whilst also acting as a sanctuary too.

Darren Adkin
Head of Maths

I am now entering my twenty-seventh year in teaching. After studying Mathematics in Manchester and teacher training in Leeds I joined Cathedral High School. Enjoyed my time there for thirteen years but moved to City Fields which has been the best decision I have made in my professional life. City Fields is a fantastic school full of super students and staff. I am passionate about Mathematics and love to pass on my enthusiasm to students of all ages and abilities.

Vicky Guest
Head of Science

I am the Head of Science at Outwood Academy City Fields and have worked here for 2 years and within the Outwood Trust for 5 years in total. I absolutely love working with our students and teaching them about the weird and wonderful world of Science. My job involves overseeing the science education of every single student in this school as well as personally teaching several classes of students. I am here to ensure they all get the best Science lessons they can and come out with the best Science results they can achieve.

Paul Dadvar
Head of Humanities & Life

I started my teaching career in 2008 at City Fields as a new qualified History teacher and since then I have been fortunate enough to have had a number of roles that have shown me what a diverse, talented and special mix of staff and students can produce: a real community school that has a strong sense of togetherness, pride in each other and an unfailing belief that background and history and tradition should not be barriers to success.

The department I lead is passionate about what we do which is trying to ensure that all students reach their potential, not just within History, Geography and Life, but also to help them become well rounded individuals that get to enjoy that journey through hard work, resilience and having fun along the way. It's my continuing pleasure and privilege to lead the humanities department and to turn up to work at City Fields every day. For good and for bad, I have never been bored working here!

Catherine Hammond
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

I am now in my 34th. year of teaching languages having studied French and German at Sheffield University all those years ago! Throughout my career I have been very lucky to gain experience of various roles in schools in Wakefield and Barnsley and came to City Fields a year ago. I feel very privileged to work with the students and fantastic Modern Foreign Languages team here at City Fields and I am thoroughly enjoying meeting all staff throughout the school. Everyone works so hard to get the best out of our students and I am very happy to be part of it.

Helen Le Page

Head of Creative Arts

I am the Head of Creative Arts and have worked at City Fields for over 15 years. I studied music and drama at university and enjoy singing, playing the piano. and I am a member of The Yorkshire Volunteers Regimental Band where I play the flute and piccolo. I absolutely love my job and am passionate about making sure our students receive a broad and exciting curriculum which inspires them and helps them to achieve their full potential.

Alex Pearson

Head of PE

I am the HOD for PE. I have been at City Fields since January 2020. I've worked for Outwood at Shafton for several years previously as a PE teacher. I'm very excited to start the academic year with our fabulous PE Staff team and our wonderful students.

Dani Simpson

Head of Creative Arts

This is my second year at City Fields as Head of Design Technology and I can honestly say that I love working here. I love the diversity that we have within our community and the way that City Fields encompasses and celebrates this. I have worked in many schools in Doncaster, Barnsley and Leeds before coming to work for the OGAT family here in Wakefield but this is the smallest school that I have worked in and I am so looking forward to being a part of its growth. At City Fields I teach Year 7 and 8 DT (Graphics and Woodwork) along with DT, Health and Social Care, Engineering and Photography at GCSE I also have a Degree in Art and have taught this at all levels. I cannot wait to be a part of developing opportunities and more experiences for our students here at Outwood Academy City Fields.

Reminders

Social Distancing

We know that students are excited to see each other but they must remain socially distant when they are on social time and they must also not touch each other. We have reminded students about being in their own space and discussed how to be socially distant during our ACE programme, but can you speak to your children about this as they make their way to and from school.

Injection letters for Year 7

Year 7 were given their injection letters last week. Can we please have these returned asap to SID (Student Information Desk) by Friday 25 September.

Free School Meals & Hardship Fund

COVID has impacted many families in the community in terms of employment. The Local Authority can help and support and schools can follow this up with provisions and resources to make sure children never go hungry and are ready to learn successfully. The criteria for Free Schools Meals is below. To apply you will need to contact Wakefield Local Authority. Provided your child is attending a state funded school or academy full-time in the Wakefield District they will qualify for income-related free school meals if you receive:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and you do not get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working tax Credit)
- Universal Credit

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-children/free-school-meals#:~:text=All%20children%20attending%20a%20state,you%20receive%20a%20qualifying%20benefit.>

Outwood Academy City Fields also operates a hardship fund for those families that cannot apply for Free Schools Meals. The aim of this fund is to support so children can learn in an equal environment. The details for this can be found on our website.

<https://www.cityfields.outwood.com/policies>

Masks



Whilst it is not compulsory for students and staff to wear masks in school we are strongly recommending it. Students will have seen lots of staff in school wearing visors and/or masks during the day. We have explained to students why we are wearing them and how they should wear their mask if they choose to. Some students are electing to wear them as a precaution and we really welcome this as a way for us all to feel safe and be safer. We do have disposable masks in school for students to use if they wish to but it would be great to

see more and more students taking the government's advice.



Government advice -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Cover your face

Should comfortably fit around the bridge of your nose.



The chin doesn't need to be covered, but doing so will get a good seal around the mouth.

Many masks will fit snugly on the chin.

Wash your hands

1
Before putting on a mask, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

2
Don't touch your mask once it is on.

3
Put the mask on by picking it up by the ties, loops or rubber ear bands.



4
Before adjusting the mask, clean your hands.

5
Remove by the ties and avoid touching the front of the mask (wash hands before removal)

Keep them clean

Disposable masks:

- Use once only
- Throw away after using
- Do no re-wear



Cloth masks:

- Wash after each use
- Wash in warm soapy water or washing machine

MY MASK
PROTECTS YOU!

YOUR MASK
PROTECTS ME

Support

The Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown is an unprecedented situation in modern times. It is hard to gauge the full impact that the situation is having on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. Pupils' experiences of the lockdown period will have been very varied. For some, it will mostly have been a safe and enjoyable time. For others, it will have been challenging or traumatic. Outwood City Fields and the teachers and other staff are used to supporting their pupils through challenges that they face in life. HMG tutors provide invaluable support for students as they have time with them every school day and can touch base and provide activities for support. Each year group also has a learning manager and senior leader linked to them offering an extra level of daily support for our students. Our HMG programme provides a range of activities, supporting our student's well being. There are also other agencies and contacts that students may wish to be aware of. Please see the links provided below.

Your online mental wellbeing community



Free, safe and anonymous support

[Kooth support website](#)

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

CORONAVIRUS

Coronavirus has had a big impact on school and young people's lives. We're here to support you and help you find ways to cope.

[Childline support](#)

Counselling for student mental health problems

[NHS support](#)



[Camhs](#)

WF-I CAN

A new online resource for children and young people in Wakefield

How old are you?

<https://wf-i-can.co.uk/>

