

30 April 2021

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

*Here at Outwood Academy Newbold, our staff love to come to work everyday and teach your incredibly talented and hard-working children. Over the next few weeks, you will be invited to read a letter from our staff members detailing why they love working in our community.*

***Our staff member this week is Mrs Jenkins, the Head of Performing Arts here at Outwood Academy Newbold:***

I have worked here for the last 10 years completing my teacher training, working as a Drama teacher and then moving up to Head of department. I also attended Newbold Community School as a student between 2000-2007 so this school, area and community has a special place in my heart. I truly believe that it was my experiences at school and working with teachers who always pushed me to believe in myself and achieve great things that has spurred me on to teach and invest my time, passion and energy into the next generation.

The students here at Outwood Academy Newbold are like no other. The energy, focus and drive across the student body, and especially in Performing Arts is contagious. I really do believe that I have the best job in the world as I am able to nurture, teach and help grow these students into not only brilliant actors but also great individuals. They are an absolute credit to you as parents and carers and also to themselves.

As I write this letter to you I have just finished the teaching day. Today I have worked with some wonderful Year 8 students who have been learning about movement and physicalisation in Drama and why this is important when creating a character. The students will now be able to tell you that it is not only what the actor says that helps to create a role but also how they move around on stage and interact with others when not talking that will speak a thousand words. With my Year 7 group we have started our new scheme of work today on Macbeth and delved into the history of this great story and identified as a class the key themes that run throughout the play. I then finished my day with my wonderful Year 10 group who are very close to finishing their final piece for their performance exam. The students have worked hard since January creating their own devised performance based on a theme from the exam board - 'Vantage point'. They have had to conduct the research, create the story line, characters and dialogue and also consider staging, lighting, sound effects and costume. It's been wonderful to watch the students take real pride in their work and talk so passionately about the performance they have created. The students will perform their final piece on the 13th May and I simply can't wait to see their hard work pay off.

As for everyone, the last year has been a bit strange for us in the Performing Arts department. We are so used to putting on performances, concerts and showcases and all that came to a halt last March. However, this has made us more determined than ever to come back with a bang. As they say, 'let the comeback be better than the setback'. We are currently discussing and planning our next school production. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our student's talent and passion for the Performing Arts and also to invite the community into our school to help celebrate our students. On top of this we have plans for many showcase evenings and concerts throughout the year when restrictions are lifted. We are so proud of our students here and what better way to celebrate the young individuals we have the pleasure of working with each day than by putting them on stage and watching them thrive.

The first event that we aim to put in place is our Year 8 Drama festival at Christmas. This is a fantastic evening that sees all Year 8 students perform to a packed audience in our main hall. 2021 will be our 6th year and the feedback we receive from audience members has always been brilliant in regards to our student's confidence, skill and talent. A number of our Music students are currently attending one to one singing, guitar, piano and drum lessons alongside attending Miss Colley's 'Band Skills' enrichment after school. We can't wait to showcase these students to our community and have them participate in one of our many open evenings.

On the 17th May we have our first Year 11 LAMDA exam. This is a brilliant opportunity for our current Y11 cohort to perform their chosen monologues live to an examiner. They will be marked on their ability to communicate emotion, intent and storyline but also their practical skills such as body language, voice, movement and facial expressions. The students are excited to finally be able to perform their chosen pieces and demonstrate how much time and effort they have put into these performances. I couldn't be prouder of these students, they really are brilliant.

I really believe that the Performing Arts department here at Outwood Academy Newbold is full of teachers who care about your children, put them first, have high expectations but more importantly love what they do every single day.

**Sara Jenkins**  
**Head of Performing Arts**