



Brian Kelly
Principal

PRINCIPAL'S BLOG

Outwood Grange fell silent for 2 minutes on Wednesday at 11am, to mark Remembrance Day. Usually, we are all able to share this moment together and it is one of the rare times when the whole school, over 2,300 staff and students can come together in one place; The Last Post is played, our Cadets parade and it is a special occasion for the whole school community. Sadly, it wasn't possible this year and it is another of the changes and compromises that we have had to make during 2020, but the way it was observed by the students and staff made it a poignant moment for us all.

With the national restrictions in place, the guidance to schools was that we would not be able to have after school enrichment activities. During the week, this has been "clarified" for schools and we have been informed that we are allowed to have after school activities for revision and catch up purposes. For this reason, the after school sessions will be for Year 10, Year 11 and Post 16 students and their teachers will let them know when and where these will happen next week. We are still trying to arrange late bus provision with our new, temporary providers, but we will let you know if we are able to put this in place.

Understandably, there is a higher level of student and staff absence at the moment and we are managing this on a daily basis. We may get to a point where we have to consider a forced partial closure. This would be for a single year group and for a week at a time. We would only do this if it was necessary and for staffing and Health and Safety reasons. We don't feel we are at this situation yet, but that can change very quickly and we would let you know as soon as possible.

I wanted to share with you another lovely email that we received from a member of the public this week. Our students are a credit to the Academy and their community.

Hello, not an enquiry, just a thank you and a note of positivity amongst all the gloom currently.

Today, my husband and I were sweeping leaves from our footpath and drive in Wrenthorpe. A small group of Outwood boys(?first years) went past and spontaneously they each picked up armfuls of leaves to put in our sacks. What a lovely gesture and it made us smile!

I also had previously had very clear thank yous from a group of girls as they passed me on the footpath.

Small things, I know, but we must enjoy and celebrate each one!!!