



**ASTREA ACADEMY WOODFIELDS**  
Weston Road, Balby, Doncaster, DN4 8ND  
**01302 312140**  
**Principal: Mr David Scales**



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am incredibly grateful for the efforts that you have collectively made to get your children to school on time each day. We are on track to be the school with the largest improvement in attendance in the country, and that is entirely down to your tenacity and determination. The community here at Woodfields would like to give you a huge thank you.

Despite achieving the first OFSTED Good rating in the history of education here in Balby, we continue to improve the school at pace so that we can support every scholar to get to university or a real alternative. We have welcomed fourteen new members of staff this term as well as 196 new scholars in our Class of 2031 – which is a record. It is such a joy to be able to have more families showing faith in our school, and more of a joy to see them enjoying their classical music lessons and Family Dining.

We have had a wonderful start to the new half term. It was particularly moving to see our cadets lead the Remembrance commemorations in school and hear a reading from Olivia, and a performance from Clinton and Taku. As we are now well into the new half term, there are a few notices that I would like to draw your attention to:

### **Christmas Family Lunch**

Our Christmas Family Lunch will be served, free of charge, on the 20<sup>th</sup> December. We are expecting every scholar to attend so that we can celebrate the festive season together. All scholars will finish school for the day at **1:45pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> December**. Please ensure that you make arrangements for their safe journey home on that day. We do not waste a minute and will therefore be teaching the curriculum right up to the very end of that day.

### **Equipment**

While the school provides the first equipment pack for a scholar, it is our expectation that scholars ensure that packs always have fully working:

Black Pen	Pencil	Whiteboard pen	Knowledge Organiser
Purple Pen	30cm Ruler	Whiteboard	Morning Meeting Booklet

Knowledge Organisers and Morning Meeting Booklets can be collected from the KS3 and KS4 entrance gates, as can equipment. We replace pens and whiteboard pens as direct replacements for no charge on an 'old for new' system. We sell this equipment for 50p an item if anything needs replacing. Any scholars without equipment in lessons will receive a detention. We reserve the right to add a balance on MCAS when we give equipment to scholars.



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We would like to thank you for your efforts in making sure that valuable learning time is not lost due to missing equipment. It is very much appreciated and is helping your child and other children to make more progress in their lessons.

### **PE Kit/Musical Instruments**

A reminder that all scholars require their PE kit on the days that they are timetabled PE. The Class of 2031 also require either their flute or clarinet on the day that they have music.

### **Uniform**

The standard of uniform at Woodfields is very high. Scholars wear it with pride and appreciate how smart they look. Scholars feel that it lacks fairness when other scholars do not follow the uniform rules. A reminder of the rules can be found here:

[Uniform – Welcome to Woodfields Academy](#)

We are noticing that more children are trying to wear bracelets, hide piercings or wear trainers. The rules are that bracelets, piercings (other than a single stud earring in each ear) and trainers are not allowed. Scholars should wear a pair of black, polishable shoes in the formal style. They should not resemble trainers and should not be Nike, Converse or Vans.

We would like to thank you for supporting us all to have a uniform that is smart, reasonably priced and fair.

### **Communication**

We are continuing to improve communication with the school and help you to be able to resolve issues quickly. Communication is a two-way responsibility; we will respond to you within 48hrs in a professional manner, it is your responsibility to tell us what we need to know and to get this to the right person. To support this please take note of these handy guidelines:

- All communications with school should follow our Code of Conduct ([AAW-Code-of-Conduct-November-2023.pdf](#))
- If you would like to speak with a member of staff, you will need to book an appointment
- Reasons for absence, like medical appointments, need to be sent in advance to [office@Astreawoodfields.org](mailto:office@Astreawoodfields.org)
- Reception will pass on any messages to staff members, however they themselves do not resolve issues



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- Communication regarding scholars and their wellbeing/conduct should go to the pastoral year leaders at the following e-mail addresses:
  - Class of 2031 – [julie.renshaw@astreawoodfields.org](mailto:julie.renshaw@astreawoodfields.org)
  - Class of 2030 – [heather.sowden@astreawoodfields.org](mailto:heather.sowden@astreawoodfields.org)
  - Class of 2029 – [derran.cary@astreawoodfields.org](mailto:derran.cary@astreawoodfields.org)
  - Class of 2028 – [rachel.harvey@astreawoodfields.org](mailto:rachel.harvey@astreawoodfields.org)
  - Class of 2027 – [ricki.king@astreawoodfields.org](mailto:ricki.king@astreawoodfields.org)
- Please do follow the Astrea Academy Woodfields Twitter account which is @aawoodfields and our Woodfields Whatsapp Channel <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaYg2vRFSAt8M246qP3a> to receive more regular updates and good news stories
- Download and use the MCAS app:
  - Google - [MyChildAtSchool - Parent App - Apps on Google Play](#)
  - Apple - [MyChildAtSchool on the App Store](#)
  - Please see the user guides here [MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)Guide for Beginners – Bromcom – Documentation Centre](#)
  - If you are struggling, please book an appointment and we will help you use it

### **Detention and Conduct Queries**

We are a school that prides ourselves on our warm, welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Our staff members love working with children and bring energy and passion to the corridors and classrooms. Our scholars are exceptionally well behaved and courteous. We know that sometimes things do not go quite to plan, and we support scholars to understand the rules and how to behave well. This is all described in our behaviour policy:

<https://www.astreawoodfields.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/AAW-Behaviour-Policy-2024-25-v1.2.pdf>

When we issue a detention or another sanction, the reason for this is always in the MCAS App. The reason will be shortened and give a succinct reason, such as 'Truancy' or 'Disruption to Learning'. You have entrusted your children to us, and we give them high levels of support and care. We want them to do well. If we are giving a detention or another sanction it is because it was necessary, please consider this before getting in touch with us.



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If there is a strong and valid reason why receiving more information would help you improve the behaviour of your child, then you should e-mail the Pastoral Year Leader. If you call reception, the receptionist will pass the request on and will be unable to deal with your request. Please respect their busy working schedule and follow the appropriate channels as I have described.

If your child is unable to attend a detention, then please e-mail [pastoral@astreawoodfields.org](mailto:pastoral@astreawoodfields.org) explaining the reason why they cannot attend and attaching proof of this reason. It is our policy that detentions are not cancelled without such information, or unless there is approval from a member of the Senior Team.

By working together, we will enable genuine emergencies and issues to be resolved more rapidly.

#### **Feedback**

I would like to thank all of you for the support that you have given the school. We are going from strength to strength because we are working together. I would like to, once again, extend an invite to you to come and view the school in action. I would be very glad to meet you, have some coffee, and show you the wonderful things that your children are doing. Your feedback is very much welcome as I look to improve the school further.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Scales'.

David Scales  
Principal

