

Autumn Term Newsletter – December 2023

Dear Retford Oaks Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Welcome

Firstly, I'd like to offer a warm welcome to everyone who has recently joined the Retford Oaks community from the new Year 7 students that I hear have settled in exceptionally to our returning and new Year 12 students now embarking on their Post 16 journey. I'd also like to extend that welcome to new and returning members of staff, both teaching and non-teaching within the academy.

As we move towards the Christmas break, I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as Chair of Governors. We intend to send out regular newsletters to make parents, students and staff aware of the progress of the academy from the governing body's perspective.

Congratulations and Thanks

Many congratulations to staff and students for achieving some excellent examination results in August. I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank all who have contributed to our Retford Oaks Academy community throughout 2023. Even the smallest of gestures, such as encouraging our students with attendance, good behaviour and a positive learning attitude, has an impact! I would like to thank all the staff, teaching and non-teaching, for their effort and determination to give the best possible opportunities for every student. Many staff have stepped into new roles and the teamwork that is being seen will, I am sure result in positive experiences for the students throughout their journey at Retford Oaks.

SEND

The Academy has recently welcomed on board a new SENCO. **Suzy Whitaker** has joined the team and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. Having recently met with Suzy, I am both encouraged and excited to see the positive changes being made in this area. Here's a note from Suzy: -



“What a wonderful and productive school term we have had, within Student Support!

In September, we were pleased to open our sensory room, which has had a positive impact on many pupils within our academy. October, saw us roll out our support, across a further, larger room, offering further intervention opportunities. November, the Student Support team were pivotal in helping our pupils with SEND, prepare and complete their GCSE mock exams, ensuring that the best possible exam adaptations were in place. December, our team has enjoyed taking part in the department Christmas tree competition - with special thanks to governor Pat Bryn-Jones for bringing in cardboard boxes for us, to help with the construction of our Christmas

fireplace. A further success this month too, was our friendly football match against St Giles. School, organised by the Retford Oaks Academy PE department.

This not only strengthened our brilliant partnership-working but was a thoroughly enjoyable morning of football and friendship-building.

The Student Support team at Retford Oaks Academy, would like to wish each and every one of you, a very Merry Christmas! “

Introductions and acknowledgements

I take this opportunity to thank our governors for their ongoing efforts in supporting both the committee and the academy. We have recently welcomed two new board members to the committee, James Purle and Keith Morgan. The governors at Retford Oaks are working closely with the academy and with one another to improve engagement with the local community. If you would like to know more about the work of Retford Oaks governors and view the minutes of our meetings, please visit the website via the link below:

[Retford Oaks Governance Page](#)

As we approach another festive season, we recognise the challenges facing people at this time and want to pay tribute to those volunteers running local foodbanks and all the efforts made to support vulnerable members of our community.

If you have any comments or feedback on this update or any other matters, I can always be contacted through our governance professional Nicola Benson at nbenson@diverse-ac.org.uk or 01777 861402. We wish you a safe and happy festive season and look forward to continuing our programme of activity which provides supportive challenge to the academy in 2024.

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor at Retford Oaks Academy and would like to know more, please contact Nicola Benson at nbenson@diverse-ac.org.uk.

All that remains is to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2024!

Andy Knight Chair of Governors On behalf of Retford Oaks Governing Body