

1st May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the new principal I've now been working with your children for almost 2 terms. I would like to let you know how amazing they are and how grateful I am to work alongside such an inspirational group of young people.

As we approach a very busy examination season I would like to take the opportunity to share with you a request for your support in ensuring students are prepared as best as they can be in the public examinations. We saw very large numbers attending the Academy through the Easter holidays and students and staff are working very well together to secure the very best outcomes.

Should you need extra help to support your child through the pressures of examination, please make use of the following websites that may offer an additional dimension to the support we provide daily:

<https://www.studentminds.org.uk/examstress.html> or
<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/student-life/#.XNFcQ45KjIV>

Finally, I would like to update you on details of the inspection that was carried out by Ofsted last term. The full report will be available next week. However, the overall outcome is that Outwood Academy Adwick has been judged as requires improvement in order to provide the level of education your children deserve. Those of you who have met me will already know how committed I am to improving the standards of Adwick and rest-assured I will provide the level of passion and drive needed to bring around rapid transformation of Adwick and secure the very best for your children.

“Personal development and welfare of students is good”.

Ofsted said our students are *typically polite and helpful. They are positive about School. Where pupils are fired by their learning they are generous spirited, enthusiastic and relish challenge.*

The Inspection noted that *2019 outcomes will be significantly better for all pupils than in previous years and are predicted to be above national standards.*

Whilst the report is complimentary of the positive transformation that the school is currently undertaking we share the view that overall the school ‘Requires Improvement’ and it is pleasing that the Inspection team recognised the efforts that we are making to rapidly raise standards and outcomes for all; leading the school with *vision, vigour and a real sense of urgency.*

Ofsted also said that leadership and management is good and specifically that *Leadership are clear about what needs to be done and are working effectively to assure rapid improvement. Rigorous systems for monitoring the quality of teaching and its effect on pupils' learning are in place and these systems are already having a significantly positive effect on pupils' outcomes, particularly in key stage 4.*

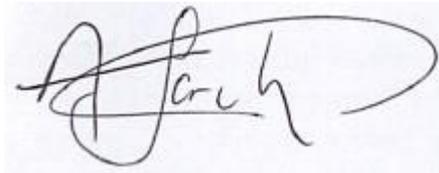
16 to 19 study programmes are good, and they concluded that *relationships among students and between students and members of staff are open and respectful. Pupils work with focus and determination in lessons. They demonstrate exemplary behaviour and engagement, making, generally, good progress from their starting points.*

The report makes recommendations about how we continue to improve the school, a key area being attendance. Although there are clear signs of attendance improving, *levels of absence and of persistent absence are still too high* and I would appreciate your support as parents and carers in working with us to improve attendance.

We are also committed to raising standards in the classroom, by eradicating low-level disruption and delivering consistently good lessons.

I am extremely proud of the students and staff who contribute to the wider school community and the report offers a validation of the hard work that is taking place and a platform to continue improving standards for all students.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Scruby', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mr A Scruby
Associate Principal