

27th February 2023

Dear parent and carer,

I wanted to write to you following our recent Ofsted visit. I am extremely proud to share that the academy was rated Good in every category. This is testament to the hard work and efforts of staff, students, parents, governors and the support of the academy trust.

The report which can be found on the academy website or by clicking the link at the end of this letter praises the academy's overall effectiveness, quality of education, behaviour and attitudes and personal development.

Highlights of the report include;

“Outwood Academy Adwick is a friendly and inclusive school where everyone is welcome. Leaders pride themselves on their high expectations.”

“The school has a supportive and caring culture. Staff build warm and friendly relationships with pupils. Pupils achieve their full potential. Pupils know that staff will listen to them if they have a concern.”

“Leaders have created a positive culture at the school. Pupils’ achievements are celebrated regularly.”

“A wide range of qualifications are on offer, including for pupils in the sixth form. The school curriculum prepares pupils well for their next stage in employment, education or training. The curriculum is ambitious for all pupils.”

“Staff present topics with enthusiasm. They are knowledgeable about their subjects.

“Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are well supported by staff. These pupils have appropriate plans which match their individual needs. Staff meet these needs well in lessons.”

“Staff are proud to work at the school. Their well-being and workload are a priority for leaders. Staff benefit from regular training and development opportunities. Leaders have made many successful changes to the school over time.”

Whilst this is a very positive uplift in the academies Ofsted rating, it is a milestone in continually improving and being the best for the community which we serve. We are extremely proud of this external validation from Ofsted which recognises our dedication and determination to do the very best, putting children first and transforming lives. It is fantastic to be judged Good in every category, we continually strive to ensure every student has an excellent experience and achieves their full potential.

On a very different note, many of you will have seen the shocking images on the news and social media surrounding protests in schools across the country and understandably you may have concerns about your children.

If anyone did become involved in such protests, putting the safety of other students or staff at risk or disrupting the learning in the academy, this would as always be treated with the utmost seriousness and would result in appropriate sanctions for students failing to comply with reasonable requests, as this ultimately could endanger others. Please support us and ensure that your children are aware in advance of this matter.

If your child is particularly worried about what they have seen or heard, or any other concerns they may have, please ask that they contact their learning manager or a senior leader in the first instance. Staff are always available on the gate and in the dining room before the school day. They can also speak to their teachers or form tutors during the day.

Returning from the half-term break, last week your children made us exceptionally proud. We did not witness this type of activity and the students' conduct was polite and orderly. As an Academy we focus on praise and kindness. I wanted to share this with you in case any of your children had any concerns about the coming week.

Our academy is a community where all members have equal value and worth. We always encourage our students to contribute actively in shaping the educational experience they and their fellow students receive. Any student in any classroom in any year, has a voice that should be heard and our Student Voice programme facilitates this in our academy.

If your child is particularly worried about this please contact their learning manager/form tutor in the first instance.

You may recollect our recent communication through our 'InTouch' newsletters which shared some of the different ways in which students can share any concerns with adults, such as via the communication button on the front page of the website or by putting a note in their year group message boxes at the Student Information Desk, easier still, they can speak to their learning managers, teachers, form tutors or any adults during the academy day. We also shared a communications letter

which highlighted different means for parents and carers to make contact. We have linked these key communications again below.

January 2023 OAA Ofsted Inspection report

<https://www.adwick.outwood.com/posts/5603>

In Touch newsletter Feb 2023

<https://www.adwick.outwood.com/posts/5537>

In Touch newsletter Nov 2022

<https://www.adwick.outwood.com/posts/4811>

Parent/carers communication letter

<https://www.adwick.outwood.com/posts/4787>

If you don't follow already, our academy social media accounts provide a window into academy life, with pictures and information that share the fantastic achievements of our students every day. Please continue to follow;

Instagram: [outwoodacademyadwick](https://www.instagram.com/outwoodacademyadwick)

Twitter: [OutwoodAdwick](https://twitter.com/OutwoodAdwick)

Finally, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support. It is partnership working, recognised by inspectors, that enables us to achieve amazing outcomes for our young people.

Yours sincerely

Andy Scruby
Principal