

Our Ref: Ofsted letter

19 December 2018

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Outwood Academy Danum is a Good School

I am extremely pleased to share with you that Ofsted judged Outwood Academy Danum to be a good school with a good Post 16 provision in their recent inspection. They recognised that we are on a transformational journey towards becoming an outstanding school.

There are many wonderful quotes in the full inspection report and I would like to share some of these with you here. The full report will be published in the next five working days on the Ofsted website at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>

Ofsted said outcomes for pupils are good.

'Typically, pupils join the school with below-average attainment, but, by the time they leave, their overall attainment is above average.'

'In 2017 and 2018, key stage 4 pupils' overall rate of progress was also above national averages. The impact of effective teaching over time and high-quality pupil support helped them to securely improve their knowledge, skills and understanding in the subjects they studied. This is the case for low-, middle- and high-prior-attaining pupils.'

Ofsted said the quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good.

'It is crystal clear that teaching is good and improving securely... teachers good subject knowledge and high expectations of what pupils are capable of, together with engaging and challenging teaching, inspire pupils to work hard and be ambitious for their futures. They see that staff work hard on their behalf and show their appreciation by working diligently. Lessons are characterised by a productive buzz and pupils' strong work ethic.'

'Teaching in key stage 3 and key stage 4 is equally effective.'

Ofsted said that students' personal development and welfare is good.

'The school's mission is to 'put students first' and this is reflected in the supportive and caring ethos that leaders are cultivating. Pupils feel safe and described the ways the school has raised their awareness of potential dangers they might encounter in and out of school.'

'Good relationships between pupils and staff are a cornerstone of the mutual respect that exists. The effective support and guidance pupils receive as they join, move through, and leave the school, equip them to make considered choices about their futures.'

Ofsted said that our Sixth Form is good.

'The sixth form is effective in ensuring that students make good progress from their starting points and they typically thrive on the courses they study. This is due to good teaching, good levels of support and students' good attitudes to learning. This is true for those on vocational and academic courses.'

Ofsted said that leadership and management is good.

"Skilled and relentless' aptly describes leaders. They are well supported by talented staff, astute governance and strong, overarching, strategic leadership from the trust. In the 26 months since the trust took over the school, the school has improved substantially in almost every area of its work. In this regard, leadership and governance has been transformational.'

'The strides pupils make in confidence, resilience, tolerance and ambition contribute greatly to their good attitudes to learning, strong work ethic and robust mental well-being.'

'...a strong culture of safeguarding exists in the school'.

There were recommendations for further improvement including a need to improve student attendance, which is very low and to continue to work with those students who receive exclusions to modify their behaviours. It was recognised that the school has had significant impact in this and both areas highlighted are already priorities.

I am extremely proud of this report. It recognises the hard work of our students, parents, teachers, support staff and governors in ensuring that the young people in our area receive the best education possible, foster the highest ambitions, achieve highly and have the best life chances possible. We will continue to strive to ensure all of our students are successful through developing them academically and ensuring they become well-rounded individuals. We absolutely believe that our academy is about 'putting students first: raising standards and transforming lives'.

Finally, may I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 7th January.

Yours faithfully,



Jayne Gaunt
Principal