

Ref: ACR/LHA

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well at the start of a New Year, a time where many of us look to the potential of a fresh start, or a renewed hope for what the year will bring. In the spirit of new beginnings and seizing new opportunities, I am writing to introduce myself as the new Principal of Outwood Academy Danum, but hope it won't be long before I get the opportunity to meet you in person at school events, parents' evenings and sports games as we celebrate the success of our students together.

I firmly believe that all children deserve an outstanding education, and that schools should be a champion for the pupils and the community they serve. My educational philosophy has been borne out of many years of serving the children of South Yorkshire, ensuring they leave school well equipped for the next stage in their life. I continue to love the job of working with children where every day brings new challenges and opportunities: I am very excited to begin my journey with the parents, students and staff where we will work together to ensure that all students, irrespective of barriers, get the very best education; that they leave the school well qualified to seize the opportunities that come their way, and that they are confident, articulate and resilient.

I can see that the Academy prides itself on providing a good education for the pupils in its care - something recognised in the previous OFSTED report and in pupil outcomes. Pupils have achieved well in the past as a result of effective teaching and support over time. However, my job will be to continue to drive up standards: anything less than the best for our children will not be good enough.

Creating an outstanding education starts with very simple things. In my position, I will ensure that the teachers and staff are well skilled and supported to teach effectively, as well as providing plentiful opportunities to broaden pupils' horizons. However, this is very much a partnership. As a parent/guardian, you can help support the school and your child with the basics. This starts with ensuring students maintain very good attendance: if they are not in school, they are not learning - the more they miss, the bigger the barrier for them to overcome. The second is behaviour: I will expect to see that students are polite, respectful, and that they are ready to learn and actively engage in lessons. The last is that they are determined to keep trying: to never give up. They will face barriers, there will be difficulties, but a quiet determination and a 'have a go' attitude will breed success, both in the classroom and in the world of work.

In short, I'll expect pupils to be there in the classroom, to engage in their own learning and to never give up on themselves. In turn, we will never give up on them.

As the Headteacher, you can expect me and my staff to always put your children first. I very much believe in doing no less for your children than I would want for my own. You can expect me to be an advocate for your children, and I will expect you to challenge the school to be the best for your children. Of course, we may not always agree, however I very much look forward to working with you and your children.

Since I am an English teacher at heart, I'd like to leave you with a poem that sums the urgency of our work together.

*Mankind owes to Children the best it has to give.
Their life is fragile.
If they are to have a tomorrow
Their needs must be met today.
Many things can wait, but not the children.
Now is the time that their bones are being formed.
Their blood composed, and their senses developed.
We cannot answer their 'tomorrows'.
Their name is 'today'*

By Gabriella Mistral (Chilean poet)

So with that sense of seizing the day, I look forward to making sure that every day, every interaction and every opportunity counts.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs A Crane', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs A Crane