

25 March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to write this first letter to you and express my delight and pride at being appointed as new Principal of Outwood Grange Academy. Having been a senior leader for Outwood Grange Academies Trust for over 10 years it genuinely is an honour to take up this prestigious role in the Trust.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Rutter, who I have previously worked with in Scunthorpe, for his work with the academy over recent months; I very much look forward to continuing this work with him in his new role as Associate Executive Principal alongside our Regional Executive Principal, Lynn James. I am sure you will agree that this will ensure some much needed stability for the school.

Over the past five years I have been honoured to be Principal of Outwood Academy City in Sheffield. During this time we have transformed life chances and students now understand and value high quality education. In addition we have instilled some core virtues, such as being industrious and showing integrity in thought and deed. I am proud that the work we have done with all stakeholders has created a school which is truly at the heart of its community. Whilst I leave that school with a heavy heart, the opportunity to be Principal of Outwood Grange Academy was one I could not turn down. Over the next few weeks I will continue to work across both academies in order to ensure a smooth transition for both communities.

My ambition is to ensure that the students of Outwood Grange Academy receive the highest quality education, at least at the same level that I would expect for my own children. In addition students should be cared for and supported to ensure that, regardless of start point, they are able to achieve their potential. From my experience as a school leader I know what an important contribution parents make to the achievement of the student whilst at school. I am looking forward to working with the whole community as we strive for even greater success for all our young people. By working together we can ensure that students enjoy their time at the academy, and that we will continue to put students first, raise standards and transform lives.

Thank you in advance for your support as we continue to transform the life chances of the young people of Wakefield.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Downing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small horizontal line under the final letter.

Andrew Downing  
Principal