

13 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following our OFSTED Inspection on 12th and 13th October we are now able to share their report. It is also available next week on the OFSTED website. This is our first inspection since becoming Outwood Academy Freeton in 2018. Across this time we have made huge changes to our school, raised outcomes for our young people and risen to the many challenges of the pandemic. We are proud of our academy but recognise we are still on an improvement journey.

We are delighted that Ofsted recognised our work to improve the quality of education for our students. They judged the quality of education to be good. Highlighting how leaders have developed an ambitious curriculum, with high aspirations for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Also, that leaders have worked closely with the Normanton Freeton Foundation to strengthen the links between the school and the local community.

Inspectors judged leadership and management to be good, recognising that “leaders have an ambitious vision for the school” and “continually seek to improve.” The areas of behaviour and attitudes and personal development were however judged to require improvement leading to the overall effectiveness of the school also being judged to require improvement. We are disappointed in this judgement and we know you will be too. Much work has been done to improve the school but there is still much to do especially around personal development and preparing our students for life in modern Britain. We need to now ensure our planning of the personal development curriculum is as effective as our academic curriculum planning.

Inspectors commented to leaders that during their visit they did not hear or see any behaviour that concerned them. Inspectors found that our students feel safe in school but some students they spoke to said “they are concerned about bullying and the use of discriminatory language in school.” Inspectors confirmed to leaders that they did not hear examples of this derogatory language during their time in school. This is concerning despite working hard to ensure our students conduct themselves appropriately in school nonetheless more work is needed to ensure all students recognise that discriminatory language should not be used. It is unkind and hurtful. The report comments “Leaders do take action and track these incidents carefully when they are reported.” However, we need to ensure all students report all incidents as some of our students are now telling us this is not happening. We all have work to do to ensure all students recognise that using discriminatory language goes against British values and treating each other respectfully and equally. Until we achieve this we are “not preparing pupils well enough for life in modern Britain.”

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

We know reading this report may upset many of our students who are a credit to us all. We have questioned the proportionality inspectors applied to the evidence. Nonetheless, we do not want any child to experience unkind words or feel bullied for who they are. We are responding positively to this disappointing feedback. Feedback after all is a gift even when we find it hard to hear.

To reassure you all I have summarised below our continued and new actions:

- We work with the Anti Bullying Alliance reviewing our current position and moving forward how we support this further. Thank you to all parents/carers who have recently given permission for their child to take part in this survey.
- Launched the 'Tell Us' campaign to support students to more easily report concerns i.e. a Google form saved in their year group classroom or by using the relevant year group box in the dining room. Both are reviewed daily.
- Continuing our review of our wide provision of RHSE (Religious, Health, Social Education) across our tutor programme, assemblies, events, LIFE curriculum in Y7-10 and focussed event days for Y11.
- Further strengthening our rich careers provision to ensure each year group is better informed of careers links to each curriculum subject etc . We are now ready to apply for the Careers Mark.



We continue to ask all students to think carefully about what they say to others. Striving always to support all students to have confidence in themselves and their individuality whilst celebrating and accepting differences in others. If it is not nice then don't say it. We encourage all to think before they speak. We ask all parents and carers to join us in supporting this work.

We experience too many issues coming into the academy that begin outside of school in the community or worryingly on social media. I ask that everyone supports our young people to think before they speak to others to ensure kindness and acceptance.

Please remember that you can report a Hate Crime against yourself or your child. The West Yorkshire Police web page is available for more information and reporting [here](#).



Please be confident that we are teaching young people to be positive citizens and members of our community. We take this responsibility very seriously. To support our unite against bullying campaign please be reminded that our Learning Managers are the first point of call for you and your child:

- Year 7 - Miss Murthick
- Year 8 - Mrs Howarth
- Year 9 - Mr Hindmarch
- Year 10 - Mrs Turner
- Year 11 - Mrs Clawson

As always, we look forward to working with students, our parents and carers and with our community on how we work together to continually drive forward.

A copy of the Ofsted report can be found on our website [here](#).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Allott', is displayed within a light grey rectangular box.

Lisa Allott  
Principal

*For regular updates on Academy news and events, follow us on Twitter @OutwoodFreeston or view our website [www.freeston.outwood.com](http://www.freeston.outwood.com)*