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Web: www.ripon.outwood.com
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29th January 2016

Chief Executive: Sir Michael Wilkins
Regional Chief Executive: Rob Tarn
Acting Academy Principal: Stephen Merifield

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am absolutely delighted to announce that Outwood Academy Ripon has been awarded '**Outstanding**' in all four categories in our recent Ofsted inspection, the highest grade possible. This is a remarkable achievement and places us alongside a very small number of schools nationwide.

The categories of the Inspection report are:

- Effectiveness of leadership and management - **Outstanding**
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment – **Outstanding**
- Personal development, behaviour and welfare – **Outstanding**
- Outcomes for pupils – **Outstanding**

Inspections are always an intense process and our students, during this period, demonstrated quite clearly to our visitors, their love for learning and the ongoing positive contribution they make to the Academy community. I am particularly proud because the Inspectors were observing our students doing what they do every day.

Examples of key findings of the report are:

- *“The vision and enterprise of the Chief Executive and the outstanding drive of the academy leaders have resulted in rapid and sustained improvement and high achievement.”*
- *“The curriculum is successfully designed to enable pupils to achieve highly in English and Mathematics at GCSE.”*
- *“Highly sophisticated systems for analysing underachievement result in immediate action that improves teaching and pastoral support.”*
- *“Outstanding teaching is typified by high expectations, strong subject expertise, high quality assessment and excellent behaviour management. Questioning is highly effective in extending learning and tackling misconceptions.”*
- *“Pupils’ personal development, behaviour and welfare are high, needs are identified precisely and acted on promptly, and pupils develop strong resilience and a capability for making improvement.”*
- *“The local Academy Council has a clear strategic vision...Disadvantaged pupils achieve exceptionally well”*

Thank you to all parents who completed the online Parent view questionnaire. Your responses were overwhelmingly supportive of every aspect of the Academy. This means a lot to my colleagues and me.

This also comes at a time when recently published data by the Department for Education shows Outwood Academy Ripon to be 2nd out of 55 'similar schools in the whole country and also top in North Yorkshire for student progress. We are also in the top 10 of all schools in the country for outcomes for students on free school meals, including grammar schools.

It is through the dedication and passion of the students and staff, and unwavering support of parents, that the Academy has attained this result.

I hope that when you read the report, you are also delighted. The inspection team has confirmed that your children receive an “outstanding” education. However, we are far from complacent! We will strive to not only maintain this high standard, but to build on it, and to ensure all of our students continually receive an exceptional educational experience.

A copy of the report can be found on our website and this will go live onto the Ofsted website on Wednesday 3rd February.

<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Further information will follow in the public domain as we make a press release but I felt it important to inform students and parents first.

Yours faithfully



Steve Merifield
Acting Principal