

Frequently asked questions

What we have achieved so far ...

Through the dedication and commitment of our staff and students and support from parents this is what we have achieved:

80% of students achieved 5 A* to C grades including English and maths

**91% students passed maths at A* - C
99% gained expected levels of progress in maths**

**81% students passed English at A* - C
83% gained expected levels of progress in English**

The academy was graded “Outstanding” in all four major categories in January 2016 and is second out of 55 of similar schools in the national league tables.

Outwood Academy Ripon

Clotherholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DE
Tel: 01765 604564 Email: admin@ripon.outwood.com
Visit our website: www.ripon.outwood.com
Follow us on Twitter: [@OutwoodRipon](https://twitter.com/OutwoodRipon)

Frequently asked questions

What happens if my child is late for school?

If students are late they receive a one hour detention to be completed the following day. This time can be used to complete any homework. By embedding the importance of punctuality we are preparing your child for a successful life in employment.

What if my child cannot find an item of uniform or it is damaged?

In these circumstances we will try to provide what they need so they can go into lessons. If we can't they will be allowed to work in the HUB until the item can be brought in or purchased. All students are expected to comply with our high standards of uniform at all times.

Why are we fined if we take our child out for holidays during term time?

All schools and academies have to comply with criteria set out by The Department for Education. Research suggests that seventeen missed school days a year is equivalent to one GCSE grade drop in achievement (DfE).

How does the Praising Stars© system work?

Each half term your child will received a Praising Stars© report. This is not based on ability, although that information is included. The E grade your child receives is based around their effort in class. E1 is exceptional, E2 is very good, E3 is hard working and E4 implies there are issues around the amount of work completed and attitude to learning. If you have concerns about your child's Praising Stars© report you are welcome to contact your child's teacher in the first instance and their learning manager to discuss your concerns.

How often will I receive a report about my child's progress?

A Praising Stars© report is issued every half term.

Why do you have such a strict dress code?

The academy wants to focus solely on learning and achievement. In the past, too much time has been taken up addressing uniform issues. Wearing the correct dress is often a way of life for professions such as nurses, builders, police officers, firemen / women, so this strategy regarding our dress code is a life lesson and helps prepare your child for their future.

What support is offered if my child is struggling in one of their subjects?

The academy offers many after school enrichment activities, one-to-one sessions and small group work. Each department has resources to allow students to complete independent learning and revision. The library is also available to students between 8.30-16:30 Monday to Thursday and 8:30-16:00 on Friday.

What should I do if my child is getting bullied?

It is advised your child report it to their teacher or leaning manager. Or alternatively, you could contact their learning manager by telephone and speak to them. The academy takes a strong stance on bullying and will not accept it in any form. Outwood Academy Ripon has a clear commitment to ensure that there is a zero tolerance to bullying.

What happens if my child is unwell whilst in the academy?

The academy will always encourage students to see how they feel and offer a drink of water. Very often this helps and the student will go to their next lesson. If the student returns still feeling unwell, the attendance team will make contact with home and liaise with parents about appropriate next steps.

My child is a fussy eater. What are the meals like?

The dining hall offers a wide selection of fresh food, which includes salad, pasta, hot meals, jacket potatoes, pizza, sandwiches, fruit, desserts, yoghurt, cakes and cookies. Drinks include water, milk and fruit dinks.

What is the atmosphere like in school?

The atmosphere is very calm and positive. There are always several members of the senior leadership team or learning managers on duty around the academy ready to assist both students and staff to ensure students are learning and making progress.

How do I get in touch with my child's learning manager or teacher?

You can put a note in your child's planner requesting a call from their teacher. Please include your contact details. Alternatively, you can contact your child's learning manager on the numbers detailed below:

Yrs. 11-13	Mrs Atherley	Ext 130
Yrs. 9-10	Mrs Stanger	Ext 160
Yrs. 7-8	Mrs Johnson	Ext 133

How welcome are parents in school?

The academy always encourages parental involvement in their child's education. We have parents evenings where parents can make appointments to see teachers and learning managers. The academy also welcomes parents to come and see the fantastic learning that goes on here at Outwood Academy Ripon. If you wish to visit the academy please contact reception to make an appointment.

What is your behaviour policy?

Each classroom has a consequences board. If a student misbehaves or disrupts the learning of others they are given a C1 and it is noted on the board. If this continues the students will receive a C2 and if there is no improvement a C3. If the behaviour continues the student is issued with a C4 and asked to go to the matrix room. There they are expected to remain silent and not disrupt the learners in the matrix room. At this point the four disruptions lead to a one hour detention. If the student then disrupts the matrix room they are issued with a C5 isolation for the remainder of the lesson. The C5 then incurs a full days isolation arranged by the consequences manager.

Detentions may also be issued to a student for inappropriate language or inappropriate behaviour around the academy.

Please see overleaf....

Students First
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ACADEMY RIPON