

12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, Happy New Year! We are pleased to welcome students back to school following the Christmas break. It has been a real pleasure meeting students and staff who have enjoyed telling me about their wonderful school and wider community.

I am delighted to be joining Outwood Academy Ripon as Principal following a rigorous recruitment process last term. As an educational leader with more than 15 years experience working in school improvement, I am proud to join Outwood Grange Academies Trust to serve the community of Ripon. My leadership experience is extensive and includes All-Through leadership (primary, secondary and special) serving young people from 4-16. I take great pride in demonstrating a strong moral purpose and remain committed to an inclusive approach - every child will receive an exceptional education irrespective of personal challenges or boundaries.

Today, students attended an assembly to formally welcome them back to school and to reinforce ethos and expectations: Outwood Academy Ripon is a welcoming and supportive academy with a relentless determination to provide the very best education for every child. We place students at the centre of everything we do, with a focus on creating a culture of success and a positive climate for learning. I also took the opportunity to highlight the importance of our values: Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible, highlighting positive behaviours such as kindness, dignity and respect. We remain committed to developing a culture of belonging amongst our school community.

Students have also been reminded about the school's Positive Discipline for Learning and Life system, further details are available in the policies section of our school website.. One area I would like to draw your attention to is our policy on jewellery and piercings. Please remember that jewellery is not permitted in the academy, with the exception of medical alert bracelets or necklaces. Thank you for supporting us to ensure that standards remain high at Outwood Academy Ripon.

It has been a pleasure to walk around lessons and see students engaging so well with their learning and taking great pride in their work. Students at the academy have an exceptional attitude to their studies which will stand them in good stead for their future. It has also been a pleasure to see students in science engaging in practical learning with such enthusiasm.

I am incredibly excited to be joining the team at Outwood Academy Ripon and seek to build upon the strong foundation built by Mr Pratt and his team to deliver even greater success during the coming years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Donohue', with a large, stylized initial 'R' and a circular flourish.

Ms R.A. Donohue (M.Ed; FCCT)

Principal