

16 March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today I have spoken to the students in the academy about a change that will take place at Easter and I wanted to take the time to write to you all and let you know about the change.

After 5 years as Principal of Outwood Academy City I am moving on to an exciting new challenge within our Family of Schools and Friday, 1 April 2022 will be my final day in school. A short while ago I was asked to take on the role of Principal at Outwood Grange Academy; the Trust's original and largest academy and, after serious consideration, I have decided to take this opportunity.

When I arrived here back in 2017 the one thing that really struck me was the community that is Outwood Academy City and I wanted to ensure the power of this was harnessed in all we did; in the knowledge we were stronger working together. Throughout this time I have been humbled by the responses from celebrating genuine individual and group successes including delivering the first ever Ofsted 'Good' judgement in the history of the school and the IQM Award for Inclusion to supporting sporting and artistic successes of students. But as an academy we have also cared and supported each other through some of the most challenging times imaginable; for this I truly thank you and must say that for the last five years, it has been my absolute pride and privilege to lead our academy community.

I leave the academy in a very strong position in terms of its curriculum and with expert staff supporting our children both inside and outside the classroom, I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to all staff that I have worked with throughout my time here.

Importantly, and perhaps the most difficult, will be my goodbyes to these wonderful young students. Despite all the challenges they have faced they have worked hard, shown resilience, care and compassion and have grown into amazing young individuals that we can all be proud of. They have the brightest futures ahead of them and I wish them all every success in all their future adventures. As I am not leaving the Outwood Family of Schools and will remain in Sheffield I will be able to watch with interest how they continue to progress.

With the most humble gratitude and heartfelt thanks to you all.

Yours faithfully



Andy Downing