



Students First



Students First
OUTWOOD
ACADEMY BYDALES

Our Vision

“The whole point of schools is that children come first and everything we do must reflect this single goal – Students First”

*Sir Michael Wilkins,
Academy Principal and Chief Executive,
Outwood Grange Academies Trust*



Dear Parents/Carers,

At Outwood Academy Bydales, we are committed to providing an outstanding educational experience, allowing all students to achieve their potential. We deliver exciting and engaging lessons within a disciplined and supportive environment. We offer high-quality care, guidance and support, a flexible curriculum, and an extensive range of activities beyond the classroom.

Choosing the right secondary school for your child can be one of the most difficult decisions to make. I hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of what we offer, and that you will be eager to visit our Academy to find out more and to ask any questions you may have.

Every child has a right to an outstanding education, and at Outwood Academy Bydales we are determined to provide it.

Robert Tarn, Executive Principal



Sir Michael Wilkins, Chief Executive of the Outwood Grange Family of Schools

In January 2001, Michael Wilkins became Headteacher of Outwood Grange School, Wakefield. During the last decade, under his leadership, the school has been transformed by his vision to always put 'Students First'. Outwood Grange is one of the highest performing academies in the country and has been judged by Ofsted to be outstanding in every category.

In 2010, he was presented with the award for 'Outstanding System Leadership' by Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education. As Chief Executive, Sir Michael has overall responsibility for all academies in the Family of Schools, stretching from North Nottinghamshire to North Yorkshire.





We celebrate the achievement of students with parents and carers at a formal Graduation Ceremony at the end of Year 8.

The curriculum is highly personalised to meet the needs of all students. The Key Stage 3 curriculum is completed over two years with the Key Stage 4 curriculum beginning in Year 9.

At Key Stage 4, students complete a number of option qualifications over two and three years. Over the three years, up to four option subjects can be achieved. Students can, therefore, progress at a rate appropriate to their needs. For example, very able students have the opportunity to complete some option subjects by the end of Year 10. In Year 11, students can complete an additional qualification in one year.

Students needing more time and support are offered extra lessons in areas such as English and Maths in place of a conventional option, to ensure they gain these vital qualifications.

A Flexible and Personalised Curriculum

Beyond the Classroom

10
STUDENT
PLEDGES

We believe that all students, throughout their time at the Academy, should strive to gain experiences that will enhance them as a person. Students have 10 pledges that they aim to complete before they go to university.

- 1 To regularly attend an after-Academy activity.
- 2 To represent the Academy at a sporting, cultural or academic event.
- 3 To take part in an Outward Bound residential programme.
- 4 To attend a national sporting or cultural event, or a performance at a major venue.
- 5 To take part in, or support, a major Academy production or event.
- 6 To take part in a formal presentation to an audience using ICT/multimedia.
- 7 To be actively involved in an international experience.
- 8 To be actively involved in a community experience.
- 9 To help plan, organise or take part in a major fundraising event.
- 10 To contribute to the development of the concept of sustainability.



Enrichment activities

Although formal lessons end at 2.30pm, the Academy day does not. Students are able to select from a wide variety of enrichment activities, both academic and non-academic, that they can attend in order to enhance their experience.

Whether it be coursework catch-up sessions, subject booster classes or opportunities to try things such as sport, fitness and performance clubs, community volunteering work, sign language club or allotment club, there will be something for everyone throughout the whole year.



“ *Outwood Grange Family of Schools is the prototype of where schools will be tomorrow* ”
Professor David Hargreaves, 2010

Care, Guidance and Support

Our Approach to Student Progress and Well-being

At Outwood Academy Bydales, students are valued as individuals. We are concerned not only with the academic progress of our students, but also with their general well-being. Our values, communicated on a daily basis, include a commitment to learning, courtesy, co-operation, initiative and smart appearance.

Student Progress

The progress of each student is monitored closely through our Praising Stars® system of half-termly assessment, monitoring and intervention. As a commitment to parents/carers, we report on your son's/daughter's progress every six weeks, giving accurate information for all subjects. The Academy holds three Parents' Evenings per year, where parents/carers have the opportunity to meet subject teachers to discuss progress.

Students have a Student Planner, which helps them to monitor their own progress, and we encourage parents and carers to discuss their son's/daughter's school work and homework with them. All students have a Vertical Mentor who monitors academic performance, attendance and general welfare.

Student Welfare

We have high expectations of behaviour, which are underpinned by the consequences system. Our praise system includes: celebratory assemblies, awards ceremonies, graduation ceremonies, Praising Stars® and Outward Bound opportunities.

Attendance is closely monitored in each lesson and unexpected absence is communicated quickly to parents or carers. In addition to our teaching staff and Vertical Mentors, we have a wide team of other professionals working in our Academy to help students achieve their potential.



Student Voice

We believe it is important for all our students to have a role in driving improvement and change. Students have the opportunity to develop leadership skills and make a powerful contribution to the process of improving the Academy.

- Do you want the opportunity to join Student Voice?
- Could you take on the challenge and represent your peers?
- Remember, there is an election every year!



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Next steps:

- Visit the Academy
- Request a place at this Academy
- Accept the offer of a place
- Join the Outwood Academy Bydales team



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GRANGE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

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