

28 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to thank you for your continued support in what I know has, so far, been a very difficult term for all. We continue to ensure all students have access to quality learning, whether they are in the Academy or at home, accessing on-line learning. A big thank you to all staff and parents for your support of the school through this time of significant staff absence.

Sadly, I would like to share my own difficult decision to step down as principal and return back to the northern region of our Trust. I have always looked back on my time there very fondly and when a unique role became available to have an impact on all eight schools in the northern region, I saw this as an ideal opportunity for me and one I really didn't want to miss out on. I am sad to be leaving and will miss Outwood Grange immensely having enjoyed my time leading the wonderful students and staff here. I have enjoyed the invaluable support of parents/carers especially through these challenging times and I have been proud to serve the school community.

I will move to my new role, leading on region wide whole school improvements on 31 January 2022.

As we are all aware changes do happen and when they do, so do opportunities. I leave knowing that Outwood Grange is served by excellent leaders, teachers and support staff; students tell me this on a daily basis and I see the strong provision and support we offer. The academy will continue to be supported by the strategic regional leadership of our Executive Principal, Mrs Lynn James, who leads the Trust's eight academies in our Central Region. She is supported by Associate Executive Principals: Mrs Sabiha Laher and Mr Toby Rutter. Mr Rutter has a wealth of experience and has successfully led several academies in the Trust. He began his career at Outwood Grange Academy. Mr Rutter will provide strong experienced leadership to Outwood Grange as Associate Executive Principal. He will provide consistent leadership and work closely with the school's new principal once they are appointed. Mr Rutter continues his leadership of Outwood Academy Hemsworth supported by the interim Associate Principal.

Today I shared this news with students in a virtual assembly. I thank them for their many kind words and best wishes. I would like to thank all parents/carers for the support you have shown me over the last couple of terms; for the emails and letters of gratitude to both myself and the staff. It has been a difficult period of time for all staff, students and parents/carers but working together has helped us navigate the school's journey through the pandemic. Outwood Grange Academy is a wonderful school and under Mr Rutter's excellent leadership it will continue to provide a high quality of education for its students and community.

Yours faithfully



Sheriden Hutchinson-Jones
Principal