



Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth

Harrowgate Lane, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 8TF
Tel: +44(0)1642 586262 Fax: +44(0)1642 570038

Web: www.bishopsgarth.outwood.com

Email: enquiries@bishopsgarth.outwood.com

Principal: Jason Rhodes

15 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to share with you the outcomes of our Student and Parent voice responses as part of our 'Big Listen' this year. As always I am grateful for you taking the time to contribute to the Academy's sustained improvement.

Parent/Carer voice:

There was a 33% increase in your recognition that your child feels safe and happy at school compared to the responses collated in October 2023. Over the same time period, an additional 39% of you have recognised that the Academy makes sure its students are well behaved. These findings are really pleasing and reflect how the staff in the Academy have been striving to ensure that students embody being 'safe, respectful and responsible' and want to be at the 'top of the pyramid'.

Since last year, I have tried to improve the speed at which your concerns are responded to by colleagues in the Academy. I have responded to your previous requests to be able to directly contact pastoral staff via email. I am always grateful for your patience and recognition that teachers will be working during the timetabled day and will endeavour to be in touch with you within the 48hrs committed period. 78% of you recognise that we do this well. We will continue to improve this communication service,

Parents of students with SEND needs also recognised that the additional staffing capacity and increased access through 'Nibble and Natter' events had helped you to recognise that your child was receiving the support you hoped for.

We still have some areas to focus on from your responses. There were too few of you who knew what your child was studying at the moment in school. We will work to ensure there is a simple overview each month about the topics that your child is learning in school so you can discuss this with them when they come home.

Finally, you were asked to reflect on whether you would recommend the Academy to another parent. The number of you who would has increased by 40% this year compared to 2023.



Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649. Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF. VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an Exempt charity. A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.

Student Voice:

The students continue to be our greatest ambassadors in school and the community. With some starting work placements and many supporting our recent Year 6 evenings they are demonstrating a sense of belonging to the Academy; a place they are proud to be associated with.

84% of students recognise that teachers support them to do their best (an increase of 8% since 2023). Additionally, 81% of students identified that they enjoyed learning at school. This reflects the work of leaders and their commitment to ensure your child has the best education possible.

Student's perception of behaviour and safety increased by 22% compared to last year. We listened to the students and their areas in school they had concerns about. The changes to lunchtime arrangements, access to toilets and increased supervision during lesson changeovers has improved this aspect of Academy life immeasurably.

There was an increase in the number of students who felt they were being challenged in their learning as well as having key adults who they could go to if they were worried about something. The strength of the staff and their ability to know your children well enables us to support your families effectively.

Students were clear about their understanding of treating others with respect and tolerance, as well as recognising that the ability of the school to act on reported bullying increased by 8%.

There is still room to make this Academy even better. Students wanted to have more information available to them about choosing GCSE subjects over a period of time, and opportunities to find out about college life much earlier than Year 11. We will amend our careers and options programmes accordingly.

As a part of the 'Big Listen' I want to provide you with the opportunity to spend some time with myself and share any concerns that you may have or ways you feel the Academy could improve for the benefit of your child and their peers. Therefore there will be a 'brew with the Principal' evening on Wednesday 13th November. You will be able to book appointments either via email to enquiries@bishopsgarth.outwood.com or through the school cloud platform on the link that will be provided below:

<https://outwoodbishopsgarth.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Appointments will be a strict 20 minutes in length. Booking will be open from Monday 14th October at 8.00am. Places will be secured on a first come first served basis. Should booking be oversubscribed, an additional event will be held later in the term. I do hope you are able to make the most of this opportunity, and look forward to welcoming you to the Academy.

Thank you all for your ongoing support in our continued pursuit of raising standards in the Academy with the view to improving the life chances of your children.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Rhodes', written over a horizontal line.

Mr J Rhodes
Principal