



Students First  
**OUTWOOD**  
ACADEMY VALLEY



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*Students First*

Prospectus 2011 | 2012

# Our Vision

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

**Michael Wilkins, Chief Executive**

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Outwood Academy Valley 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 Valley we are determined to provide it.

Robert Tarn, Principal  
Julie Slater, Executive Principal

## **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 Michael was presented with the award for “Outstanding System Leadership” by Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education. As Chief Executive Mr Wilkins has overall responsibility for all academies in the Family of Schools, stretching from North Nottinghamshire to North Yorkshire.

“Outwood Grange Family of Schools is the prototype of where schools will be tomorrow.”

Professor David Hargreaves,  
2010





# A Flexible and Personalised Curriculum

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 two option qualifications in one year. Over the three years up to six option subjects can be completed. Students can therefore progress at a rate appropriate to their needs, for example very able students have the opportunity to complete Key Stage 4 by the end of Year 10. In Year 11, they can begin AS/Level 3 qualifications or follow Key Stage 5 skills development courses.

Students needing more time and support are offered extra booster lessons in areas such as English and maths over the three years to make sure they gain these vital qualifications.

# 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 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, reverse engineering club or an Eco club, there will be something for everyone throughout the whole year.

# Care, Guidance and Support

## Our Approach to Student Progress and Well-Being

At Outwood Academy Valley 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 student's progress every six weeks, giving accurate information for all subjects. The academy holds three Parents' Evenings per year where all parents/carers have the opportunity to meet all 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!

*“Student Voice gives me the opportunity to express myself and my opinions to help things change in and around school.”*

James Oddy



## Towards The Future

### Studying beyond Year 11

Students can progress from Year 11 to the academy's Post 16 Centre. With its state of the art facilities, lively atmosphere and supportive staff it is a great place to study and provides a stepping stone to either University or the world of work.

Our students, their learning and their achievements are our priority. Our expectations, coupled with student aspirations, will be underpinned by strong personal support and guidance. Together they will provide the firm foundation for students to succeed.

Students are challenged in an atmosphere which is geared to their achievement and they will have outstanding opportunities that will enable them to develop their characters, interests, abilities, aptitudes and, most of all, to realise their potential.



### The **next steps:**

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



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GRANGE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

**Chief Executive: Michael Wilkins**  
[www.outwood.com](http://www.outwood.com)



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**Outwood Post 16 Centre**  
Valley Road  
Worksop  
Nottinghamshire  
S81 7EL

**Tel:** 01909 504 090  
**Fax:** 01909 504 099

**Email:** [enquiries@p16worksop.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@p16worksop.outwood.com)  
**Website:** [www.post16worksop.outwood.com](http://www.post16worksop.outwood.com)

**Outwood Academy Valley**  
Valley Road  
Worksop  
Nottinghamshire  
S81 7EN

**Tel:** 01909 475 121  
**Fax:** 01909 471 360

**Email:** [enquiries@valley.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@valley.outwood.com)  
**Website:** [www.valley.outwood.com](http://www.valley.outwood.com)