

Ref:
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Dear Parent/Carer

Sponsorship of Outwood Academy Redcar from 1 September 2017

We are delighted to announce that following a period of support over the last year and a half, Outwood Grange Academies Trust (OGAT) will now sponsor Redcar Academy, and as a result it will formally join our family of schools in the next few months. The academy will be known as Outwood Academy Redcar.

As you will be aware, OGAT has been supporting the academy since November 2015, under the leadership of the Principal Angela Sweeten. Prior to her move to Redcar, Mrs Sweeten was the Principal of Outwood Academy Ripon, an Ofsted 'outstanding' school that secured this accolade in February 2016. As a result of Mrs Sweeten's leadership at Ripon, and the high quality of teaching and support of students, Year 11 that year achieved GCSE results that placed the school in the top 4% of similar schools nationally. Mrs Sweeten was recognised for this performance and designated as a National Leader of Education (NLE). Following this success, Mrs Sweeten was moved by the Trust to lead Redcar Academy and, with the support of the Trust, the committed students, you the parents/carers and staff, ensured that within seven months of the involvement of OGAT, 52% of Year 11 students in 2016 secured a Grade C or better in their English and maths GCSEs. This was a rise of some 21% from the achievement of Redcar students in 2015. We are determined to continue this trend and secure outstanding outcomes for all students at Redcar as we move forwards.

Redcar Academy joins our Family of Schools at an exciting time for the Trust. We continue to support schools to make rapid progress and improve quickly the outcomes for young people in our care. We ensure that our shared vision "students first: raising standards and transforming lives" is at the very heart of each and every one of our school communities. This has been recognised on a national scale. Ofsted have recently judged Outwood Academy Valley, an academy within the Trust in Nottinghamshire, as an 'outstanding' school, and the report has just been published today here: <http://bit.ly/2u5pMr3> You may also have read about the recent 'good' judgement at Outwood Academy Ormesby, closer to home based in Middlesbrough.

Over the last year, there has been a considerable investment in the structure of the building at Redcar, alongside the time and energy put into improving the quality of teaching and learning and to raise standards. It is of course critical that the learning environment is the very best for our young people and the dedicated staff who work with them. Given that the school has been supported by OGAT over a period of time, the majority of the work has been completed to prepare for the school's transition to Outwood Academy Redcar. All students are wearing their Outwood uniform with pride, the altered school day has been in place for some time, the curriculum is fit for purpose, and behaviour expectations for conduct in the academy are high. In terms of additional changes students and parents can expect, we will continue to invest in the fabric of the building, creating even better learning spaces, as well as ensuring teaching and learning is of the very highest standard. We will also be installing new permanent displays to celebrate the achievement of students, and a photographer recently visited the academy to that aim.

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Redcar Academy – *Inspired to strive for personal excellence*

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We intend to have an 'opening ceremony' in early September when the final changes are in place, and Mrs Sweeten will write to you nearer the time with further details.

We look forward to your continued support as the academy continues its drive towards providing an outstanding place of learning, and we wish you well for the summer break.

Yours faithfully



Martyn Oliver
Chief Executive Officer
Outwood Grange Academies Trust



David Gallagher
Chair, Board of Directors
Redcar Academy