

SPRING 2024

OUTLOOK

The news magazine for Outwood Academy Hemsworth



PRINCIPAL Q&A



Why have you chosen to join Outwood Academy Hemsworth?

Throughout my career I have always chosen to work in those Schools where I felt that I could make a real difference to the outcomes of students and have a positive impact on their life chances. Before I joined the Academy I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to visit and meet with both students and staff and this helped strengthen my belief that I could have a similar impact here to that I have achieved in other schools I have had the privilege to work in. Upon speaking to Mr Rutter he advised me that he had joined the academy with the aim of achieving something special for the community and this is something that I intend to continue to strive to do.

I believe that as a student myself who grew up in the local area, I have a very good understanding of our local community and its challenges. I want to be able to offer our students similar opportunities to those I was fortunate enough to experience and ensure that they are able to succeed. I believe that our role is to develop an Academy that our local community can be proud of and produce young people with the character and academic outcomes which will allow them to be a success in whatever future they choose for themselves.

What experiences have you had before joining Outwood Academy Hemsworth?

Before joining Outwood Academy Hemsworth, I have had the opportunity to work in three other schools. For the first thirteen years of my career I worked in two schools on the North East coast serving communities similar to ours here at Outwood Academy Hemsworth. The first was Headlands Community Science College and the second was George Pindar Community Sports College. I spent ten years at George Pinder, a school which moved through a journey of improvement from being one of the lowest performing in the country, judged to be failing, to being the most improved and securing an Ofsted judgment of a 'good school'.

We achieved this by having a fantastic, dedicated teacher in every classroom and maintaining a real focus on ensuring students achieved the greatest possible outcomes. It was fantastic to see how the change in the school was reflected in the local community, this achievement was praised by Ofsted who stated "The improvement work of the schools Senior Leadership Team is going beyond the schools gates and having a positive impact across the schools wider community".

We were also lucky enough to win Sports College of the year for our work on engaging with parents and our wider community to raise the aspirations of our students and rapidly improve their outcomes.

For the last ten years I have been the proud Principal of Oasis Academy Don Valley, an all-through academy in Sheffield. I had the privilege to open Oasis Academy Don Valley as a brand new School in September 2015, which then grew year on year until 2023 when our initial Year 11 cohort sat the first set of GCSEs undertaken at the academy. In September 2015 we opened the Academy with children from 2 years old, in our Nursery up to children in Year 4. On our opening day we had thirty four children in total and twelve staff, growing year on year until 2018 when we opened to our inaugural Year 7 students.

The last academic year the academy had over one thousand students, becoming one of the most oversubscribed schools in Sheffield and over a hundred staff. Throughout the ten years of my tenure the academy had two good ofsted inspections, with the most recent being in November 2023, with the inspectors saying, "This is an inclusive school that is committed to doing the best for its pupils and their community. There is a relentless focus on ensuring that pupils benefit from a high quality education that will serve them well in their next steps'. We achieved this by building a high performing team, who worked relentlessly for all of our children from Nursery to Year 11, both in and out of the classroom, ensuring any barriers to their success were challenged and then removed.

“The improvement work of the schools Senior Leadership Team is going beyond the schools gates and having a positive impact across the schools wider community.”

What has been your proudest achievement?

I have had many moments in my career that I am really proud of, many of these being on the third Thursday in August when students have received their results and have achieved outcomes that they didn't believe they could and knowing that this has improved their life chances as they embark on their next steps.

I have also had the opportunity to be part of a number of successful ofsted inspections and have seen the impact that this has on the self esteem of staff, students and the wider community. I firmly believe that every student deserves the opportunity to attend a school that is at least good.

Most recently my proudest moment was seeing the outcome of OADV's Year 11's in the summer, these were the academy's first Year 11 students, many of whom had joined the Academy in either Year 4 as an OADV original student or in the Academy's first Year 7. These were students who were in one of the countries most deprived areas and were told they didn't deserve their new school when we opened or that they couldn't achieve in line with other students due to their background. We were immensely proud when they made the most progress nationally with Oasis Community Learning from the lowest starting point and were the highest performing school in Sheffield who served a community which was identified as being in a challenging context.

What has been your favourite thing about working at our school so far?

I have now had a full term to settle into my role as Principal here at Outwood Academy Hemsworth. Prior to joining the Academy I was told that the team of staff at the Academy were strong and that they worked extremely hard in order to support all of the students everyday, which indeed makes them very special and this ethos has been abundantly clear to me from day one.

During my short time as Principal I have had the privilege of being able to visit many of the lessons taking place each day throughout the Academy and I am delighted to have seen lots of fantastic learning taking place across all subjects. Our teachers are working hard to ensure that students are engaged in their lessons and more importantly making good progress in their learning. Alongside this the Academy's Pastoral, Safeguarding and Inclusion Teams are also working hard to support students in attending more regularly, helping them to manage their behaviour effectively and removing any barriers to enable students to access their learning but most importantly ensuring that they are kept safe and are happy to be in the Academy.

It has been fantastic how well the students have represented both the Academy since I have joined. They have been welcoming to me as the new Principal and have been eager to discuss what they feel is going well and also how they would like to see the Academy develop and improve.

Through visiting lessons and being out and about around the Academy, I have seen first hand how engaged students are in their lessons and how hard they are working to make progress and be successful, which is fantastic. This is especially evident in the work ethic of our students in Year 11 who are busy preparing for their GCSE exams this year. They have shown tremendous focus and drive in their learning and this has been commented on by a wide range of Academy staff.

What do you plan on doing to improve our school?

As with every school there are things that we need to work harder on to improve further. The overall attendance of the Academy is not strong enough and at the end of the last term the Academy finished at just below 89%, this is around 2% below the National Average which is 91% and is nowhere near the pre-covid average of 95%. I know that Mr Allington and the attendance team are working very hard to improve this. There will be a continued focus on embedding the basic expectations set out by the Academy which include being punctual, wearing the Academy uniform correctly and students ensuring that they always have the right equipment with them, showing that they are ready to learn from the outset.

Unfortunately, at times our students are not meeting the high expectations that we believe parents and carers would want the Academy to set for all, as we prepare them for a life beyond the Academy. By ensuring that these basic principles are in place we feel that our students will have the opportunity to thrive both in and outside of lessons and these will be a key focus throughout the coming weeks and beyond.

What does the future hold for Outwood Academy Hemsworth?

I hope to be at the Academy for a number of years. I have spent over 10 years in both of my last two schools and believe that Academies and communities need continuity in their school leaders to build confidence. In the short term I hope that we see this year's Year 11 build on their hard work and achieve some fantastic outcomes in the summer. As we move into the next academic year we have to prepare for our next ofsted inspection.

As I have outlined above, I firmly believe that every student deserves to go to an Academy that is at least good and a community should have a good school at its heart. Beyond this I hope that I can become part of a team and an Academy that our community can be proud of and which everyone knows is relentlessly focused on improving the life chances of the young people from the community that we serve.

Best Wishes
James Pape (Principal)

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Parents,

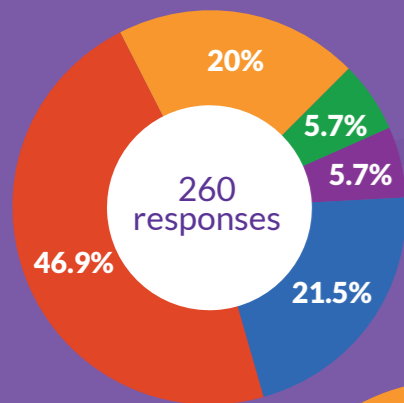
Thank you for participating in our recent online survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us improve. Here are some key points we gathered from your responses:

Communication: Many of you expressed a desire for more streamlined communication channels. We will work on implementing clearer lines of communication, such as regular newsletters and updates on our website

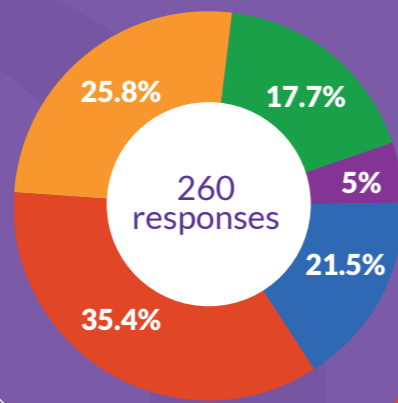
Suggestions for Improvement: We appreciate the constructive suggestions provided regarding various aspects of the Academy. Rest assured, we are carefully reviewing each suggestion and exploring feasible ways to implement positive changes that will benefit both students and parents alike.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and insights with us. We value your partnership and look forward to working together to create a positive and enriching learning environment for our students. Here is a snapshot of some of your responses:

My child feels safe at the academy



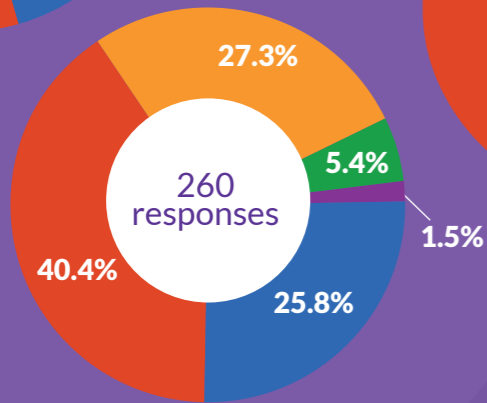
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn in school



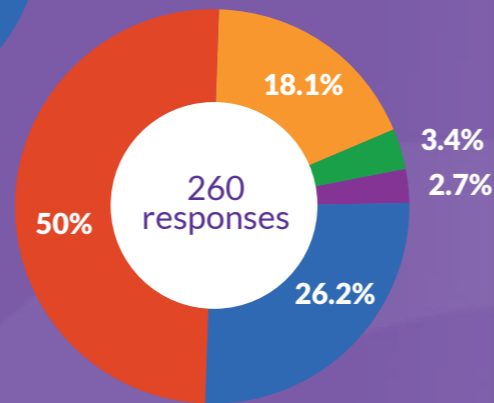
Key:

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

The school has high expectations of my child



My child does well at school



COP28

On Friday 8th December a selected number of students took part in an trust-wide online COP 28 event. 12 academies from a variety of different regions met to tackle climate change. Each academy was assigned a different country which they had to research prior to the event given key areas of focus such as greenhouse gas emission targets, types of energy used, trade links with other countries and how climate change would impact them.

Outwood Academy Hemsworth were assigned the host country for this year, the United Arab Emirates. Working and rallying together prior to the event proved beneficial when coming up against some tough questions. Students spent the day in the principals boardroom working with each other debating key issues and challenging other countries on their own emissions. All was harmonious by the time the meeting was finished with the students agreeing to work with the United States of America and China.

A big congratulations to the students who took part.

Miss Karpinska



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Students 'speechless' at Stuart Dallas visit!

Students at Outwood Academy Hemsworth have completed a four-week physical activity programme which was delivered by Leeds United Foundation.

The programme was led by Leeds United club doctor, Rishi Dhand, who worked with students to improve their diets before and after exercise, as well as to create personalised training plans which they could take into their own training regimes.

Rishi said: "It was a pleasure to deliver the physical activity course with some of the students at Outwood Academy Hemsworth. The students all engaged well in the sessions and it was great to see their enthusiasm for the prizes and the special guest in the final week. Thank you to Mr Wormald for organising the logistics and ensuring the programme ran smoothly, it's much appreciated."

Sessions provided students with both theory-based study and practical activities and were facilitated by several specialists. Elise McVicar, Head of Nutrition at Leeds United led a session on proteins and carbohydrates, informing students about the differing quantities needed after activity and on rest days, as well as talking about the effects of screen time on sleep and growth.

Other guests included Katie Taylor from the Leeds United Foundation, who led a practical football activity, and the final week saw a visit from special guest Stuart Dallas, current Leeds United and Northern Ireland player, who presented students with their programme certificates, as well as prizes which had been personally donated by Stuart and fellow Leeds United player Glen Kamara.



Andy Wormald, Attendance & Behaviour Officer at Outwood Academy Hemsworth, said: "What a brilliant opportunity for the Leeds United Foundation to work alongside the club doctor, Rishi Dhand. The knowledge and insights that Rishi shared with the kids have been brilliant and everyone took something away from each session.

"We look forward to working with Rishi again. I would also like to thank Elise McVicar for taking the time to deliver a session and Dominique Grant for organising the visit from Stuart Dallas."

When asked about their participation in the programme, one student, Cayden, commented: "I learnt a lot about keeping healthy and eating well which has helped me in the gym to train longer and recover better. Also, meeting Stuart Dallas was class - I was speechless!"

“ I appreciate having the opportunity to learn more about my diet and gym work. These sessions from Rishi have helped me understand a healthy diet and a good gym session better. I enjoyed getting to meet Stuart Dallas at the end of the four weeks. ”

Brogan, Year ???



SCIENCE FAIR

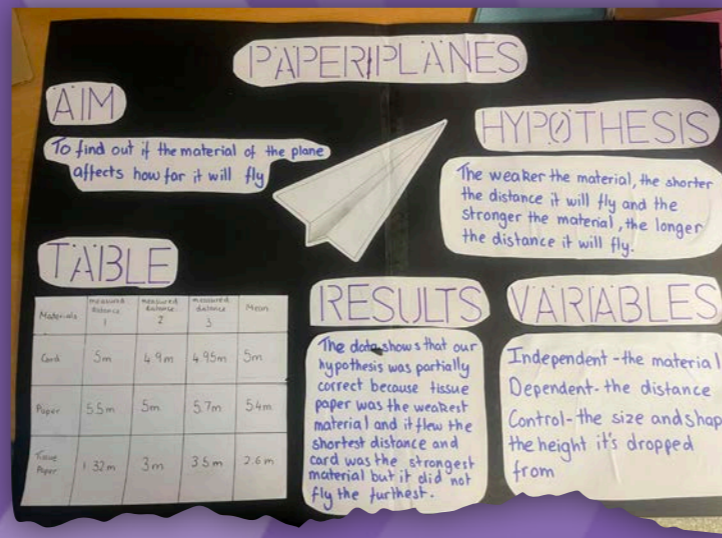
Excitement soared as the Year 7 and Year 8 students at Outwood Academy Hemsworth recently showcased their ingenuity and scientific prowess at the annual Science Fair. This year, the theme of flight took centre stage, inspiring young minds to explore the wonders of aerodynamics and aviation.

Working collaboratively in small groups, students delved into diverse aspects of flight. Some eagerly investigated the relationship between the size of hoop gliders and their aerodynamic performance, while others took a historical journey through the evolution of planes across different eras.

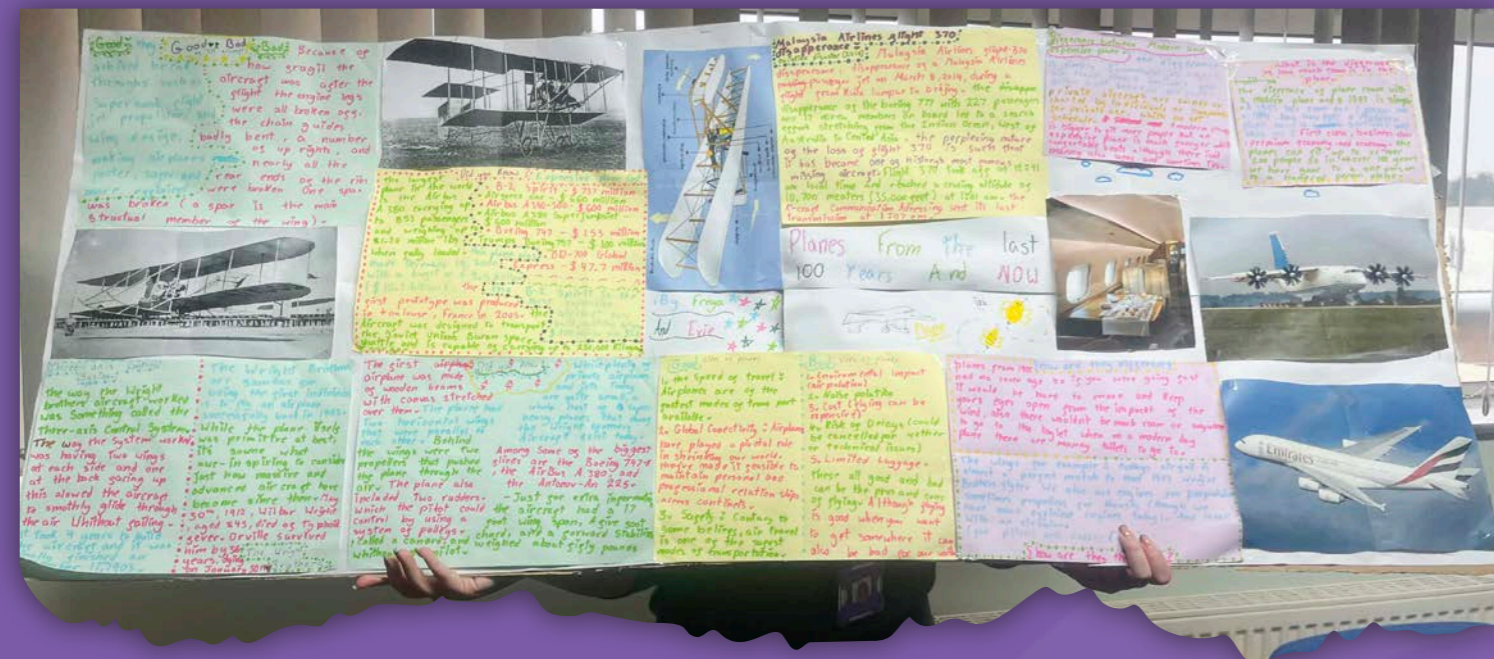
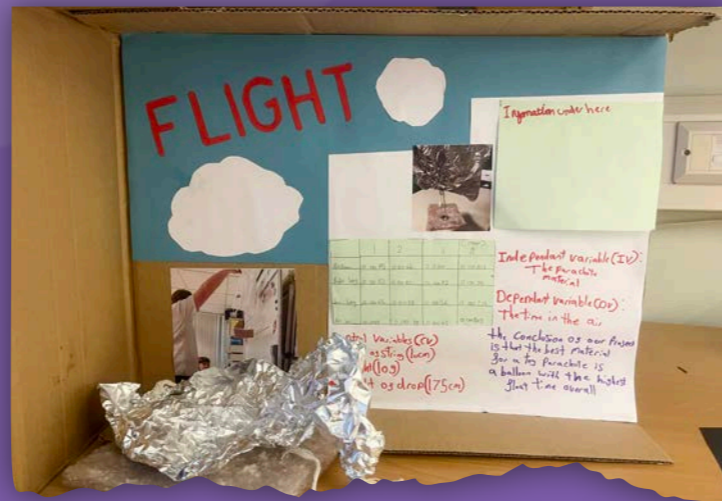
The atmosphere buzzed with enthusiasm and curiosity as students presented their findings, demonstrating not only their understanding of scientific principles but also their creativity in designing experiments and analysing data.

Following rigorous judging, standout projects from each class advanced to the prestigious Outwood Academy Hemsworth Science Fair. Winners from both Year 7 and Year 8 were awarded certificates of excellence and earned the coveted opportunity to represent their school at the regional science fair hosted by Outwood Grange Academy.

The Science Fair not only celebrated academic achievement but also fostered a deeper appreciation for the wonders of science and the boundless possibilities of exploration. It provided a platform for students to develop critical thinking skills, hone their presentation abilities, and cultivate a passion for inquiry-based learning.



As the winners prepare to embark on the next leg of their scientific journey at the regional level, their achievements stand as a testament to the power of curiosity and collaboration in shaping the future of scientific discovery. The sky's the limit for these budding scientists as they continue to reach for new heights in their pursuit of knowledge and innovation.



Greetings parents, students, and science enthusiasts! We are excited to share the magical wonders happening at our Key Stage 3 after-school club, FabLab. Aimed at students in Year 7 to Year 9, FabLab has been a hub of scientific exploration, discovery, and fun throughout the last term.

The FabLab experience has been nothing short of enchanting, as our young scientists delved into a realm where science meets magic. The term's experiments have been centred around a captivating magical theme, bringing a touch of wizardry to the world of STEM.



One of the highlights of this term was the creation of mini hovercrafts, a project that not only thrilled our participants but also provided hands-on experience with principles of physics and engineering. Witnessing their creations glide gracefully across surfaces, our students not only had fun but also gained valuable insights into aerodynamics.

The laws of refraction took center stage in another enchanting experiment, where students explored the art of making objects appear invisible. Understanding and manipulating light proved to be an eye-opening experience, demonstrating the magic behind the disappearing act.

SCIENCE FAB LAB

Adding an alchemical touch to their repertoire, our young scientists engaged in the mesmerizing process of turning copper coins into gold through electroplating. This experiment not only sparked curiosity but also taught valuable lessons about chemical reactions and the transformative power of science.

FabLab goes beyond conventional learning, fostering a passion for science by blending it with elements of wonder and imagination. The dedication and enthusiasm displayed by our KS3 students are truly commendable, and we can't wait to see what magical discoveries lie ahead in the upcoming terms at FabLab.

Thank you to all the science staff for supporting our budding scientists in their quest for knowledge and magic in the realm of FabLab, with a special thanks to Miss Baker for coordinating the whole endeavour.



YEAR 11 SCIENCE

Revision Masterclasses

Year 11 students recently got a boost in their exam prep through a science revision masterclass. The session was all about equipping them with the tools they need to tackle revision both for their mock exams and the real thing by using smart study methods.

The session focused on practical tools like how to utilize past paper questions, flashcards, and free recall exercises. Past papers weren't just for practice; they also helped students understand how exams are structured and sharpened their problem-solving skills under time pressure. Students also learned how they could use past papers to analyse their areas of strengths and weakness, enabling them to hone and refine their revision activities to focus on the topics that will help them to make the most progress.

Flashcards were a hit because they helped break down big ideas into smaller, easy-to-remember chunks. By going over them repeatedly and recalling information from memory,

students strengthened what they learned and made revision less overwhelming. Students were shown how to quickly make flashcards based on their areas of weakness, and how to use them effectively.

Another strategy students practiced was free recall, where students had to remember information without prompts. This not only deepened their understanding but also made sure they retained information in their long-term memory.

Students were also reminded to check out the Outwood Science website: science.outwood.com, which is packed with revision resources. It's a goldmine for extra help beyond the classroom.

Students left feeling more confident in their ability to tackle revision and exams head-on. With a toolkit of study strategies and the support of their teachers, Year 11 students are geared up to ace their exams!

A PLAYER FOR A DAY

Students from OAH experienced a player for a day at Thorp Arch, Leeds United's training facility.

The day started with the students being fully kitted out in Leeds United Academy training kit followed by a tour around the facility and where the 1st team and academy workout in the gyms, recover in the pool and relax in the games room.

The lads had a warm up session in the gym by the conditioner at Leeds United. The lads were shown correct techniques while accessing a gym, plyometrics and single jump testing.



After this they had chance to be trained by the Academy coaches who work with the LUFC elite players daily. After this session the boys were given time to rest and have their lunch.

After the break we had a education session with the academy teachers learning about attributes and which attributes they associate themselves with.

Before we left the lads had a chance to have a kick around on the indoor pitch as well as the Techball table.



NARRATIVE ROADSHOW

Year 11 students were given lots of opportunities to prepare for their February and March assessments in English during Spring Term 1.

Alongside GCSE English Language walk-through papers for Component 1 and Component 2 reading, students were given a Narrative Roadshow hosted by the Outwood Director of English team. Year 11 students were complimented for their exemplary attitude to learning which has also been present in their excellent engagement with the 100 Days of Literature Challenge as well as the Anthology Poetry Challenge to support their revision for GCSE English Literature.

Keep it up Year 11 as there are fewer than 100 days to go to the real exams!



POST 16 OUTLOOK

LEVEL 7 APPRENTICESHIP

Congratulations to Year 13 Student Holly, we could not be prouder of you!

Holly has just secured a Level 7 Apprenticeship with Ernst & Young Global Limited as a Tax Accountant.

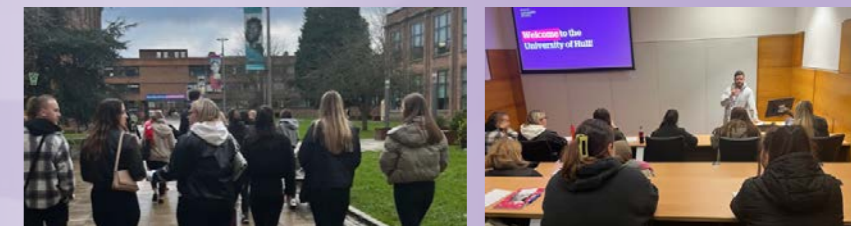
Holly, who is studying A level; Maths, English Literature and Law at Outwood Academy Hemsworth Post 16 said the following;

"I am very excited, it's a great way to start my career journey and I am so happy at how far I've come since starting in year 12. I can not wait to get started on the Apprenticeship in September. I really do recommend looking at Higher degree Apprenticeships, I learnt about them in our Post 16 Guidance sessions in year 12. There were 70,000 people who have applied on this intake and I am so happy to have actually got through. The Interview process of which there were 3 was a really comfortable experience, daunting, but I really enjoyed talking about something that I am passionate about and that must have shown as I got the place!"



STEP INTO POLICING ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

The Step into Policing programme is underway as part of Post 16 Enrichment. The programme developed by Sgt Jackson and Post 16 Learning Manager Mrs Perry are proud of what the students have achieved so far.



The group have visited University of Hull for the day, getting to know about the Professional Policing Degree with a tour of Crime scene rooms, as well as a Academic presentation by Dr Mick Wilkinson professor and renowned Author Professor Wilson has been a **Permanent Associate at the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE), Hull**, since its inception in 2006. Over the past 20 years he has taught across a range of disciplines: politics, social policy, development studies, gender & identity, sociology and criminology.



The National VIPER® Bureau who work in partnership with 22 forces across the UK including West Yorkshire Police Visited the Academy and students took part in the identification process.

All students who took part in the activity received £20 each from VIPER® to spend in the community.



FEBRUARY

The Students took part in Level 2 Public Order Training at The Police Training Centre, Carr Gate.

This was a full immersive experience for the students acting as the rioters as over 100 police officers demonstrated their tactical manoeuvres.

“That was amazing, it was challenging, physically demanding and exciting - what a great experience”

Charley Yr13 student studying: Criminology, Health & Social Care and Sociology.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Post 18 Options play a big part of Post 16 enrichment. As part of our Post 16 Guidance programme, Outwood Academy Hemsworths access to Higher in Education is something we are proud of, and over the years we have forged good working relationships with Universities across the country. The programme includes, UCAS Fairs, Guest Speakers, Day Trips to Universities as well as Academic sessions relating to students current programme of study; these trips are coordinated by both Mrs Perry and Mr Thompson.

Over the course of students 2 years in Post 16 students are able to access a wealth of advice and guidance from the Post 16 Team as well as dedicated colleagues with 60% of Post 16 students opting to continue their education at degree level.

Mr Thompson, who works for Go Higher, West Yorkshire has been with us for over 3 years. Working from the Post 16 office, Mr Thompson works with our students on a one to one level looking at Post 18 options including Higher degree apprenticeships and University courses.

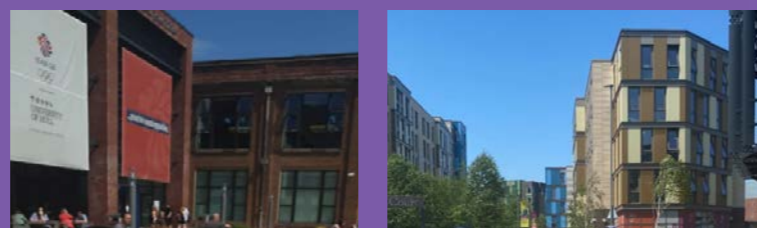
“I enjoy my job, it is rewarding when you see students achieve their goals and be successful.”

“I enjoy my job, it is rewarding when you see students achieve their goals and be successful.”

Mr Thompson, Go Higher, West Yorkshire



One of the highlights on the calendar is our annual trip to University of Hull who we work with very closely. Students spend the day at the university getting a great insight into what life is like for students, from Student accommodation, Social clubs and groups, facilities available and the all important students union as well the individual facilities. This is a great day enjoyed by all students and staff.



Jordan Milnes, Area Lead | Schools and Colleges Engagement who works closely with the Post 16 team, said the following:

For a number of years, I have had the fortune of working with Lou Perry Post 16 Learning Manager and the post-16 team at Outwood Academy Hemsworth as a representative of the University of Hull. I've been privileged to support groups of students as they explore their post-Outwood futures, offering insight into their university options at Hull and other institutions.

It's such a pleasure to be able to work with the team in Hemsworth because their commitment to ensuring students fulfil their own potential aligns with both my own ethos and that of the University of Hull.

To inform their decision-making, students have visited the Hull campus as part of our 'This is Hull' festival to engage with academic areas and gain insight into the life of a university student, and we look forward to welcoming the current Year 12 cohort in Summer 2024.

STUDENT VOICE

Student voice is also important, Caitlin Yr 13 student studying Law, English Language and History speaks about the sessions she has had:

“We have had good sessions during Guidance on options for Post 18 including Apprenticeships and Universities. I really like coming into the Post 16 office and speaking with Mrs Perry and Mr Thompson about my options when looking at and choosing my University and courses. I feel really comfortable about discussing my options and battling ideas with both Miss and Sir. It is great to hear their perspective.

I feel really proud at the moment seeing my UCAS offers come through, I am excited to commence my Law degree in September and have been to visit the University of Law in Leeds last week which I absolutely loved.”



TOP 3RD FOR THE TOP 3RD

Elephant Access is our widening participation programme for Post 16 students, which brings together regional hubs of schools and elite universities to improve aspiration, attainment and applications.

WHAT IS THIS PROGRAMME?

As part of the programme, TEG uses their collective knowledge and expertise to offer a high-quality, data-driven and flexible programme to ensure that our target students access the most selective universities. Elephant Access provides a 'minimum entitlement' of 16 activities and experiences for students, delivering many at central and regional level, and providing resources, guidance and content to support Post 16 centres with in-house delivery where most appropriate.

ACTIVITIES STUDENTS CAN ENGAGE IN

There are a wide range of activities including day conferences, a residential summer school in Year 12, course application guidance, preparation for university admissions tests, trips and other experiences to broaden students' horizons. There will be invitations to talk with alumni, guidance on writing a personal statement and professional work experience.



COMMUNITY CHAMPION

On Thursday 18th January, Arees was selected as EFL and Leeds United FC Community Champion along with 3 others.

Arees received this reward because he had 0.4% attendance and turned it around and now has 100% attendance and attends all lessons and even extracurricular sessions.

Arees had the opportunity to attend a 1st team training, training ground tour and to top the day off he met the players.

Glen Kamara from Leeds United presented Arees with a match shirt with Afzal 7 on the back.

Also part of Arees award he had the chance to watch the Leeds vs Preston North End game in a private box with the other winners.

This was an early start as we got served breakfast before kick-off, met Leeds United stars Dan James and Archie Gray followed by photos at the side of the pitch.

Arees witnessed the fantastic atmosphere at Leeds United in their 2-1 win.



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Uniform Policy - Required

Academy uniform must not be altered in a way that changes the style of the item.

- ▶ Academy or plain white long or short sleeved shirt with a stiff collar
- ▶ Academy trousers or skirt – black
- ▶ Academy clip-on tie
- ▶ Academy jacket – black
- ▶ Plain black socks or 40 denier tights
- ▶ Plain black shoes – no trainers, boots, pumps or canvas shoes will be allowed

Uniform Policy - Optional

- ▶ Academy V neck jumper – sleeves need to be at full length
- ▶ Academy V neck slip (tank top)



Students First
OUTWOOD
ACADEMY HEMSWORTH