

16 June 2023

## **Outwood Academy Ormesby OFSTED Monitoring Visit**

Dear parent/carer,

Following an OFSTED monitoring visit on Wednesday 26 April 2023 we are now able to share their report. Outwood Academy Ormesby is under OFSTED monitoring with regular visits from inspectors following our inadequate judgement in July 2022. The monitoring visits reports provide comment on the progress the school is making towards the inadequate judgement being removed. This was our first monitoring visit since the inspection. OFSTED concluded that ***‘Leaders have made progress to improve the school, but more work is necessary for the category of concern to be removed.’*** This is the most positive response the school could receive at this stage of its school improvement journey. This monitoring visit does not change the school’s inadequate judgement.

OFSTED says that the school have made progress in the following areas:

- A new academy improvement board, with members from both within and outside the school and the trust, has played a key role in designing the action plan and reviewing progress, with leaders understanding the issues to be addressed and staff “positive” about the steps taken to move the school forward.
- Senior leaders from across OGAT have been spending considerable time in the school since the previous inspection to add leadership capacity.
- A new policy was also introduced last year to ensure that students’ positive behaviour is recognised through rewards and praise. Alongside this, a personal development centre has been opened to work with specific students and help avoid suspensions. Ofsted said “this work is beginning to have an impact”, with the number of suspensions falling, and that the atmosphere around the school and in lessons is “calm”, with relationships between students “positive”.
- Inspectors praised the strong focus placed on improving attendance, with a much larger attendance team ensuring the improvements are sustainable. Ofsted said this was also having a positive effect – persistent absence is falling, with a “significant” decrease for Year 11 students.

- To further improve parental engagement, a new forum for gathering the views of parents has been set up and a dedicated staff role created so parents have a specific point of contact when students return after suspension. There are also plans in place to work with families as part of the “thrive” model that the school has adopted.
- The school is using a “five pillars” approach in lessons, to focus the ways in which teachers introduce new information to students and link it to previously taught content.
- Ofsted praised the addition of a second special educational needs coordinator to provide extra capacity identifying and supporting the needs of the most vulnerable pupils, a “particularly successful” aspect of this work is the creation of the Year 7 “elevate” group to support students identified as needing extra help in lessons.

We are delighted inspectors recognised the progress that is underway, but agree that further improvement is needed. Since the OFSTED visit in April we have welcomed Mr Drew as our new Principal he will work closely with myself and other Trust leaders to drive further improvements as we move into next academic year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for their ongoing support and for their feedback which helps us to strengthen our procedures. One of our remaining areas for improvement is student attendance. I would like to reiterate that attendance to the academy for many pupils currently requires improvement, please support us by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and on time, our attendance target for students is 95% or above.

Please find a copy of the full OFSTED report [here](#).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma Trattles', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Mrs Gemma Trattles**  
**Associate Executive Principal**