

Our ref: DSH/MGR

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am beyond proud to be able to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the newly appointed acting associate principal at Outwood Academy Portland. Having worked as vice principal responsible for the quality of education across ten Outwood Grange Academies Trust schools, I feel I have the tools and vision to move our outstanding school forward. I believe students should be fully immersed in the best educational opportunities available and I will accept nothing less from both our staff and students.

Student's happiness is extremely important to me. I want for them to feel safe, secure, challenged, enriched and empowered at school - and I am honoured to be able to lead and embed this vision as acting associate principal. Change cannot be achieved in isolation. There is a wider community contributing to the growth and development of a school and it is critical that all should feel involved. I look forward to working with you to ensure our students become the very best versions of themselves as they flourish, and go into the world of higher education and on into the world of work.

I have always dreamed of leading an academy, which has a primary school feel. Digging deep, I believe that means I wish for Outwood Academy Portland to be at the heart of the community and that parents/carers feel as much part of the school as the students do too. To enable you to feel part of the school, I would like to give you a little insight into me and my background.

I have a degree in biomedical chemistry, however I began my teaching career delivering dance and science lessons. I became head of performing arts at Outwood Academy City, when we became an Outwood school. In fact, I recall visiting Outwood Academy Portland during our conversion and being overwhelmed by its ethos and high standards. During that time, I joined the senior leadership team leading on teaching and learning. I was then promoted to Assistant Principal at Outwood Academy Adwick where I led on the quality of education across the school. During that time we became Ofsted 'outstanding', and this was the best moment in my teaching career. To know that the quality of learning in Doncaster was world class blew me away. Since then I have been vice principal across ten schools in Outwood, working alongside principals on their respective journeys to outstanding.

Personally, I am dedicated to the life chances of children in Worksop, my niece and nephew live in Worksop and so in turn, I cannot accept anything but the best provision for the community. I am privileged to be the step mum of two wonderful boys who are also both secondary school age, another role I am humbled to have.

It has been my pleasure to look after your sons/daughters in the academy over the past week during Mr Dzoboku's absence, they are truly delightful. I have loved attending the after school enrichments, following sports fixtures, listening to students reading, chatting to them during lunch and helping to support learning and progress in so many exciting lessons.

I am under no illusion that aspects of the school need improving. My first task is to ensure behaviour is impeccable, that students are happy when learning and that lessons are world class; I hope you fully support my vision. I will be sending more information this week regarding standards and expectations in January.

### **January 2022 Staggered Return Dates**

As students return to school after Christmas we will stagger their return dates to allow time for each year group to be tested.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Y11 and Y8 students only (Online Learning for years 7, 9 and 10)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Y7, Y8, Y10 and Y11 students only (Online Learning for year 9)

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – All year groups return to the Academy

We will ensure students have their passwords and login details for google classroom prior to our finish on Thursday.

I look forward to meeting you face to face in the future when we return after Christmas. May I take a moment to wish you all a very special Christmas and a prosperous new year.

We are looking forward to welcoming the students back in January 2022.

Yours faithfully



**Danielle Sheehan**  
**Acting Associate Principal**