



15th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Confirmation of Date for Official Academy Conversion

Since September we have been working very hard on the implementation of OGAT systems and structures across the school. This has involved, for example, providing every student with a brand new school uniform, changing the time of our school day and introducing a new school planner. We have also been able to issue all students with their very first Praising Stars report to bring home and we received some fantastic feedback from students and families about the format of the new reports. We have also made really great strides to introduce our enrichment programme, continually improve our curriculum, offer professional development to staff and begin to build our praise culture in school.

I am pleased to confirm that all of the legal work required behind the scenes for an academy conversion has now been completed. The Department for Education has confirmed that on 1 January 2022, we will officially open as Outwood Academy Haydock. I am grateful to the teams of people from the Trust, St Helens Council, our Governors and the DfE who have worked on this project over many months. You will soon see our new Academy external signage will be put up and I will write again to launch our new academy website.

As a result of the way we have been working since September, other than the signage and the website, the official conversion will not mean that anything looks or feels different in school. The work since September has really given us a “head start” to this academic year which is already impacting positively on the way that our students are learning.

As I mentioned earlier, I will write again to share our new academy website with you. The website will be a brilliant resource for parents and carers and will really improve our communication with home in terms of the information we are able to share. I am also pleased to let you know that in the Spring term we will be launching a brand new OGAT parent portal which will link to the information systems in school and allow parents, carers and students mobile access to Praising Stars as well as information about attendance, behaviour and praise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support during this period of transformation for our school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Abram
Principal