



26 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **School Sponsorship - Becoming an Academy**

As you will all be aware Hindley High School was judged to be inadequate following its Ofsted inspection in March 2020. As a result of this judgement the school was issued with a Directive Academy Order (DAO) by the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) on behalf of the Department for Education. This means that the RSC had to find an appropriate Multi Academy Trust to sponsor the school: through sponsorship, the school will become an academy. The RSC identified Outwood Grange Academies Trust (Outwood) as a suitable match for Hindley High as part of a longer term plan to establish more high performing Trusts in the North West of England. If you would like to know more information about what becoming an academy means, please visit: <https://cstuk.org.uk/guidance-improvement-hub/myth-busting>.

Outwood is a strong Trust with a long proven history of supporting community schools. Outwood sponsors 24 secondary schools and 11 primary schools based in the north of England and has an outstanding track record: we are all excited about the future for the Hindley community. Outwood runs inclusive academies which are placed at the heart of their communities where all children are cared for and where standards are raised and lives transformed.

We appreciate that you have had to wait a significant amount of time for this confirmation but now that we have it we would like to provide you with an opportunity to “meet” with us so that we can share our vision for the school, our aspirations for your child’s education and give you an opportunity to ask us any questions. Normally this meeting with parents/carers would take place face-to-face however, due to COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to do so. We will therefore upload a video presentation to the school website which will give you an overview of Outwood and our plans to support the further transformation of Hindley High. We will notify you when this is ready to view. You are bound to have lots of questions so we have set up an electronic form for you to use. A link to this form can be found [here](#). It can also be found on the [school website](#). One of the most frequently asked questions is about uniform. There will be a change of uniform at an appropriate point but please do not worry about this as Outwood will provide a free uniform bundle for all children. We will share more details with you at a later date but for now, children will continue to wear the existing uniform.

As part of the sponsorship process, Outwood will carry out a detailed due diligence on all aspects of the school which will take place over a number of weeks. There will be detailed surveys carried out on the buildings and our priority is to ensure that we secure an appropriate way forward with the Department for Education to resolve any issues. Rest assured, this work will not interfere with your child’s education now. Teachers and support staff will continue to be supported and we are all mindful of how hard things are for everyone during the pandemic.

It is important that we keep you well informed and updated of any changes that may occur as a result of Hindley High joining the Outwood family and therefore, we will provide you with regular updates and share the

responses to the questions you raise. In the meantime, if you would like to find out more about the Trust, the Prospectus can be accessed [here](#) or by visiting [www.outwood.com](http://www.outwood.com)

We are all excited about this collaboration and the opportunity for Hindley High to become an outstanding school.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Jude Norman  
**Acting Headteacher,  
Hindley High**

*Margaret Woodhouse*

Margaret Woodhouse  
**Chair of IEB,  
Hindley High**



Martyn Oliver  
**Chief Executive,  
OGAT**



Julie Slater  
**Chief Executive  
Principal, Secondary,  
OGAT**