

23 April 2021

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

Here at Outwood Academy Newbold, our staff love to come to work everyday and teach your incredibly talented and hard-working children. Over the next few weeks, you will be invited to read a letter from one of our staff members detailing why they love working in our community.

Our staff member this week is Mrs Claire Chittenden:

I have been an English Teacher at Outwood Academy Newbold for five years. I completed my teacher training here in 2016 when the school was in the first couple of years of its transformation into the wonderful Academy we know today. I feel so proud and privileged that for every day of the past five years I have been able to work in the English Department at the best school in Chesterfield. You know the phrase "If you do what you love, you never work a day in your life" and that is exactly how I feel about being an English teacher at Outwood Academy Newbold.

I have wanted to teach English since I was 16. My GCSE English teacher taught me the power of Literature and how reading and writing are fundamental skills that everyone has the right to possess. I wanted to be the person that taught these skills to students and to hopefully instill a passion for learning and Literature. I always dreamed of standing in a classroom where students were acting out extracts from Shakespeare or reading out their own speeches or poetry that they feel proud to share. At Outwood Academy Newbold, I have the opportunity every day to do this. I love teaching because no lessons and no days are ever the same. I could prepare and teach the same content to two different classes and the personal responses and depth that each class would provide inspires me to keep teaching!

Our students overwhelm me with their thoughtful and perceptive comments and their inquisitive nature to learning. Due to English being a core subject, I have taught the majority of the school over the past five years; this means I know most students. Our students are something special and unless you have walked the corridors and seen the learning that takes place in our school, it's quite difficult to encapsulate just how magical it is. I know it sounds cheesy but it's true! During COVID 19, our students have shown immense resilience and the desire to learn has never been stronger. Even though our classrooms aren't 'normal', the students are still thriving in them and still making exceptional amounts of progress.

This year, I have introduced the PROUD Podium to the academy. In the final week of every half term, students can bring work they are proud of to our Senior Leaders and they receive a certificate and some sweets for their effort. It has really transformed students' mindsets and helps them to believe that the work they complete is worth feeling proud of! I have seen models of Viking ships, stunning photography work and students' very own Neverlands. It really does showcase their outstanding hard work and effort that happens in our classrooms every day.

This is why I love to teach English at Outwood Academy Newbold.

Claire Chittenden
Proud teacher of English