

A Brew with



Katy Bradford, Deputy CEO

Welcome to A Brew with...! Each month, we catch up with an Outwood Family colleague to find out more about them and their career. This month we sat down with Katy Bradford, Deputy CEO.

First up, what are you drinking?

I don't drink tea or coffee (never managed to acquire the taste!) but will have a green tea please!

When did you first join the Outwood Family?

I started as the Business Manager at Outwood Academy Adwick when the Trust was first formed in 2009, then a couple of years later I became the HR Director for the schools in the southern region. In 2012, I was appointed as Director of Business Services - this role later became the Chief Operating Officer. At the start of this school year, I was appointed as Deputy CEO.

"Everything was about putting the students first"

What were your initial thoughts when you began working at Outwood?

It was a really exciting time as it was the very beginning of Outwood's growth. I joined from a local authority and the Trust was very different, being much more dynamic in terms of decision making and taking action. Everything was about putting the students first.

What do you love most about your job?

My favourite part of the job is walking around our schools, taking opportunities to talk to children and colleagues. It's my job to work with all our amazing colleagues and identify any challenges they may be facing, so I can support them in doing their jobs to the best of their ability.

"Whole Trust arts events always fill me with joy"

What is your favourite memory working at Outwood so far?

My most memorable event was a Christmas concert that we held at Ripon Cathedral. We had students from across the Trust and a number of us had great fun serving tea to the children in Ripon's dining hall (I think it involved wearing tinsel!). The event itself was just beautiful and our children truly shone. Whole Trust arts events always fill me with joy as you get to see children loving their opportunity to perform and show off their amazing talents.

"There are so many staff in the Trust that go out of their way to do an amazing job every day"

Is there a particular colleague who you enjoy working with who you'd like to give a shout-out to?

There are so many staff in the Trust that go out of their way to do an amazing job every day, but the one I'm going to pick is Michele Gregory, PA to the Principal at Portland. She always makes time for a chat and a smile when I'm there and I know that she works so hard to support the Principal and keep the school running smoothly.

What do you think has been the biggest change since you began working at Outwood?

We've obviously grown so much. When I started, the Trust only consisted of two schools, Outwood Grange Academy and Outwood Academy Adwick. Since then we've moved into a further 10 local authorities, grown to 41 schools, including primary and alternative provision. I can remember when we thought 10 schools meant we were a big Trust!

When you're not at work, how do you like to spend your time?

I have two daughters who keep me very busy as they need taking to various activities in the evenings and weekends. I also have a Cocker Spaniel called Rocco and love taking him for very long walks to try to tire him out, which is not easy!



Which three people, dead or alive, would you want to have a brew with?

First would be Audrey Hepburn, who I've loved since being a teenager and watching Breakfast at Tiffany's. Second, Elizabeth I as that period of history fascinates me. Finally, it would be Ella Fitzgerald as she has the most amazing voice.