

September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Principal of Astrea Academy Netherwood. Having had the opportunity to welcome scholars back to the academy over the last week I now want to reach out to you, as parents and carers, too.

My goal is to ensure your child leaves the academy as a well-educated, well-rounded citizen ready to fulfil their potential and on the pathway to University or a real alternative. As Principal, I am committed to the fundamental values of Astrea Academies Trust, these combine to create an establishment committed to educational excellence and family values delivered in a traditional way.

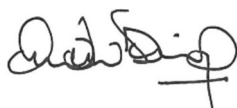
I shared with staff of the academy my ambition, to make Astrea Academy Netherwood the best in Barnsley, and I was pleased by the determination of staff to deliver this for your child; I truly believe that every scholar deserves this.

However, it is important to state that these outcomes will only be achieved through exceptionally high standards of behaviour and commitment from scholars. With time being such a precious commodity, we know that every minute matters and subsequently every scholar has the right to disruption free classrooms, which is what we will deliver for them.

I have personal experience and a strong belief in the truly transformational power of education in changing life chances and life choices, and I bring with me 25 years of educational experience, over 15 of which in educational leadership. I know that schools thrive when they are at the heart of the community—when families, staff, scholars, and local partners work together to create a safe, inspiring, and inclusive environment for learning.

You have trusted Astrea Academy Netherwood with the education of your child and I urge you to support us in what we are aiming to deliver – an education the community deserves and can be proud of.

With warm regards,



Andrew Downing
Principal