

The transformation of Carlton over the past few years has been immense. From a school that was in special measures to a school that is rated good, soon to be rated outstanding by Ofsted. Our pass rate has gone from 33% in 2014 to 68% this year. The change in results is obvious.

But, what is not so obvious but ever-present is the change in our students' mindset. Instead of feeling embarrassed to say that they attend this school, now students wear their uniform with pride and with a new sense of aspiration. Due to this school's excellent teaching and support staff students can dream big because they know that if they work hard they can achieve whatever they want to achieve.

This school offers a range of excellent enrichment opportunities. Football, afterschool art, cheerleading, trampolining, singing, a retro gaming club and netball, these are just some of the activities that are run and I can ensure you, there is something for everyone. And of course, you could join the Student Council or the Student Voice.

To give you a real-world story of how Carlton can change a student's life, let me give you my own.

Most of my story takes place in my final year, you'll have to forgive me for that, but Outwood only took over this school in the latter half of my time in secondary school.

At the end of year 9, I felt isolated and I lacked self-confidence. I also didn't much like talking to new people, and I didn't even like it when they talked to me. I was the definition of an unhealthy introvert. As well as that, I was feeling very uneasy about my first set of GCSEs. I think all of this was down to the uncomfortable atmosphere in the school at the time.

In year 10, Outwood officially took over the school. Now, that was the beginning of a lot of my own personal development. The new teachers, teaching techniques and opportunities that came with Outwood really helped me to break out of my shell.

I started talking to new people, and I started enjoying my lessons, a lot. And, despite before refusing to take part in almost all activities afterschool, I was ready to start getting involved in them. At the same time, I was gaining the exam skills that I would need for my GCSEs.

It was the beginning of year 11, and with GCSEs under my belt and a new self-confidence about me I went to Mr Kanwar and asked to found the first Student Council here in Carlton. With his approval there was an election, in which thank goodness, I was chosen and that was it. I had such a great time setting up the Student Council and talking to students who had before been complete strangers to me. After having run the Student Council for some time, to put even more positive pressure on myself I ran to be the Member of UK Youth Parliament for Barnsley, and to my amazement I was elected.

I was and still am surprised that I managed to balance my GCSEs, the Student Council work and the new role of being Member of Youth Parliament, but I did, I couldn't have done it without the support of the teachers though. When the final exams came around I felt ready, confident and accomplished, completely opposite to how I felt in year 9, and, because of the excellent teaching and support I received, I think I did actually achieve my full potential in all of my GCSEs.

Now, thanks to all of the work that the teachers put in, my friends, my family I'm studying at Barnsley's Sixth Form college doing subjects that I love, meeting new people. And, something I never thought I'd say, I'm going to be able to speak in the House of Commons on Barnsley's behalf, and I think I've become a bit of an extrovert.

I hope that your sons or daughters do choose to come to this school, it will change their lives and they will become much more and achieve much more than they ever thought they could. Thank you for listening.