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## FUTURE LEADER TRANSFORMS STRUGGLING SCHOOLS INTO OUTSTANDING ACADEMY

Ofsted today announced that Oasis Academy Shirley Park in Croydon, led by Glen Denham – a graduate of the Future Leaders headship programme – is an ‘Outstanding’ school in every respect, an achievement matched by only 3.9% of comparable schools.

Glen has been Principal since the all-through Academy was formed in 2009 from three struggling schools, including an infant school in Special Measures and a secondary with the worst GCSE results in the area. The Academy has higher than average numbers of students’ eligible for the pupil premium, with English as an additional language and with special educational needs. Under Glen’s leadership there has been a transformation.

This year’s GCSE results were 36 percentage points above those of the predecessor school, while today’s announcement shows this is an academy that provides the highest standard of education for its students. Ofsted report that staff are “committed to ensuring that their students fulfil their potential” and that students themselves “take immense pride in the academy and everything it offers.” They record that “staff love working at the academy” and praise the “inspirational Principal”.

Such success is all the more noteworthy because Glen has not had a conventional teaching career. He is a former Olympian for the New Zealand basketball team and hosted a television talk show. He joined Future Leaders, a leadership development programme for high-potential school leaders, in 2007 and was appointed Principal of Shirley Park two years later.

Other Future Leaders have also played a part in Shirley Park’s success. Daniel Morrow, who joined the programme in 2009, is now Head of the secondary school and Louise Lee (also 2009) is Deputy Head. Other Future Leaders who spent time in the Academy include Paddy Cassidy, Diana Masanga and Kevin Rowlands, now Principal at Oasis Academy Immingham.

Principal Glen Denham said: “We can be incredibly proud to be an ‘Outstanding’ Academy that serves one of the most deprived areas in the country and we all share the belief that our children have the right to an outstanding education. As a Principal with in the Oasis family of Academies, I am very proud to be a Future Leader and to be associated with an organisation that is a leader in its field.

“We share the same commitment to children in this country, which is a relentless pursuit of ensuring that all children should go to great schools regardless of postcode or circumstance. To receive an ‘Outstanding judgement in our inspection is a testament to the hard work of staff, students and parents. We accept that ‘Outstanding’ is not a grade but a challenge to fulfil each and every day.

“It is true that many of our students arrive with levels of achievement significantly below the national average. Many arrive from outside the UK midway through their primary or secondary education with little or no English. Others have a history of disaffection in other schools that has led to exclusion. But our job is to find the key to unlock the potential of every child. We accept no excuses and we have extremely high expectations about behaviour and attitudes towards others.



“No day is without its challenges, but the radical transformation in our Academy shows what can be done when a community, a school and dedicated, talented staff work together. Quite simply they transform lives”.

Heath Monk, CEO of The Future Leaders Trust said: “I first met Glen Denham over six years ago. Since then he has worked tirelessly to make The Future Leaders Trust’s core belief that every child can be successful into a reality. We are working to eradicate educational disadvantage and Glen is leading a school that embodies this moral purpose. It is a very proud moment for us all.”

John Murphy, National Director of Academies for Oasis Community Learning, said, “Glen is a Principal who is dedicated to ensuring his students get the best possible start in life. The team and school culture that he has created will give these students the chance to realise their aspirations. Shirley Park is clearly not just an excellent Oasis Academy but one of the best schools in England.

“There are 10 Future Leaders who are now working as Executive Principals, Lead Principals and Principals across Oasis Academies and they have played a huge part in making the chain one of the top performing in primary, secondary and all-through contexts.”

The Future Leaders Trust only works in schools in challenging contexts and Future Leaders have a track record of supporting the kind of success seen at Oasis Academy Shirley Park. Current data shows that 66 challenging secondary schools are graded ‘Outstanding’ in all areas, and that 15 of these schools have had Future Leaders working in them for at least two years. GCSE results from 2013 also show that schools with a headteacher trained on the Future Leaders programme have improved GCSE attainment in 5+ A\* - Cs (including English and maths) by 4.6 percentage points on average, compared with the national rate of 1.7 percentage points.

ENDS

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## Notes to Editors

OFSTED data shows that 3.9% of inspected eligible state secondary schools are 'Outstanding' in all measures, putting Oasis Academy Shirley Park in an impressive minority.

The all-through academy has also seen the percentage achieving the Back increase from 4% in 2012 to 18% this year showing a massive improvement in rigorous subjects.

Leading a school – especially one in disadvantaged circumstances – is a complex job with often conflicting variables, many of which make it difficult to make a lasting impact in a short amount of time. Despite that, predicted results show that a significant majority of the schools with Future Leaders headteachers saw improvements in their 2013 results.

### **About Us**

The Future Leaders Trust is an independent charity with the mission to raise the achievement of children, regardless of background, and to provide them with equal choices and opportunities in life. By developing a network of exceptional school leaders, it is transforming challenging schools and working to eradicate educational disadvantage.

Through the Future Leaders programme, the Trust places outstanding current or former teachers in senior leadership and ultimately headship roles in schools in challenging circumstances, and is creating a powerful network of leaders who are committed to raising the achievement, aspiration and improving the life chances of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The schools that their headteachers lead are particularly challenging :

- An average of 67% of students come from the 30% most deprived areas in England, with some intakes including up to 98% of students from these backgrounds
- An average of 40% of students are eligible for Free School Meals
- An average of 27% of students are in the low prior attainment band, including cases where this reaches a high of 44%

For more information visit [www.future-leaders.org.uk](http://www.future-leaders.org.uk)

### **About Oasis Academies**

Oasis is a global movement committed to social transformation through building strong communities. In the UK, we are one of the largest academy networks, with over thirty primary and secondary schools in our family of academies. Oasis Academies demonstrate high levels of improvement. On average, each secondary academy has increased the number of students obtaining five plus GCSEs A\* - C (including English and maths) by 23 percentage points on their predecessor school. Similarly Oasis primary Academies this year showed students on average making better than expected progress in reading, writing and maths.

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