

PARENT VOICE MEETING Thursday 2 February 2017

ATTENDANCE: Principal (Mr A. Wappat), Mrs P. Taylor (Chair & Sponsor Governor), M. Cooper (Sponsor Governor), R. Whiley, J. Dales, K. Hardakor, A. Phillips, S. Beckett, J. Walker

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Mrs Taylor welcomed everyone present and emphasised how important and valued their input was to Governors.

PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMY UPDATE:

Mr Wappat began by demonstrating his juggling skills and explaining that his clubs had been repaired in school and he hoped to introduce the teaching of these skills into the Academy's Enrichment Programme. His colleague Ms Ferris, Assistant Principal is also planning to run an Enrichment session.

'Facebook' pages were used to demonstrate the varied activities and initiatives that have taken place in the Academy since the last Parent Voice meeting in October 2016. The importance of the Academy website as a communication tool was also reiterated:

- **Careers Fair**
A very successful event, with many and varied post 16 education providers, was held in the Academy.
- **Space Day**
This annual event, which was extremely well supported by local primary schools, once again proved a very stimulating educational experience for those present, including pupils, parents, carers and staff.
- **Student Voice**
Students were given resources and time to organise and participate in the election of the Academy President. The Mayor announced the result and invited a group of students to attend the Council Chamber in the New Year.
- **Remembrance Day**
This was a moving event which, for the first time, included all students, as well as some parents. The student behaviour was impeccable and Mr Wappat said how proud he was of all the students at the really special assembly.
- **Drama Festivals & Y10 BTEC Performance**
Year 7, Year 8 put on very well attended and received performances.
The school production 'Honk' gave all students in the Academy an opportunity to perform, again with very entertaining results.
Mr Taylor, the Drama, teacher stated the Year 10 BTEC group were the 'best students ever' in his teaching careers and recommended them all for distinctions for their preparation and performance.
- **Food Bank Christmas Assembly**
Students showed their empathy with those less fortunate than themselves when they made up more than 80 food bank shoe boxes. The area co-ordinator, who gave a short speech on the work of the local Food Banks, was overwhelmed by the generosity of the students and their families.
- **E safety & Digital Leaders**

In a survey students said that 70% knew more than their parents about e safety. Miss Peacock organised an e safety event for parents which, though not as well attended as it might have been, provided valuable information and resources for those present.

Digital Leaders, part of the Peer Mentoring Student Voice Group, have been trained to support students in school and all students have received e safety training.

Latest statistical evidence from OFSTED:

- **Progress 8 score:**
This is at **+0.27** puts Outwood Academy Bydales **above national average.**
- **Comparison with similar schools:**
The Academy is **8th in a group of 55** secondary schools with similar prior attainment from Primary school.
The Academy is also in **the top 15%** of secondary schools in the country.
- **Comparison with local schools based on its Progress 8 score:**
The Academy is the **highest performing secondary school in Redcar and Cleveland**
The Academy is the **4th highest performing secondary school in the Tees Valley**

OPEN FORUM FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- **Information letter distribution**
This is an on-going problem with letters not getting home. Letters are also published on the website. The Academy now has more text facilities and these should further alleviate the difficulties.
- **Vertical Mentoring Group (VMG) Time**
Students are concerned that the proposed splitting of VMG and Break time will mean they do not see their friends. Mr Wappat explained that when this does happen it will be for safety and logistic reasons: as more students choose to come to Outwood Academy Bydales there is not the space for the whole Academy to have Break together safely. It is becoming increasingly difficult to serve snack in the time allotted, toilet facilities are stretched and the logistics of movement around the building are being further examined. Students will have the reasons for the changes explained to them in more detail.
- **Year 6/7 Transition 2017**
Parents had heard that the Transition time was to be altered this year. Mr Wappat stated that parents/carers of children who were allocated places on 1st March 2017 would be informed of transition arrangements immediately and that these arrangements would be carefully considered to provided appropriate support for this important time in their education.
- **Use of stairs**
Changes were being made and, with safety in mind, students would be required to use stairs on P.E. corridor rather than English corridor at certain times. The reasons for this would be explained to students during VMG time.
- **Use of toilets at break**
Where lessons were continuing during split breaks upstairs toilets would continue to be 'out of bounds'. Toilet areas needed to be unthreatening for all students so they are always carefully monitored by staff, and there will be less crowding once the split occurs.
- **Dinner Hall rules**

To make dining a pleasurable social experience students are required to sit down if they wish to remain in the Dining Area when they have finished their meal. Otherwise they will be asked to go outside. There are tables for everyone to sit and chat for the whole of lunchtime in they prefer.

- **'No hands up'**

This strategy is used in class to ensure all students are involved and participate.

- **Bike Permits**

C4s are used for riding on the pavement, in an unsafe or inconsiderate manner. Mr Wappat is aware that the cycle path does not cover the whole of Marske and safe cycling was discussed. Spot checks for passes are carried out and passes can be suspended for unsafe behaviour. Provision of more cycle racks is being investigated.

- **Distribution of Y11 GCSE results certificates**

Parents/carers were disappointed that the award evening had been discontinued. Mr Wappat explained that it was not a tradition at other Outwood Academies and students would be aware that it would not happen in the future. He would consider how the certificates were distributed to students in the future and reiterated his admiration for the hard work and great achievement of Outwood Academy Bydales students.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr Wappat and Mrs Taylor thanked parents/carers for their attendance and input. Parents/carers were assured that, as usual their points would be carefully considered and, where possible, addressed.