

PARENT VOICE MEETING Wednesday 3 February 2016

ATTENDANCE: Principal (Mr Wappat), Mrs P. Taylor (Chair & Sponsor Governor), Mrs. S. Argument (Vice-Chair & Sponsor Governor), S. Sheperia, J. Dales, A. Pursley, E. Rolfe.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS including introduction of new Vice-Chair, Mrs Sheila Argument

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL UPDATE:

Academic achievement:

- Outwood Academy Bydales is now **top school in Tees Valley** compared with similar schools based on last year's Y11 results, for 'Best 8 Value Added', and position compared to similar school.
- Outwood Academy Bydales is **second school in the North East** compared with similar schools based on last year's Y11 results, for 'Best 8 Values Added'

Y11 Revision:

- This year's Y11 students are being given comprehensive revision packages including Parent Evenings to provide parents/carers with information and advice on how to support their children.

Careers Support:

- Job Centre Plus is working with school to support students.
- School has a weekly programme of careers information presentations for students.
- A bid for a £80K government grant to develop careers advice in Outwood schools has been written by Mr Wappat and Mr Pickles (Local Academy Council and OGAT Trust member). There is now a 1:2 chance of success of this bid.

OPEN FORUM FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

1. **Communications:** There was discussion about information getting home and infrequent cancellations, at short notice, of enrichment. Parents were very positive about 'Mail Chimp' and texts to communicate information from school. (Mr Wappat undertook to make sure these were used where possible).
2. **Career support and mentoring:** A parent said that, in her experience, businesses were keen to support schools with careers advice. The NHS was cited as a good example of this.
3. **Careers:** Positive responses to the school Careers fair were expressed.
4. **Uniform:** Concerns were raised on the quality of uniform, online availability and speed of delivery. (Mr Wappat will contact OGAT staff responsible for uniform of these concerns).
5. **School student numbers:** A parent asked if student numbers has increased since the outstanding results in 2015. (Mr Wappat did not expect a significant increase in numbers. Historically many students come from outside the immediate area. Outwood Academy Bydales has some places).
6. **The Bridge:** a parent wanting to highlight the fact that students find The Bridge a safe welcoming environment. The new arrangement for medication centred on The Bridge was seen as working very well.
7. **Facebook and Tweets:** both are providing excellent information. Hits are now 10K – 12K.
8. **Parent Governor:** a vacancy has occurred for a Parent Governor. Information will go out to parents/carers on 22nd February.

9. Sponsor Governor: Mrs Taylor will be looking for a new Sponsor Governor over the next few months with skills to compliment those the Local Academy Council already has.

Mrs Taylor thanked parents/carers for their attendance and input. She hoped that the low turnout meant parents/carers had no concerns that were not being addressed.