

## **PARENT VOICE MEETING Wednesday 29 June 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Principal (Mr Wappat), Mrs P. Taylor (Chair & Sponsor Governor), C. Fox, H. Kilvington, L. Anderson, J. Cutter, R. Hebden, V. Fraser, I. Read, T. Read, M. Bell, J. Dales, P. McGaw, S. Saul.

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**

#### **PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMY UPDATE:**

**Pictures were shown and commentated upon:**

- **Academy Prom:**

Support given to Y11 students prior to examinations including revisions support materials and examination day breakfast sessions

- **Prom Breakfast**

The success of this was described, despite the fact most students referred not to wear their Prom dresses on this occasion. Staff waited on tables and made this a celebratory occasion.

- **Last year's Y8 residential**

For this year's Y8 graduates this is happening next weekend. It will be an electronic free zone with many exciting challenges for the students. This event is heavily subsidised by academy because of the importance attached to it as one of the Ten Pledges.

- **Y8 Graduation**

One of the two events this year has so far been held, the other will be held tomorrow. We welcomed students from New Marske Primary School to see previous pupils from their school graduate. Many parents and other family members commented on what a special event it was for their children.

#### **OPEN FORUM FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

1. **Communications:** Letters are not always getting home. Mr Wappat said he would try to use 'Mail Chimp' more and would continue to develop use of Facebook, Twitter and texts. The Risk Taking Behaviour letter sent on 17<sup>th</sup> June will be resent because of its importance to the safeguarding of students. It is mainly letters addressed to specific groups, rather than 'whole academy' letters that are going missing. Mr Wappat will look into this.
2. **Staff changes:** Fewer students for geographical and demographic reasons have meant that about 30 less students will be in the academy next year. This equates to about a class or £40K/£50K less in the academy budget. Staffing has been rearranged to fit the option choices made by students.  
Two staff members have been promoted within the Outwood Family of Schools.  
Two members have staff have joined Bydales Senior Leadership team from other Outwood Academies, both are very experienced teachers.
3. **Changes to the procedure of taking children out of school for appointments:** Mr Wappat will send a letter out explaining this to all parents/carers.
4. **Uniform Events:** Due to parents/carers wanting a uniform event before the end of term, Mr Wappat is trying to arrange one. There will be one in August.

5. **Second hand uniform:** There appears to be a need to a facility where second hand uniforms can be bought and sold. Mr Wappat has asked that his PA Mrs C.Taylor look into the possibility of providing this facility for parents using the email addresses to be added to the Academy website.
6. **Uniform delays:** Parents are still experiencing difficulties in obtaining uniform from Trutex's website in a reasonable timescale. Mr Wappat will pursue this problem. Bambini does have a good stock of uniforms at present.
7. **School identification on uniforms:** From September blazers will be generic. Students are proud to show the fact they are from Bydales as well as part of the Outwood family of School. It was suggested they could wear a lapel pin to show their school. Mr Wappat said he would take this suggestion forward.
8. **Pledges:** Parents were assured that Y10 students, none of whom have graduated or experienced a Y8 Residential, will not be penalised when it comes to qualifying for a place at the Y11 Prom. Parents/carers would also like to know what pledges their children have completed and have been recorded. Mr Wappat would take this request back to the Academy for consideration of how it can be achieved.  
Pledges provide a good focus for achievements by students during any interview process.
9. **Enrichment:** Parents/carers are still concerned that not all students are registering for and benefitting from the approximately 90 available Enrichment activities run by the Academy. This was a particular problem for new Y7 students last year and parents/carers did not want the same thing to happen in September. Some older students are only accessing Homework Club despite encouragement from their parents/carers to get involved in more Enrichment activities. Mr Wappat promised to have a rethink. Possible suggestions were leaflets, VMG time used, a special assembly or a 'Fresher style' event.

Mrs Taylor asked those present to think about the vacancy for a Parent Governor, which will be advertised in September. The commitment was explained briefly (a minimum requirement of attending six meetings per year, a monitoring visit to the academy each term followed by a written report to go to the Full Local Academy Council).

Mr Wappat and Mrs Taylor thanked parents/carers for their attendance and input.