

## **PARENT VOICE MEETING Monday 19 June 2017**

**ATTENDANCE:** Principal (Mr A. Wappat), P. Taylor (Chair & Sponsor Governor), J. Dales, T. Colling, M. Atkinson, J. Walker, S. Coales

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

Mrs Taylor welcomed everyone present and thanked them for coming out on such a hot evening. It was emphasised how important parent/carer opinions and input was to Governors and Academy staff.

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

Mr Wappat provided a presentation on recent events and developments:

- **Leavers' breakfast**

This was organised a few before the Prom this year and was a great success with 147 students attending in full uniform, out of 155 possible.

- **Revision breakfasts**

1704 breakfasts have been served during the exam period with an average of 150/174 students attending at 7.30am

- **Y11 Students exit survey**

Initial correlations, which were very positive, were shared. The survey used the OFSTED criteria and investigated which teaching and learning revision strategies had been found most supportive and helpful to students. Mr Wappat will follow up some responses to clarify, further improve delivery and support students.

- **Meeting re. Residential for Y8 students**

This was very well attended and Mr Wappat is looking forward to joining Year 8 students and staff at Hexham from 30 June to 2 July.

- **Y8 Graduation**

28 and 29 June are Graduation Days. Families have been invited. There are a few students who still have to earn their right to graduate. They are being supported by their Learning Manager.

- **Y10 into Y11 Taster Days**

Buses have been organised to take students from Y10 into Y11 to Middlesbrough and Prior Pursglove. There has been a very good uptake.

- **Employer Engagement**

There was a well-attended meeting on 5 June for parents/carers of Y9 and Y10 students.

- **Mock General Election**

Thus was held during VMG time to underline the importance of listening to the issues, making political decisions and voting. The importance of encouraging the youth vote was emphasised.

- **'Roll-over' Timetable and Y6 transition**

The 'roll-over' timetable begins on 3 July. Y6 Transition is from 17 to 21 July.

- **Numbers on roll and implications**

From September 2016 - September 2017 there will have been an almost 10% rise in student numbers. Year 7 and Year 9 will be full.

- **VMG/Split Breaks**

This is working well following changes due to size of the school.

- **Dining Facilities**

Year 11 GCSE Citizenship students have met with the PFI providers, who are responsible for catering. Beakers are now provided, trolleys make disposal of cutlery, food and trays more efficient.

- **Numeracy Challenge**

These are available for students at lunch time and very popular with students, judging by take up.

- **Reward Cards, Random acts of Kindness and 'an apple for the teacher'**

These have been introduced to emphasise the Praise culture that is being nurtured at Outwood Academy Bydales.

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

- **Classroom numbers**

There are sufficient for increased numbers but extra seating has been purchased.

- **Parent Pay**

A facility to set a daily limit was requested. It was felt the system does not teach students the value of money. Mr Wappat will investigate problems of controlling spending by students, and ask the PFI catering team if the facility on ParentPay to show parents exact spend/items can be available to parents.

- **Menus**

Up-to-date menus for the website will be requested.

Fizzy drinks provided are 'drinks for schools' health compliant. Conventional drinks such as coca-cola are not allowed.

- **Building matters**

Noisy blind issues still on-going

Temperatures (too hot or too cold) are still being monitored and discussion is on-going with building owners. If your children have a problem please write a letter to school explaining your concerns.

Some external doors are still leaking in high wind/rainfall situations.

Bids for improvements to building are part of annual capital bid to OGAT Board.

- **Bike Permits**

These are working well. A parent has written a safety/information leaflet which will be distributed.

- **Bees**

The swarm in school moved on but Mr Wappat knows who to contact should this occur again, in terms of 'donating' the swarm to local bee keepers.

- **Mental Health**

School works with a counsellor who is in school once a week and with The Junction and CREST. R & C has no Secondary Educational Psychologists at present, due to promotions out of the authority, but is looking to rectify this.

- **E-safety**

A course for parents/carers has been held but this was not as well attended as hoped. The Marske Community Partnership has also received the presentation. A survey of students was conducted and new 'student digital mentors' have been trained.

- **Communications**

As always we are striving to improve communications. Mr Wappat is looking to develop the use of email.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

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