

## **PARENT VOICE MEETING Tuesday 3 October 2017**

**ATTENDANCE:** Principal (Mr A. Wappat), P. Taylor (Chair & Sponsor Governor), S. Argument (Sponsor Governor), K. King (Sponsor Governor), N. Bartram, R. Smith, R. Hebden, K. Hardaker, S. Poole, A. Leonard, S. Coates, A. Wilson, J. Calvert, T. Allen.

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

Mrs Taylor welcomed everyone present and thanked them for coming. It was emphasised, as usual, how important parent/carer opinions and input are to Governors and Academy staff.

**PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMY UPDATE** (*any data has been updated to reflect information at the time of writing minutes*).

Mr Wappat provided a presentation on recent events and developments:

- **2017 Leavers**

Mr Wappat praised the 2017 Leavers and emphasised what a credit they were to the Academy: hard working, committed and an amazing group of young people.

- **Residential for Y8 students**

This was a great success and encouraged students to stretch themselves and try things they had never experienced before. Mr Wappat, with the encouragement of a reluctant student, had also tried something new.

- **Ethos of the Academy**

“Work hard and be nice to people”

- **Graduation of Year 8 Students**

The Academy has now purchase its own gowns for this very special annual occasion.

- **Enrichments**

There are now over 50 enrichment activities which give students the opportunity to discover new talents and provide new experiences. Girls' Rugby is a one of the new enrichment activities.

- **Sports Leaders**

These trained students go into local Primary schools to support learning in P.E.

- **Duke of Edinburgh Awards**

These awards are being run by Guisborough Youth Club. They now begin in Year 9 and there are planning sessions in Enrichment and are promoted within the Academy.

- **2017 Year 11 and Year 10 results**

- ❖ **85%** of Year 11 students achieves grades 9-4 (broadly equivalent to previous A\*-C) in English and Maths combined (National Average is approximately 64%)
- ❖ **75%** achieved grades 9- 5 (broadly equivalent to previous A\*-B) in English and Maths combined.
- ❖ Progress 8 score **+0.68**
- ❖ In Maths **90%** grades 9-4 and **83%** grades 9- 5. Progress 8 **+1.00**. 14 students achieved a 9.
- ❖ In English **90%** grades 9-4 and **81%** grades 9- 5. Progress 8 **+0.61**.

- ❖ All other subjects achieved excellent results. (Breakdown available on Academy website).
- ❖ **60%** of Y10 achieved A\*-C grades in RE on 1 hour per week.
- ❖ Year 10 achieved very well on Option subjects taken.
- ❖ Year 11 will now sit French, Geography and History. (Previously completed in Year 10).

- **What next for 2017-2018 Academic Year:**

- **Continue to support students as before at all stages and in all areas of the education.**

- **New examinations in Science, Geography, History & French**

These will come in this academic year with new curriculum and 9-1 grading of results.

- **New Assessment and Feedback Policy**

This encourages students to be more involved in their own marking.

Quality of marking rather than quantity is the key to supporting and developing students' learning and understanding, so they know even more effectively how to improve their work.

- **Reading**

'Accelerated Reading' will be further developed, as will expectations for reading.

In reading sessions students will read alone for ½ hour and with the teacher from a shared text for ½ hour.

A reading log, monitored by staff, will be introduced, with students encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes per day.

- **Literacy and Numeracy**

These are integral to all subjects with correct grammar and spelling of key subject language emphasised.

- **Pupil Premium**

This year **81%** of disadvantaged students achieved grades 9-4 in both English & Maths. This compares with 63% nationally.

- **Cycle Shed**

We want to improve storage of bicycles and have received a grant of £5K towards this from the Parish Council but need a total of £20K to achieve our aim. This continues to be a project for the Academy, and was raised by Student Voice Presidential candidates during their campaign speeches.

- **Bus to Mickledales**

At the suggestion of the Student Voice Presidential Candidates, who met with the Stagecarriage bus company, this has begun for a 6 month trial period. A time table can be found on the Academy website.

- **GroupCall App**

This app. will be used by the Academy to help further improve communications with parents/carers, and is currently being put in place.

- **Alumni**  
There is now a facility for 'old students' to provide contact details on the Academy website. We value greatly the input of any past students, to support and inspire our current students.
- **Changing Rooms/Dining Area/Classrooms**  
We are working with the PFI building owners to improve and develop these areas of the Academy so they are better fit for purpose and further enhance learning.
- **Academy Growth, our ethos and expectations**  
Our Academy student numbers have grown by 10% overall from September 2016 to September 2017, with a 50% increase in Year 7 admissions. This is working well as we maintain our ethos and high expectations.
- **OFSTED**  
We expected to be inspected during this, our third year after opening as a new academy within the Outwood Grange Academies Trust.
- **Examination Revision and Running**  
Mr Wappat and his staff are encouraging students to begin revision now, doing one hour per day. He promised, during a Y11 Assembly, to run 4 miles each day to motivate our students, being able to relate to all the challenges of sticking to a plan (Progress available daily on Twitter). Attendance at Year 11 weekly enrichment has been impressive (93% English & 91% Maths this week).

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

- **Parent Voice query**  
A parent/carer asked whether the Parent Voice meetings have continued termly. She was assured that letters had been sent home and were on the website, with termly minutes, and that the meetings continued to be held termly.
- **Communications**  
We know that communications are vital and continue to develop the website, and are introducing Groupcall App. The academy continues to answer any queries received by email, letter, social media (direct messages) and phone or in person.
- **Year 7 and Opportunities to meet staff**  
A parent/carer explained that the transition from primary to secondary school is difficult for both parents and children. She would welcome the opportunity to meet her child's teachers face to face. Mr Wappat explained that there are three Parent Evenings per year. Although some parents/carers are prioritised, with the need for them attending these evenings highlighted on six weekly Praising Stars reports, all parents/carers are welcome to make appointments, by students using Planners, to speak to staff members. Parents can also email individual teachers (addresses on the website under 'Contact') and are welcome to arrange brief meetings outside of the parents' evening cycle.

- **Planners**

In response to a parent/carers question regarding when Planners should be signed by them, Mr Wappat explained that students are responsible for ensuring that Planners are signed on a weekly basis by parent/carers. This should be done on the day that seems most appropriate.

- **SEND**

A parent/carer enquired whether SEND students were catered for by the curriculum and whether they found high targets demoralising. Mr Wappat assured the parent/carer that the curriculum was accessible to all students and that, although aspirational targets were set, grades were getting closer to, and exceeding, targets set year on year. Outwood Academy Bydales believes it is a fully inclusive academy.

This year's progress scores (ie compared to national expectation of 0.0) were:

- **+0.58** for pupils with low prior attainment
- **+0.71** for pupils with middle prior attainment
- **+0.67** for pupils with high prior attainment

And thus in all cases students of all abilities achieve at least half a GCSE grade higher in all 8 key subjects, compared to national expectations.

- **Catering including Vending Machines**

A parent/carer enquires about the drinks available from vending machines. She had a particular objection to Radnor Fizz. Mr Wappat assured her that all food and drink was compliant with requirements for schools, and are part of the PFI contract. The catering staff, who are employed by the building owners, do a great job with a small kitchen. We are looking to improve the salad bar and add more tills. There are new menus. Mr Wappat would enquire about the drinks.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr Wappat and Mrs Taylor thanked parents/carers for their attendance and input. Those attending were assured that their comments were valued, would be considered and, where appropriate, be acted upon.