

PARENT VOICE MEETING Wednesday 14 March 2018

ATTENDANCE: Mr A. Wappat (Principal), S. Rice (Vice Principal), P. Taylor (Chair of Academy Council & Sponsor Governor), C. Fox (Parent Governor), C. Hume, L. Callaghan, J Dales, A. Phillips, J. Walker, S. Beckett, R. McConnell, J Calvert

Apologies: S. Coates

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Mrs Taylor welcomed everyone present to our 'outstanding' academy and thanked them for coming, especially after two aborted attempts to hold the meeting due to double with theatre production and inclement weather.

PRESENTATION BY MS RICE ON THE ACADEMY'S ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

(Mr Wappat will make this presentation is available on the Outwood Academy Bydales website)

- Ms Rice wants to assure parents/carers that, where bullying occurs in Outwood Academy Bydales, it is taken very seriously and that there are rigorous policies and procedures in place to address bullying.
- Ms Rice was happy to report that the recent outstanding Ofsted judgement which the academy received stated:
'Pupils feel extremely safe'
Where bullying happens it is 'dealt with promptly, severely and effectively'
Students 'know whom to speak to if they have any concerns'.
- Ms Rice explained some of the differences between friendship issues and bullying. The former is a 'falling out'; the latter is persistent, covert and conscious behaviour. Both are addressed by well-trained adults.
- Behaviour is monitored over time and a bullying log is kept.
- Learning Managers and Senior Leaders address bullying issues with students.
- Students are reassured something will be done and parents/carers are spoken to. Interventions are put in place for bullier and victim.
- Those present were given a sheet to explain the academy's Anti-Bullying Procedures.

PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMY UPDATE ON THE RECENT:

'OUTSTANDING' IN ALL CATEGORIES OFSTED JUDGEMENT

(This is available in full on the Outwood Academy website and the Ofsted website)

- Mr Wappat emphasised that it is an outstanding result of parents, students, staff and governors working in partnership. He picked out some points in this report.
- Those present were given a paper copy of the report.

OPEN FORUM FOR QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Staff Contact List: A parent stated that she had had difficulty finding a staff member to contact. Mr Wappat explained where the list of staff roles, responsibilities and contact details is on the Academy website. He is looking at ways to make this even more easily accessible.

www.bydales.outwood.com/contact under 'Key Staff Contacts'.

Science: A parent questioned the 7.30 a.m. start for those doing morning 'mock examinations' in Science. Mr Wappat explained this is to replicate what will be available in the summer examinations and positive feedback from previous cohorts showed that the early morning master classes had proved very helpful to students. The 'mock examination' timetable meant that some usual lessons had been rearranged or could not run.

Maths: A parent of a Year 11 questioned why the revision timetable had gone out two weeks after the revision dates began. Her child was trying to catch up these sessions. Mr Wappat said he would look into this.

P.E.: A parent asked why the academy was not able to take students to all available competitions e.g. rugby. Could Sports Partnership money be used and also could there be more netball? Mr Wappat explained there were financial and staffing implications here. All away events required two staff members and this is not always feasible, but we do try to go to as many as possible, and have been promoting girls' rugby for example in more recent times.

Modern Foreign Languages: Mr Wappat explained that there will be a staff member able to teach German in the future.

ENRICHMENT: Mr Wappat pointed out some of the new enrichment activities now available including yoga.

CARILLION: A parent who enquired about lunchtimes was assured that a new provider was in place following the liquidation of Carillion, and the catering staff now work for Robertson's, so the process has been relatively smooth.

DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY: A parent who explained that her son had been asked to choose whether or not to pursue his studies in Design Technology without experiencing the Catering module in Year 7 or Year 8. Mr Wappat explained this was an administrative problem over the rota, for which he apologised. He explained that an extra group was put on due to increased student numbers joining mid-year, and upset the rota started in Year 7.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr Wappat and Mrs Taylor thanked Mr Rice and parents/carers for their attendance and input. Those present were assured that their comments and suggestions were valued, had been noted and, where appropriate, would be acted upon.