

PARENT VOICE MEETING Monday 30 September 2019

Attendance:

S. Rice (Associate Principal), P. Taylor (Chair of Academy Council & Sponsor Governor), J. Walker, J. Dales, V. Peacock, A-M. Tranter, J. Bennett, A. Phillips, M. Sharp.

Welcome & Introduction by Chair of Governors:

Mrs Taylor welcomed those present to our Academy's termly Parent Voice meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Associate Principal's Update:

This provided an update on events at the Academy including:

GCSE Results 2019:

- Achievement: 86% Maths and English (2nd highest ever result)
- Progress: +0.6
- Very slight dip in result due to below expected attendance at 93% with 14.4% persistent absentees, mainly due to non-engagement. This proved once again that
IF YOU ARE NOT IN SCHOOL YOU ARE NOT LEARNING
- Notable attainment achievement and progress of many students was celebrated

Staff information:

- Mrs Boyes will commence maternity leave in January 2020

Health and Well Being Actions:

- Reminder that aerosols should not be brought into school for health reason (implications for asthmatics)
- Parents were encouraged to ensure food brought into school by students was healthy e.g. no family packs of sweets/crisps at lunch time please
- Health and safety with reference to bike permits and bike maintenance
- Ensuring students are safe, respectful and responsible on-line
- Being good citizens in emphasised in school
- There are now 834 students attending the academy so care moving round the building is essential

Travel to school:

- Buses to New Marske and Mickledale. After previous bus company could no longer provide services, school trialled a new provision but this was not financially viable.

New Behaviour Policy:

- This new policy encourages students to make the right choices
- The behaviour pyramid is aiming for students to say I do the right thing because 'It's who I am'
- Staff frame conversations to support good student behaviour
- Strategies are provided and exhibited round school to support learning behaviour and good manners. (STEPS, STAR, CHOICES, ABC and the Outwood Pyramid)
- One hour detentions will be given for homework related misdemeanours

Well-being strategy:

- Miss Mitchell continues to develop our website
- New support also available throughout all Outwood Academies
- Key staff in place in OA Bydales
- Mental Health Ambassadors to be trained

4 Piece Jigsaw for Successful Learning:

- Be in lessons
- 100% effort
- Attend enrichment
- Do organised revision (plans provided by academy).

Other information:

- Open Evenings with students as guides well attended
- Student rewards extended:
 - Praise points rewarded weekly (staff reward whole class of successful student)
 - Y11 order of the doughnut or order of the fruit salad fortnightly to reward students
- Parent Evenings continue to be held. Parents/carers and students invited or can make appointments.

Questions from Parents/Carers

- **Q: Bullying.** No mention is made of disability in this policy.
A: Bullying is not tolerated to or by **any** student. All bullying is recorded and responded to according to the policy.
- **Q:** How are **vulnerable students** supported
A: Deep Support has a large team of staff. Meetings are held weekly, formal minutes are taken and appropriate support is given as resources permit.
- **Q:** Concern that **SENCo** is not in the Academy every day.
A: There will be a SENCo in school every day imminently.
- **Q:** Questions to clarify **New Behaviour Policy**
A: This policy is followed across the Trust. Its content was decided with the support of Tom Bennett, who has been working with the Government on best practice. There will be no lowering of standards. There is still provision for students to be excluded in extreme circumstances. Senior Leadership Team staff will support new staff.
- There were questions about **lunchtime** length and food provision. Parents were reassured and Ms Rice said staff monitored lunch times. Positive messages are also given to students by senior staff. Lunch time supervisor numbers have been increased.
- Parents were assured all students do not go to the woods after **Prom Night**
- Ms Rice would enquire about the possibility of **uniform** being provided by a shop in Redcar.
- **Y8 Graduation Outwards Bounds** is now held in school time.
- **Changing Rooms** – Planning and funding were in place. Building owner then wanted £50K more to fulfil the plan so plans have had to be trimmed to fit available funds. Ms Rice would investigate whether boys and girls provision could be swapped in the meantime.
- Ms Rice would check procedures for **communicating** news of events with parents.

Closing Remarks

Mrs Taylor thanked Ms Rice, and parents/carers for their attendance and input. Parents/carers stated how informative they found these termly meetings and felt that any parent/carer attending would benefit from the information provided and the opportunity to ask any questions concerning the Academy.