

PARENT VOICE MEETING Wednesday 6 March 2019

ATTENDANCE: A. Wappat (Principal), S. Rice (Associate Principal), P. Taylor (Chair of Academy Council & Sponsor Governor), A. Barnes (Sponsor Governor), S. Coates, J. Dales, A. Phillips.

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. She apologised for the cancellation of the previous meeting.

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

This provided an update on events at the Academy including:

- **'Comparison with similar schools'** DfE website had recently published results based on 2017-2018 examination outcomes of similar schools. These showed that Outwood Academy Bydales was ranked second out of 55 similar schools in the country. The academy also achieved the best attainment and progress results in the North East of England, coming top in the 12 local authorities in the North East.
- **OA Bydales continues to support other schools** in the Local Authority and is visited by staff from other secondary schools.
- **Learning Leaders** – 10 Y10 students have been trained in peer to peer support and are building good relationships with Y7 students while working to further improve their basic literacy skills. Over 60% of those involved now feel more confident in their skills.
- **Celebrating students** – examples included:
 - Students providing designs for real purposes for external agency
 - An Acting Leading Cadet
 - A candidate for the Youth Parliament
 - A student shortlisted for the 'Inspiring Woman Award'
 - 41 students going forward for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. Y11s working on the Silver award and alumni students achieving their Gold award
- **Careers related activities** – examples include:
 - Careers Fair in October 2018
 - Pre career activities for Y9 students
 - Lunch time drop in sessions provided by colleges
 - National Citizenship Service assembly for summer 2019 placements
 - Cambridge and Oxford University visits for Y10 students to inform and raise aspirations
 - College Days in June/July
 - Y10 mock interviews
- **BTec Music 'Big Bash'** on 21 March to celebrate musical talents
- **Praise Culture** – examples include:
 - Attendance awards
 - 'Random acts of Kindness' recognised
 - 'I heard a whisper' postcards to recognise attainment and progress where postcards and Wispa bars are delivered by senior leaders in class.

- Praise conversations
- Enrichment attendance random rewards e.g. hot chocolate. Non-attenders are encouraged to attend and parents are contacted.
- Praising Star rewards
- Graduation at the end of Y8
- Passports for the Prom for Y11 students
- 'Apple for the Teacher' completed by students and celebrated in Staff meetings
- Staff 'Star of the Week'
- Praise postcards sent home by staff to students.
- **Bike shed** – now expected to be completed at Easter 2019. Police will then provide free bike marking and safety devices to celebrate.
- **SEND support** – these include Lexia, Spell zone, Reciprocal Reading, Handwriting and Toe-by-toe.
- **Student Well-being** –
 - Nurse 'drop in' on Wednesday lunch time
 - 'Aspire to believe'
 - Emotional Literacy Support
 - Learning Managers
 - LGBT Group providing support/safe active campaigns, meeting monthly
 - Peer Mentors
 - External support from Link, CAHMS, Targeted Youth, Junction, CRUISE.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS MEANTAL HEATH AND WELL-BEING – presentation by Miss E. Mitchell

- Miss Mitchell explained that she has been trained in Transactional Analysis to support student well-being.
- 15 students have also received external training.
- A mental health website will be launched in school this term with 'student friendly' support on such subjects as depression and eating disorders explaining who to talk to and what apps are available. There will be facilities to report concern, which can be picked up by staff and passed to Peer Mentors.
- Well-being and mental health is now embedded into the VMG curriculum
- A questionnaire for students is being arranged
- Action calendars are displayed around the Academy e.g. 'Mindful March 2019'

OPEN FORUM FOR QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Social Media –Mr Wappat responded to a question about the lack of social reports on his running activities this year. Mr Wappat assured the parent that he was still taking his running commitment to Year 11 students very seriously, was running almost daily and would increase the number of updates he posted. He will also publish retrospective photographic evidence of his commitment. He has been able to gain a place for this year's Great North Run and was running in support of the Prostate Cancer Charity.

Mr Wappat assured parents that he continues to post regular items appertaining to O A Bydales on Facebook and intends to ensure that other appropriate staff have training and access to use the site.

Detentions – Mr Wappat made it clear that detentions took president over Enrichment, even in Year 11.

Attendance- Ms Rice responded to a question on attendance and how it is encouraged by the academy.

- New letters are now in place to draw attention of parents/carers to attendance issues concerning their children. This follows feedback from parents.
- Students with complex medical needs can now have their achievements with regard to attendance recognised. This again follows parent/carer input, especially at Parent Voice meetings.
- Miss Horsfield has led an assembly on target setting in attendance in which she shared anonymised data from actual students which clearly shows the effect that attendance has on results and outcomes for students.
- Rosette Race for VMGs
- Juice and cookies with Senior Leaders in recognition of student achievement in attendance.

Use of supply teachers – Those present were assured that use of supply teachers is kept to a minimum and that, unless required at very short notice, supply teachers are usually employed who work with the Academy when required and are able to provide the standard of education expected.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mrs Taylor thanked Ms Rice and Mr Wappat, Miss Mitchell and parents/carers for their attendance and input. Parents/carers were assured that their comments and suggestions were valued, had been noted and, where appropriate, would be acted upon. The Academy's acknowledgement of the excellent attendance of individual students with complex medical needs was evidence of this and appreciated by those present.