

PARENT VOICE MEETING WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2015

Attendance: Principal (Mr Wappat), 3 Governors (Mrs Taylor Chair, Mrs Coleman Vice-Chair, Mrs McConnell Parent), 13 parents/carers, 2 contacts via email from parents/carers who could not attend.

Format:

- Welcome & introduction by Chair of Governors
- Principal school update:
 - Over 100 students on Duke of Edinburgh award activities over the last few weeks.
 - Graduation of Y8 students and Y11 Prom last week celebrated achievement.
 - Focus on rapid improvement. Last year 56% A*-C. This year we are expecting a considerable improvement, based on predicted grades.
 - Present students will begin their new year group next week with Y6 students coming from Primary Schools to begin next Wednesday
 - Praising Stars information on student progress, expected grades based on real exam questions as assessments issued to students every six weeks
 - Restructuring is now complete and new staff have been appointed to school and will be in place for September.
 - Central funding from Outwood has been successfully bid for to update projectors and screens (£88K)
 - Classroom temperatures are not always conducive to learning (too hot in summer). Mr Wappat is monitoring this and will feed back to appropriate people.
 - Links are being further developed with other educational establishments and the wider community e.g. regular career presentations and working with Marske Community Partnership
- Open forum for questions and comments

Matters raised by email to Chair of Governors:

1. **Safety issue around the dropping and picking up of students by the crossing** nearest to the main school/office entrance e.g. pulling up within the zig-zag 'no parking lines', obscuring the view of other drivers from potential crossing users.

Mr Wappat explained in detail the care he and his staff take to ensure the safety of students and that this is an on-going problem, which has been brought to attention of such people as Amanda Skelton and the Local Council. His staff will issue letters to offending drivers and follow up any further infringements of safe driving incidents.

2. Could '**Parent Voice**' be held on different nights?

Mrs Taylor said this would be arranged.

3. Could an **automatic response to the generic Bydales email address**?

This will be put in place and Mr Wappat will check when possible, to ensure that emails are being answered where a response is necessary.

4. Could the **Learning Managers** stay with their present groups?

This has already been agreed for this year. The only difference to that is that Mrs Boyes is also looking after Y7 as well as her present year group.

5. The present Reception arrangements were discussed as those present did not find the present configuration satisfactory.

Mr Wappat is addressing this issue and hopes to change the configuration as soon as possible to make it more welcoming and 'fit for purpose'.

6. Payment of money. Students have a limited time to pay for trips and other things at Reception. Queues build up and students worry they might be late for lessons or not pay at the correct time.

Mr Wappat will investigate whether these payments can be made online.

7. Netball and Rounders: parents are not always informed when these are cancelled.

Mr Wappat will speak to P.E. department about how best to inform parents/carers in unforeseen circumstances.

8. Cancelled fixtures – Outwood Academy Bydales has not been able to take part in some fixtures because they clash with examinations.

Staff are trying to sort this out for next year.

9. School website. Those present said how useful it is to have letters and other information on website and described it as 'excellent'.

10. Work Experience

Mr Wappat explained it is not the Outwood policy to provide work experience in school time, because it interferes with learning, but staff are happy to help and support students who wish to obtain work experience in their areas of interest during school holidays.

11. Next OFSTED

This is normally expected in the 5th term after conversion.

12. Enrichment Fayre. How do students sign up now these have stopped?

Information on paper copies is available in VMG (tutorial) time and is on the website.

13. Are revision sessions just for this year's Y11?

We expect these sessions to take place every year for Y11 dependent on need.

Actions/ outcomes since last term's meeting to address issues raised:

- ✓ **MyMaths** - three tutorial sessions run by Maths department to cover parents/carers of all year groups.
- ✓ **Restructure and supply teacher.** Restructure is now complete and permanent teachers have been appointed.
- ✓ **Praising Stars© time extended**

Outstanding issues:

1. Use of volunteer parents/carers and students to support pupil learning (Prior Pursglove and other students are looking for voluntary activities to support). (Autumn 2014)
2. Traffic problems will continue to be followed up by Principal. This has been done but there are still concerns. (Autumn 2014)

3. Possibility of sending out Praising Stars© electronically (Spring 2015)
4. Update on Homework Policy when it has been reviewed (Spring 2015)