

PARENT VOICE MEETING TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2015 6pm

ATTENDANCE: Principal (Mr Wappat), Mrs P. Taylor (Chair & Sponsor Governor), Mrs L. Coleman (Vice-Chair & Sponsor Governor), Mrs S. Sharpe (Sponsor Governor), 12 parents/carers,

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS including examples of subjects where 'Parent Voice' input raised awareness or influenced change over the last year:

- ✓ Additional New Marske transport arrangements
- ✓ Improved Communication access with staff
- ✓ Solutions to Traffic problems / student safety on school premises
- ✓ Clarification on Behaviour Policy related issues
- ✓ Increasing access to Enrichment
- ✓ Use of supply teachers
- ✓ Homework
- ✓ Appointments with staff / Praising Stars arrangements
- ✓ 'MyMaths' awareness, access and training for parents/carers
- ✓ Putting 'Parent Voice' on different nights to facilitate attendance
- ✓ Opinions about Reception Area of school
- ✓ Responses from email sent to generic school email address
- ✓ Payment for school trips

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL UPDATE

Year 11 results celebrated:

- ✓ 73% 5+ A*-C subjects including Maths and English, which represents 17% rise on last year and 13% more than previous best ever results in 2012, when school was judged Outstanding
- ✓ Maths 86%, which is higher than top 5% of similar schools in the country
- ✓ English 77%, a 14% improvement on last year, comparable with top 5% similar schools in the country, which is 78%.
- ✓ This is highest in Redcar & Cleveland by 9% and also highest in Middlesbrough and Hartlepool.
- ✓ Mr Wappat explained that comparison with APS starting point of pupils from Y7 is important so you are comparing like with like.

What next?

- ✓ Continue to put 'Students First'
- ✓ Aim for 'Outstanding' judgement from OFSTED next Summer.
- ✓ Areas for development / school focus:
 - Introduction of Homework Policy
 - Closing Gender gap in attainment further still
 - Closing Pupil Premium gap in attainment further still
 - Development of Accelerated Reader
 - Whole School Production
 - Further developing Community Links
 - Use of Alumni to inspire next generations of students
 - Careers advice development with CareersInc
 - Improving Learning Environment and displays further

- Reception Area
- Admissions
- Transition

OPEN FORUM FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. **Transition** for Y6/7 pupils praised but some students had to choose to either miss some of transition or some of final celebrations at Primary Schools. Mr Wappat explained that most schools have agreed to 2 week transition for Y6/7 in Summer 2016 so this should be avoided, especially where pupils are not coming from 'catchment area' schools. The initiative this summer had been requested across Redcar & Cleveland, and Bydales and main Partner Primaries decided together to embrace it fully.
2. **Open Evening 2014** had influenced one parent's and child's choice of schools and Outwood Bydales students who showed prospective students round were praised for the way they did this and their honesty.
3. **How are examination results recorded when subjects are taken in Y10 and Y11?** Mr Wappat explained the requirements of the Department for Education are changing year on year and ways of recording GCSE results changing from letters to numbers. This may affect students from Year 9 but things can change and it will not affect the schools intention to give all students best possible teaching.
4. **Early entry maths.** This was only done for a few very able students, who were definitely going to get A*.
5. **Parents' Evenings.** Why can every parent/carer not see a teacher? Time is limited so priorities are set. Any parent can make an appointment through their child or by emailing staff using addresses easily accessible on school website. Mr Wappat is looking into 'electronic appointment system' but this needs further consideration. Parents can make appointments to see teachers at any of the three Praising Stars meetings per year, and can email/arrange to meet teachers at any time of the year.
6. **Year 9 sets.** There was a request to explain how these were decided. Mr Wappat explained regular assessments were monitored by Directors and students moved up and down following Praising Stars assessment cycles. Groups were taught the same syllabus so learning was not interrupted and there was more flexibility. He explained the school does not use banding, to ensure students can be in different core subject classes based on ability.
7. **Assessing Enrichment.** New Year 7 students had had problems with this and more clarification was needed (e.g. where rooms were). A Fayre for the Autumn Term was suggested with VMG input in the first week. Extra booklets were provided and parents encouraged to email appropriate staff if there was still a problem with students knowing where/how to sign-up.
8. **Access arrangements for exams.** Assessments for access only last 2 years. If parents/carers have a query they should contact Miss K. Gates, Inclusion Manager. Also the SEND Register has been reviewed.
9. **New fence.** This has been put in as part of safeguarding students. They now have a larger area outdoors accessible than last year, when students were not allowed on the grass until fencing had been addressed.
10. **Facebook access.** It was explained that the school's Facebook and Twitter accounts have the same information on both. If a parent feels they are not seeing as much Facebook information this is because Facebook generates a newsfeed based on how many articles/pictures are 'Liked' by the user. To ensure Facebook feed, followers need to occasionally (or often!) Like articles.
11. **Hearing loss.** The acoustics in the Hall can make hearing difficult for those with some hearing loss. It would be helpful if a loop or microphone could be used in future.