

PARENT VOICE MEETING Monday 24 September 2018

ATTENDANCE: Mr A. Wappat (Principal), P. Taylor (Chair of Academy Council & Sponsor Governor), C. Fox (Parent Governor), R. Hebden, S. Coates, J. Dales, J. Walker, R. Wilmot, A. Phillips.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Mrs Taylor welcomed everyone present to our Academy's termly Parent Voice meeting and thanked them for coming.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

This provided up to date information on successful events at the Academy including:

- Y11 Prom Breakfast and Prom
- Y8 Graduation and Residential weekend
- Duke of Edinburgh awards
- Student Presidential election – Harry King is the new Student President
- Madison Cooper's input as narrator into 'The Mighty Redcar' TV programme series
- Excellent Y11 and Y10 GCSE results set for 2017-2018.

OPEN FORUM FOR QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

New Behaviour Policy

A parent suggested that the new 30 minute detentions in the first instance may be seen by students as the academy going softer on behaviour.

Mr Wappat said it was early days for the new Behaviour Policy as it only began that morning. Impact would be monitored and fed back to the Executive Principal with responsibility for behaviour, Mr M Hassack.

Website

Mr Wappat explained the archive facility on the Academy website and showed some of the information available there.

Bike Shed

The Student Voice had been instrumental in obtaining £550 for the Parish Council and the Academy has now achieved a successful National Lottery Fund bid and been granted £10K. The academy is now in discussion with Robertson FM, who has taken over the Carillion PFI contract. The shed is still to be built.

Extension of PE Changing Room

The Trust is still in negotiation with Robertson FM. The extension will begin as soon as possible.

Uniform issues

Some orders are still outstanding from Trutex. Mr Wappat explained he only knew about the problems four days before the start of the term and immediately spent much time, and employed extra office staff time, to sort the problems out. He asked parents/carers to contact him personally with outstanding orders.

Free uniforms would continue to be provided to Year 7 pupils who start the year in September.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The cost of this has increased but the going rate nationally appears to be £200 and Bydales students pay £150 through Guisborough Youth Club.

Residential Cost

This cost is still subsidised by the Academy but tighter budgets have needed to be addressed in all OGAT academies as in schools nationally.

Attendance

There was discussion as to what was authorised by the Principal as absences. Some weekday sports tournaments were given as examples of occasions when absences may not be authorised. Outwood Academies will hold the line on what are acceptable authorised absences.

Unavoidable hospital medical appointments for pupils with long-term medical conditions were discussed.

Some parents/carers asked could children who fail to achieve 100% attendance because of these appointments be entered in a separate draw for attendance rewards. Mr Wappat agreed to look at this.

Lockers allocation

This had not run as smoothly as expected despite careful organisation. Mr Wappat explained some causes of this and promised that all those wanting a locker would get one.

Y11 Revision

Revision timetables and resource bags have now been distributed to all Y11 students. Parents were urged, if for any reason their child had not got a locker to please contact staff.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr Wappat and Mrs Taylor thanked 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.