



Board of Governors Annual statement July 2019

A "GOOD" YEAR FOR BEDALE HIGH

The undoubted highlight of the year for Bedale High School has been the achievement of a "Good" rating from Ofsted. This has been the result of a huge team effort from staff, pupils, parents and governors. A particular highlight has been the improved relationship between staff and students, which reflects the hard work which has been put in from both sides over the last two years. Positive trends have included improvement in attendance across the school, and a reduction in exclusions, while student leadership continues to develop in the four key areas of community and charity, wellbeing, curriculum and homework, and extra-curricular activity.

The development of the extra-curricular offer within the school has included a wide choice of lunchtime clubs and after school clubs. A natural corollary of this has been increased engagement between the school and our community. Activities as diverse as the coast to coast cycle ride, fundraising towards the purchase of the art kiln, and supporting the Tour de Yorkshire finishes on Bedale's Market Place have cemented Bedale High School's place at the heart of Bedale and its surrounding villages. Successful school trips have sent cohorts of students and staff to Belgium and Iceland, and students have been enthusiastic participants in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Partnership work with local and regional schools has been strengthened during the year. Productive links have been developed with Thirsk School and Ryedale School, and through the Yorkshire Teaching Schools Alliance. Continued and exciting collaboration with local primaries has started to grow pupil numbers moving up to Bedale, and it is to be hoped and expected that this will continue going forward.

Positive developments across the school have also been evident within the staff, who have pulled together despite some difficult times during the restructure process. Staff resources remain tight, meaning there will be little flexibility in next year's timetable, with Senior Leadership Team members all teaching more than their standard quote. Recruitment for teachers in Maths, Design Technology, and Modern Foreign Languages, and in administrative and support staff, has been universally positive.

Moving forward, the school's main focus will be on curriculum development within the new Ofsted framework. Other priorities include improving consistency, both in the quality of teaching across the school and in provision for students needing attention due to SEND or those who are more able. Also, the school is committed to improving experience for all students, by improving resilience and continuing the reduction in exclusions. The over-riding commitment of the governors and Senior Leadership Team is that all students have the best opportunities for enjoyment and achievement during their time here and the opportunities to explore where their future can take them.

Governance arrangements

The full Board of Governors meets at roughly monthly intervals to fulfil its responsibilities. The approved minutes of our meetings can be seen on the school website. Unlike some schools the board does not have sub-committees and all its main work is done in the full board. This ensures that all can contribute to school policy and cuts down on the number of separate meetings.

The board has four statutory committees. These cover staff discipline, staff discipline appeals, student discipline and complaints. The Student Discipline Committee has met on 7 occasions. In each case they have endorsed the decisions of the school's leadership. The Board of Governors strongly endorse the school's insistence that students' conduct should not undermine the learning of others.

The Board again had to establish a temporary committee to oversee staffing reductions. Small schools such as ours face a considerable challenge in making ends meet. Over this year we have continued to see large reductions in our budget that is now also reflected in schools nationally. As a small school we work hard to ensure we continue to deliver a strong and broad curriculum. We have made a number of excellent new appointments for September and we know that Bedale High will have a strong team of teachers and support staff for many years.

All members of the Board continue to visit the school regularly to ensure that they see for themselves how the school is doing. Pairs of governors work together to gather detailed information about how the school is improving its performance in respect of:

- The quality of leadership and management shown by head, deputies, faculty and pastoral leaders
- Standards of behaviour, students' safety and safeguarding of all students
- The quality of teaching and learning
- Students' progress over their five years at Bedale High.

They report on progress to the full Board regularly and ensure that the steps needed to secure good quality in each area are clearly identified.

Governors are volunteers who fulfil their role in their spare time and without any payment. Current members of the Board are:

Name	Type	Term of office expires	Register of business interests	Attendance
Steve Ingram Co-Chair of Governors	Co-opted	18 Apr 2020		7/10
Jan Reed Co-Chair of Governors	Co-opted	17 Dec 2022		10/10
Stuart Bentley (resigned)	Co-opted	16 July 2019		9/10
Andrew Childe	Staff	7 Feb 2021		9/10
Katherine Davies	Parent	4 Mar 2021		9/10
Linda Donaghy	Parent	5 Nov 2020		10/10
Mark Hughes (completed term)	Co-opted	6 July 2019	Bedale Badminton Club Treasurer	6/9
David Atkinson	Parent	18 Dec 2021		7/10
Estella Prince (Completed term)	Parent	14 Feb 2019		4/6

Guy Watkins	Co-opted	17 Sept 2022		4/9
Christine Inchley	Co-opted	18 Mar 2023		4/4
Lucy Legard	Associate & then co-opted	15 July 2023		1/1 as Co-opted. 1/3 as Associate
Kate Loughlin	Parent	6 May 2023	Chair, Bedale Primary	3/3
Anthony Rawdin (to April 2019)	Head teacher	n/a		5/7
Tom Kelly (from April 2019)	Head teacher	n/a		3/3

The Board of Governors is supported by a part-time professional clerk, Lesley Sweeting (to January 2019), Antonia Praud (current temp clerk) and may be contacted through the school. To contact the board on a confidential matter, please write to The Chair of Governors, c/o Bedale High School and mark your letter 'Private and Confidential' or email cofg@bedalehighschool.org.uk

Jan Reed & Steve Ingram
Co-Chairs of Governors July 2019