



Board of Governors

Annual statement July 2018

## **Making Bedale great again – a year of progress on all fronts**

### **What a difference a year makes!**

Bedale High School is buzzing again! The new senior team have settled in and led a committed staff team in making changes for the better. Now we look forward to another Ofsted inspection – probably early next summer – confident that the school is getting better every day and will be deemed to be a good school by then.

What has enabled this rapid turn around? Clear consistent leadership by the head and our new senior team means that everybody knows what is expected of them and is motivated to succeed. A far more effective pastoral system led by our new deputy, Mr Kelly, means that tutors know students well and that they, in turn, are responding to the higher standards of behaviour and better work ethic that is demanded of them. The level of work undertaken by students has been raised thanks to improved teaching, marking, and homework led by our other new deputy, Mr Gill, and the new heads of faculty. Our teaching team has raised its game and we anticipate further improvements as they hone their skills and new, well qualified teachers join us in September.

We are clear that academic learning of the highest quality is essential if students are to move onto the next stage of their lives confident in their ability to succeed. But education is so much more than doing well in lessons. Bedale High School has a proud tradition of educating the whole person. Opportunities beyond the classroom have grown considerably over the year, including fieldwork and various trips linked to our Alternative Curriculum days.

Particularly noteworthy are the charitable, cultural and sporting achievements of our students. This year 11 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – the largest number for many years, although this will be eclipsed next year with almost 50 Year 10's currently on track. The sporting achievements of individuals and teams are too numerous to mention. Bedale High School certainly has fantastic sporting success for such a small school as illustrated by the boys winning the county cup for football and, latterly the area athletics championships girls winning.

Record number of students have benefitted from major school journeys including residential trips to Iceland, New York, the Battlefields of France and Belgium and the recent Bushcraft expedition to Castle Howard. They have learned a great deal from these opportunities and their conduct on these activities has been exemplary.

The Board of Governors wants to say a big 'thank you' to all our staff for their hard work this year in making the experience of our students such a positive one. We all recognise that there is always more that can be done and we have big plans for making next year even better.

### **Growing to 'good' and beyond**

Our over-riding priority is that every one of our students has a really good secondary education. We've got the right team in place but they can't work their magic if students aren't attending regularly. Attendance at school is up this year but there are still too many students whose attendance needs to improve if they are to get the full benefit of their time at school. In the coming

year students will have good attendance recognised in a number of ways and we hope that, with parents' support, this year's upward trend will continue. When attendance is not so good the Board of Governors will support the school in tackling this vigorously, including, in the last resort, prosecution.

Governors have recently had feedback from external consultants that confirms the substantial progress made over the last year. This has also been helpful in confirming our assessment of areas where things can still be better. Improving attendance is a high priority. Whilst homework has also improved, planning is in place to ensure that parents can make better use of 'Show my homework'. There is scope for further improving the consistency of feedback to students about their work. With new leadership of the team supporting students with special educational needs we are confident that these youngsters can achieve more. We want more of our brightest students to make even greater progress, especially some of our bright boys who are not doing as well as they should. The Board will be focussing particularly on these areas in their visits to school this year.

With another Ofsted inspection on the horizon we are naturally ensuring that we do all we can to meet the criteria for a 'good' school. Feedback from students and parents reassures us that we are moving strongly in the right direction. Certainly, our current students are showing the potential to achieve excellent exam results in the future. So, with our leadership team stable and strong, we look forward to the new school year with renewed optimism and determination that all our students will enjoy their time at Bedale High School and achieve well.

### **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 6 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 also established a temporary committee to oversee staffing reductions. Small schools such as ours face a considerable challenge in making ends meet. Over the last twelve months we have lost around £450000 from our budget and this has forced us to reduce the number of staff we employ. Nonetheless, we have made a number of excellent new appointments for September and we believe that Bedale High will have its strongest 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:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Term of office expires</b>	<b>Register of business interests</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Gerry Price Ex-Chair of Governors	Local Authority	29 Sep 2018	Family member is a senior sales manager, Mellors Catering Ltd.	
Steve Ingram Co-Chair of Governors	Co-opted	18 Apr 2020	None	
Jan Reed Co-Chair of Governors	Co-opted	16 Dec 2018	Wild Garlic Training - delivery of HLF project at Bedale High School.	
Stuart Bentley	Co-opted	7 Mar 2021	None	
Andrew Childe	Staff	7 Feb 2021	None	
Katherine Davies	Parent	4 Mar 2021	None	
Linda Donaghy	Parent	5 Nov 2020	None	
Mark Hughes	Co-opted	6 July 2019	Bedale Badminton Club Treasurer	
David Atkinson	Parent			
Estella Prince	Parent	14 Feb 2019	None	
Anthony Rawdin	Head teacher	n/a	None	

The Board of Governors is supported by a part-time professional clerk, Lesley Sweeting, 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'.

<b>Previous governors</b>				
Mark Temple	Co-opted	Resigned (May 2018)	None	

The Board of Governors are currently seeking to co-opt a replacement for Mark Temple, ideally from amongst that section of our community with links to the armed forces since a large proportion of our students are drawn from RAF Leeming. Gerry Price's term of office ends in September and he has indicated that he does intend to accept a further term as the local authority (LA) nominee. The Board of Governors are keen that the LA should nominate a replacement with a good understanding of the challenges faced by small rural secondary schools.

Jan Reed & Steve Ingram

Co-Chairs of Governors

July 2018