

Board of Governors Annual Statement

July 2020

A year like no other

We will end this academic year in a way no-one could ever have foreseen and the effects that Coronavirus would have on the world. Our Year 11 students have worked so hard in preparation of their GCSEs it is a disappointment that they will not be able to shine through the examination process. The Senior Leadership Team have worked hard on improving the outcomes for Year 11 and all staff and students have embraced the new school ethos of Courage, Commitment and Compassion. I am sure we will see our students awarded the grades that they deserve and will reflect the hard work put in by them, staff and parents in the past year. These students have left Bedale High School in circumstances never seen before, but we wish them well in the next stage of their education.

Our Year 10 students have also experienced significant disruption as they progress towards their GCSE year. Whilst we cannot predict what may happen for their examinations, we have confidence that the Staff across the school are providing the best possible support, and will be ready to propel them forward in the next school year. Being able to welcome them back into school in June was a huge bonus, and enabled the students and staff to get face time together.

Similarly, we recognise that 2020 is very challenging for our new Year 7 families. We are working closely with our primary school community to create an effective transition to Bedale High School.

We must also give a special thank you to all the staff for their recent commitment in keeping in touch with pupils and embracing new ways of teaching during the Coronavirus pandemic. This has been a challenging time for everyone but the hard work and dedication of our staff to maintain contact with the students and ensure they are able to continue their learning at home must be recognised and acknowledged.

The new system of regular assessments and monitoring across all year groups is showing results and the outcomes in each year group are improving. Working partnerships with other schools are being developed and are proving to be advantageous. The Senior Leadership Team are building relationships with staff at other school who are outstanding in their specialist area and their support in making changes is invaluable.

It was with great pleasure that the governors were able to officially appoint Mr. Tom Kelly as Head Teacher in April. This now enables Mr Kelly to continue to develop and expand the

plans that he and the Senior Leadership Team have been working on regarding curriculum development within the new Ofsted framework . It will provide continuity for the school as a whole and these plans will help improve consistency in quality of teaching across the school.

In September a new mobile phone policy was introduced to support the improved behaviour of students during classes, reduce any anti social behaviour/bullying via social media and also to encourage students to communicate with each other and spend free time off their phones. This has been well supported by students and parents and most students have respected and adhered to the policy. There has been a significant improvement in students behaviour during school and more students are involved with break and lunchtime activities and the policy is seen as a positive change.

The school has continued to develop the extra curricular offer within school at lunchtime and after school. We have seen clubs such as sports, drama, art, dungeons and dragons, chess and computing. We have been fortunate to have support from the RFU with the running of an after-school rugby club for all year groups. Sadly the fundraising activities the school had planned to take place from March onwards such as the Coast to Coast bike ride, Fun Run, Auction of Promises had to be cancelled due to Coronavirus. These events will be rescheduled for sometime in the future.

Students managed to participate in a number of trips prior to Coronavirus including Duke of Edinburgh activities, overseas trips to Iceland and Belgium and many trips within our local area such as Flamborough, Malham, Sunderland Glass. This along with leadership opportunities within the school such as Sports Leaders, School Council and Fundraising enrich the students time at school and helps to develop other life skills.

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 other than a finance sub committee that was established this year. 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 4 occasions. In each case they have endorsed the decisions of the school's leadership. The Board of Governors strongly endorse the schools insistence that students conduct should not undermine the learning of others.

All members of the Board continue to visit 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 teaching and learning
- Behaviour and Attitudes
- Personal Development
- Leadership and Management

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 interest | Attendance |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|--|------------|
| Steve Ingram Co-Chair of Governors | | 18-04-20 | | 7 |
| Jan Reed Co-Chair of Governors | | 17-12-22 | Husband is Clerk for Bedale Town Council | 9 |
| Andrew Childe | Staff | 07-02-21 | | 7 |
| Katherine Davies | Parent | 04-03-21 | Leeming RAF Community Primary School – Non-teaching Governor | 8 |
| Linda Donaghy | Parent | 06-11-20 | | 8 |
| David Atkinson | Parent | 18-12.21 | Romanby Primary School – Co-opted Governor | 4 |
| Kate Loughlin | Parent | 21-03-23 | | 8 |
| Guy Watkins | Co-opted | 17-09-22 | | 6 |
| Christine Inchley | Co-opted | 18-03-23 | | 9 |

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| Lucy Legard | Co-opted | 15-07-23 | | 9 |
| Tom Kelly | Head Teacher | | | 9 |
| Matt Gill | Deputy Head Teacher | | | |
| Alison Knight | SLT - SEND | | | |

The Board of Governors is supported by a part time professional clerk, Antonia Praud 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 e mail: cofg@bedalehighschool.org.uk