

## **Board of Governors Annual Statement**

**July 2021**

### **Coronavirus Pandemic Year**

When we started the academic year in September last year we all hoped that the pandemic that had hit the country in March 2020 would be behind us and school closures would not happen. This was not to be the case and this academic year has seen two national lockdowns and school closures for all children, other than those of key workers and vulnerable children. This has meant more disruption for students' learning this year but staff have worked incredibly hard to improve the online learning provision we have provided to our students through Satchel One. Staff have managed to put together an engaging, varied workload including face to face to lessons, pre-recorded lessons, PowerPoint presentations and Oak National Academy videos for students while at home. We have had a good take up of home learning with many students engaging with the lessons and staff will continue to use elements of the online provision for future years for homework.

Once it was announced that students were able to return to school in March we had to establish a mass testing for all students before they were able to come back into school. This was a huge logistical project but with the incredible support of staff, parents and governors, led by Miss Riley-Fox, we were able to test all of the students who gave their consent (over 90%). Following this, students then returned to school.

The government decided that Year 11 students were not to sit their GCSE examinations this year but they would be assessed through Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). Staff have worked very hard with students to prepare them for the new system. Fortunately, they were able to sit two sets of internal Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) and the assessment process has worked well. We are delighted that our Year 11 students were also able to have their school prom (after an initial postponement) – an event looked forward to by many.

The face to face transition week for Year 6 students had to be cancelled again following a change to government guidance re Covid protocols. However, a virtual transition week has taken place and students have managed to meet staff online and attend a range of lessons and Q/A sessions, including an Information Evening for parents. The new Year 7 students will have a day in school on their own at the start of the autumn term before the rest of the school returns, to enable them to become familiar with the site.

One of the key focuses for the school this year has been the mental well-being of both staff and students. This year we have received the Bronze Healthy Schools Award, this is in recognition of the school's initial work on our whole school approach to emotional and mental wellbeing, but specifically relates to the focus on developing our Personal, Social and Health Education. The development of Mrs Woodward's Wellbeing Passport project has engaged lots of students from all year groups and encouraged them to develop new life skills and celebrate the many talents they have, whether that be cooking, playing a sport or musical instrument or learning a new craft or skill. It also encouraged students to show their compassion through the things they did to support others throughout the lockdown period.

The appointments of two Associate Leaders (Louise Woodward as Primary Engagement and Andy Childe for Personal Development) has given us additional strategic and operational capacity at leadership level. Mrs Woodward has further strengthened our relationship with the primary schools in our catchment through the development of a programme of enrichment days which will see many primary school children visiting our school in the coming months and experiencing everything High School has to offer. Andy Childe will be further developing our PSHE offer and student leadership through his role, as well as focusing on other key aspects of Personal Development. Student Leadership is something that has been affected by the pandemic and having to form year bubbles so students were unable to mix has meant that things such as School Council could not take place this year. Hopefully this will not be the case in September, and we can start to develop a range of new, exciting student leadership roles which have been planned for. The Student Ambassador programme was launched towards the end of the academic year and already there are a number of students who have signed up. Moving forward to September, more students will be encouraged to join. The establishment of the new rewards scheme has been well received by students with many students collecting rewards throughout the term and receiving recognition for their hard work, courage, commitment and compassion. We have also appointed a new Head of Maths and Computing and Head of Science and Technology – both of whom will start in September. Other staffing changes include two new members of the pastoral team, and two maternity covers for MFL and a GTA role.

Despite the many restrictions put in place this year we have still managed to deliver a number of events including: whole school performance of Blood Brothers, The Creative Arts Exhibition Evening, a whole school sports day, Work Ready Week, Year 11 Prom and Duke of Edinburgh practice days. Unfortunately, the actual expedition days had to be postponed and will happen early in the new school year. The performance of Joseph in partnership with the primary schools has also had to be postponed but has been rescheduled for early September. In order to support these performances, there is a newly formed PTA which will take on a key fundraising role within the school and would welcome new parents to join. An Alumni group has also been established and members of this group have visited school to talk to targeted groups of students about their time at school but also their careers and what path they followed after leaving Bedale High School. This is part of our raising aspirations work.

Finally, we have also been nominated in 3 categories in the Northern Echo Education Awards:

- Best School
- Best Community School
- Best Newcomer – Miss Ackers (Art)

In addition, our staff continue to do personal and professional development. Miss Temple has successfully passed her Level 6 Careers Leader qualification and Mr Gill is now a Specialist Leader of Education.

## 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 school's 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 Education
- 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		14-09-24		10/11
Jan Reed Co-Chair of Governors		17-12-22	Husband is Clerk for Bedale Town Council	11/11
Andrew Child	Staff	11-02-25		10/11
Rich Mc Guinness	Parent	20-10-24		8/9
Natalie	Parent	12-11-24		6/9
David Atkinson	Parent	18-12.21	Romanby Primary School – Co-opted Governor	10/11
Kate Loughlin	Parent	21-03-23		11/11
Christine Inchley	Local Authority	18-03-23		10/11

Lucy Legard	Co-opted	15-07-23		10/11
Tom Kelly	Head Teacher			11/11
Matt Gill	Deputy Head Teacher			11/11
Alison Knight	Assistant Headteacher			10/11

The Board of Governors is supported by a part time professional clerk, Johanna Daniel 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](mailto:cofg@bedalehighschool.org.uk)