

Board of Governors Annual Statement

July 2023

This year has seen the school embed routines and structures that were established last year following the disruption of covid in 2020 and 2021 and students have adapted very well. There is a very clear idea of what the school ethos is and many students show evidence of Courage, Compassion and Commitment throughout the activities that have taken place this year.

In July last year we said goodbye to Mr Gill who was moving on to a new school and welcomed Mr Dunne in September as the new Deputy Head. We are delighted that Mr Dunne has settled into his new role very quickly and soon started to make his mark on the school. Having spent this year carrying out faculty reviews, looking at data and getting to know the school he now has a strong understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement and will address these in the coming academic year. The new structure within the Senior Leadership Team that was implemented last year has strengthened the leadership of the school, providing more capacity to move forward key areas of the school development plan, despite it being a very challenging year.

Following the disruption of the previous years due to the pandemic it was great to see the school back to normal and reestablishing activities that took place prior to the pandemic. Our Year 11s have sat their GCSEs and we are looking forward to their results day in August when we hope that many of the students will receive the results they need to go onto the next stage of their education and that they reflect the hard work of the students and staff. They were also able to celebrate the end of their time at Bedale High School at the Prom, which was a very successful night held at Solberge Hall – the girls all looked very glamorous and the boys all looked very dapper.

This year saw our largest intake of Year 7 students who have settled into school life very well and embraced the school ethos of courage, commitment and compassion. Our relationship with our feeder primary schools is strengthening and the work that goes on through the primary enrichment programme is contributing to the increased number of Year 6s wishing to come to our school.

Student leadership continues to thrive through the range of pathways available: academic, sports, arts, student council, student ambassadors and peer leaders. Significant work has been undertaken to further develop careers provision, with one to one interviews from careers advisors and a careers fare for students and parents held in school. Next year, our Year 10 students will have the opportunity to go on work experience placements for the first time in several years.

The school remains committed to delivering a varied, well planned curriculum to the students and has planned the introduction of new courses for next year, such as IT and Health and Social Care. We have also provided a very varied extra-curricular programme. This year has seen many geography and science trips take place to various different areas and for a number of different year groups, as well as theatre trips, reward trips and our first ever PSHE trip to a mosque in Bradford. We have taken part in a range of different competitions with other high schools in the area including maths, science, DT and Food Tech. As always, we have taken part in a number of sporting events and seen great results in football, rugby, netball, swimming, cross country basketball and athletics. We had a fabulous production of Little Shop of Horrors which saw students from all year groups involved in what was a wonderful event within the school diary. Almost half of our Year 9s have participated in Duke of Edinburgh this year and survived their practice session which took place on one of the hottest weekends of the year.

Leaders have already identified the key priorities for next year, and shared these with Governors.

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 working group that was established last year. All of 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 2 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
Governors				
Steve Ingram Co-Chair of Governors		14-09-204		7/10
Jan Reed Co-Chair of Governors		17-12-26	Husband is Clerk for Bedale Town Council	10/10
Andrew Childe	Staff	11-02-25		9/10
Rich McGuiness	Parent	20-10-24		4/10
Kelly Whitehouse	Parent	04-11-25		9/10

Nicola Hunter	Parent	09-02-27		2/4
Simon Rayner	Parent	09-02-27		4/4
Kate Loughlin	Co-opted	20-02-27		8/10
Lucy Legard	Co-opted	18-07-27		8/10
Greg Horan	Co-opted	18-07-23		5/10
Tom Kelly	Head Teacher	N/A		10/10
School staff In attendance				
Alan Dunne	Deputy Head Teacher			
Alison Knight	SLT - SEND			
Louise Woodward	SLT - Behaviour			
Denise McFarlane	SBM			

The Board of Governors is supported by a part time professional clerk, Penny Fenton 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