



Board of Governors Annual Statement

2023 - 2024

In summary: Governors have supported a lot of change at Bedale High School this year with the resignation of Mr Tom Kelly, the introduction of a new Interim Head Teacher and a change in our Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Bedale has welcomed reviews from external organisations such as Ofsted and the Local Education Authority and we have been receptive to constructive feedback and recognise the need for change.

Our strengths this year include the continuous development with the community. BHS has strong community links and relationships with external stakeholders such as care homes, charity projects, partnership work with local Co-Op, Business Friends of BHS network, successful careers fairs held, and established alumni network with a scheduled rota of visits and guest speakers.

Students have had a vast amount of opportunities presented to them. Although COVID is still having an impact upon schools, BHS has shown resilience and courage and have excelled with regard to extracurricular activities, day outings and residential trips. Showing courage and commitment to learning both in and outside of the classroom.

Highlights and achievements from this year include;

- There was a significant growth in student numbers, 100 additional students compared with the previous year.
- GCSE outcomes moved forward from -0.49 to -0.30.
- Parents' evenings went back to face-to-face rather than virtual appointments.
- BHS hosted several drama productions such as Mid-Summers Night's Dream, Little Shop of Horrors and A Christmas Carol.
- Extra-curricular opportunities outside of the classroom were offered in London, Leeds, Bradford, York and Iceland.
- Students have had opportunities to compete in sports such as netball, football, rugby, and outside the sports field in culinary, and literacy competitions.
- BHS has supported a range of events and occasions for example Year 4 enrichment day; creating dream catchers and poetry. World Book Day with wooden spoon characters and Careers Day with a range of external volunteers to name but a few.
- The school has raised £411.37 for Red Nose Day and supported families with previously owned uniforms.
- Year 10 students started Work Experience for the first time since the pandemic.

Governors are looking forward to seeing our Student Leadership Team excel into the next academic year, along with the introduction of Religious Education from year 7 -10. These students will access

Mr C Stokes
Headteacher

Ms J Reed & Mr S Ingram
Chairs of Governors



1 hour of specialist RE education per week following the appointment of our Religious Education Teacher, Mrs Butler.

This will support students in understanding the beliefs, practices and moral values of a variety of different faiths and belief systems, and also address our curriculum offer as highlighted in this years Ofsted inspection. Other things we expect to see in the classroom is the use of 'Purple Zone' that will be used to support young people with independent learning and the Planner. The Planner will be used to support student organisation and teacher-parent communication.

Looking onto 24/25 Bedale High School will welcome a new Interim Headteacher, and undertake a line by line review of the school budget, that will enable funds to be released for the benefit of staff and students - one such example being the Y11 Common Room.

Governors will support the new Interim Head Mr Christopher Stokes, SENCO and SLT with changes in staff structure following the departure of Tom Kelly, Louise Woodward and Alison Knight and continue to support the school making sure that BHS's vision and strategic direction is clear.

We look forward to what 2024 – 2025 will bring.

The Governing body is composed of 12 members. Jan Reed and Steve Ingram as Co-chairs, along with the Head Teacher, a Staff Governor, co-opted Local Authority Governors and Parent Governors.

Governors attend regular formal meetings, with each Governor having a focus on a particular subject area related to a key priority in our school development plan, for example: leadership, safeguarding, quality of education etc. It is a mark of the strength of the school and the commitment of Governors that we have continued year-on-year to have a stable and active Board with the vast majority of our Governors fulfilling their full terms of office. Our Governors comply with the statutory requirements to declare any conflicting business or work interests that could adversely impact the role and integrity of a school Governor. We review on an annual basis our skills set to ensure that as a group we have the key skills needed to fulfil our statutory obligations and that we can be effective Governors. An up-to-date list of Governors and their roles can be found on the Bedale School Website <https://bedalehighschool.org.uk/governors/>

The Board of Governors is supported by an independent part-time professional clerk. 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

Mr C Stokes
Headteacher

Ms J Reed & Mr S Ingram
Chairs of Governors