



BOARD OF GOVERNORS ANNUAL STATEMENT 2024 – 2025

OUR PROUDEST MOMENTS

- The best results ever achieved by the school under the current accountability framework, with Attainment 8 reaching 45.95 for the first time.
- An unprecedented rise in students passing GCSE English and Mathematics at 4+ (73.6%) and 5+ (39.6%).
- Attendance up by 4.3% - the best indicator that students are positively engaged with school and their learning

ENJOYING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

We firmly believe that being in school every day is the best investment we can give ourselves and each other whether we are student or staff... and our results speak!



A SHARED BELIEF IN WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE

As we close the chapter on the 2024–25 academic year, it is with great pride and gratitude that we reflect on the remarkable progress made at Bedale High School. This has been a year of significant transformation - one marked by bold changes, rising expectations, and a renewed sense of purpose across the school community. Through it all, our students, staff, and families have responded with courage, commitment, and compassion - always.

The results speak for themselves. Attendance has surged from the bottom 5% nationally to the top 35%, with students missing an average of eight fewer days than last year - a shift that reflects not only improved systems but a culture where students are motivated to be present and engaged. Behaviour has also seen a dramatic improvement, with 68% fewer isolations issued despite higher standards, enabling more disruption-free learning and countless individual success stories. These gains are mirrored in the overwhelmingly positive

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Headteacher

Ms J Reed & Mr S Ingram
Chairs of Governors



student voice: young people tell us they feel safe, supported, and inspired by the aspirational ethos now embedded throughout the school.

Beyond the classroom, Bedale High School continues to thrive as a vibrant, inclusive community. With 65% of students participating in extracurricular activities throughout the year—from school productions and theatre tech to sports and enrichment - our young people are embracing opportunities to grow, collaborate, and lead. The launch of our new rowing club in 2025–26 promises to build on this momentum, offering fresh challenges and team spirit.

Investment in student wellbeing has also been a priority, with our new KS4 common room providing a social and supportive space, and our inspiring corridor murals celebrating creativity and aspiration. Financially, the school has made significant strides, repaying £262,000 of its deficit while reinvesting nearly £250,000 into improved learning environments.

Importantly, the **financial progress** made this year has not come at the expense of our staff team. On the contrary, great care has been taken to ensure that savings have supported - not strained - our capacity to deliver high-quality education. Streamlined systems now free up valuable time, allowing staff to focus on what matters most: teaching, mentoring, and supporting students. We've also seen the growth of both our **Senior and Middle Leadership** tiers, enabling more focused, distributed leadership across the school. This investment in people and structure is already paying dividends, with clearer strategic direction and stronger support for staff at every level.

At Bedale High School, we believe that **every student deserves to be supported**, challenged, and celebrated within our community. That's why we're proud to report zero permanent exclusions and no students accessing Alternative Provision across the entire academic year. These aren't just statistics - they reflect a deeply held commitment to inclusion, early intervention, and restorative practice. Our students know they belong here, and we work tirelessly to ensure that every young person, regardless of background or need, is given the opportunity to thrive. This approach is not only transforming individual lives but setting a powerful example of what a compassionate, high-performing school can achieve.

THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE JOURNEY - FAR FROM IT.

As we look ahead to 2025–26 and beyond, Bedale High School remains resolutely focused on its core priorities: addressing our priorities for continued improvement with determination and working towards our ambition of achieving Ofsted 'Exceptional' by 2026–27. Our drivers for learning continue to shape every decision, and we are investing in premises and resources that reflect the aspirational experience we want for every student. Bedale is fast becoming the first choice for families in our area, and we are committed to listening - regularly and meaningfully - to the voices of our staff, students, and parents. As our reputation grows, we are proud to share our learning with other schools through the Local Authority, contributing to a wider culture of excellence and collaboration.

The Governing body is composed of 12 members. Jan Reed and Steve Ingram as Co-chairs, along with the Headteacher, 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 most of our Governors fulfilling their full terms of office.

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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 High 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

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