

PTA Meeting 14th March 2023

Attendants: Melissa Huntsman, Danielle Hargreaves, Karen Saunders, Darren Pickering, Caroline Sims, Claire Heaton (Chair), Rachel Holtby, Rebecca Bratley, Mike Ralph, Sarah Mahon, Hayley Woodcock, Rob Williams, Tamsin Smurthwaite, Nicola Gaze

Apologies: Danielle Collins, Alice Hayter, Mick Fenwick

The Chair welcomed all new attendees and wider introductions were made.

Head's report.

The 3rd and 4th strike days are due later this week. There are a number of different unions so disruptions across different schools depends on union membership levels. Strikes are a national not a local issue. On the first day 600 out of 1000 students were present in the school and this decreased to 500 on the second strike day as membership of union increased. Need to undertake risk assessments and not all students will have their normal teachers. Focus has been on ensuring continuity for the exam years and the younger age groups due to requirement for parental supervision. The situation may need to be reviewed if strikes continue. Teaching staff will make adjustments to ensure all the syllabus is covered.

When there are issues with bad weather, such as last weeks snow, the school will be open to students who can attend.

There have been 150 admissions to Year 7 for September 2023, although this is likely to rise to 155, with 28 families on the waiting list which is a similar position to recent years. The 6th form is likely to be 110 students which allows the school to have better numbers for each class.

There is inevitably uncertainty in terms of the financial situation given increased costs. However there is likely to be a in year surplus and the school is not expecting to face staff redundancies.

There are a number of vacant positions currently being advertised. There have been problems in recruiting Teaching Assistants due to lack of applicants. However there has not been a significant turnover of teaching staff. Mr Fenwick is leaving at the end of the term after 7 years at the school to take a well-deserved post as Headteacher. During this team the school have developed a strong leadership team so there are colleagues who can step up through the summer term. The new arrangements will be communicated to parents as soon as possible.

Work on the new inclusion facility will begin over Easter, however they are still waiting for building regulations for the library mezzanine. Ryedale Council have approved funding contribution towards the sports centre extension and this will now need to be endorsed by the new North Yorkshire Council.

Senior Officers from DoE have visited the school to investigate how 121 technology can be rolled out nationally.

The assessment data for years 11 and 13 is looking positive. The year 9 assessment are also looking positive at this stage. Behaviours and attitudes from pupils are still not reaching pre-covid levels. There are noticeable increased levels of anxiety due to the impact of the Covid lockdowns and as a result the school have reinvested in a mentor. There are still high levels of absence from both students and teachers due to illness.

The school are continuing to re-build the social aspects of school life, with the Shrek performance taking place next week, following on from the Christmas concert. Mr Williams will also be taking 80 students on a trip to the French Battlefields after Easter. There have been a number of school trips.

A parent asked if there were any additional activities could be arranged such as a school disco. Volunteers will be needed to lead this but PTA offered to help where possible.

Treasurers Report

Currently £3,610.68 in PTA funds plus float. The Christmas concert and awards evening proved very successful in raising funds for the school.

The PTA will be running a bar for the Shrek performance next week. Rota has been organised with help from volunteers. Order and licence has been requested.

Any other business.

Discussion took place on the deadlines for getting any new events on the forward calendar. Still some time to agree future PTA events for next year.

The next Parents and Carers Forum date will be 20th June.

Next PTA meeting: Tuesday 13th June 7pm

