



March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have enjoyed the half term break and been able to relax and recharge after a busy start to the year.

Activities both at school and offsite have been plentiful for all year groups and have included visits to St Andrews, exploring the fascinating world of physics with kits donated from Ogden Trust and baking gingerbread men in the school kitchens. It has been great to see the Year 6s enjoying an energetic and enriching time at their camp near Thirsk, at Carlton Lodge Activity Centre before the half term break. The camp has been a key element to the implementation of the school's vision, *Include, Inspire and Achieve*, giving pupils an opportunity to develop teamwork skills, collaboration and communication.

The Board of Governors have been overseeing the progress of the Academy Development Plan which includes the key OFSTED inspection elements of quality of education, leadership and management, behaviour and attitudes and personal development. The plan's objectives encompass high expectations for standards, driving curriculum development to ensure pupil motivation and enjoyment, enhancing the whole school approach to maths mastery with greater depth as a priority, maintaining a high English standard with enjoyment of reading and embedding the phonics scheme in the lower years.

The Board have had presentations from the senior leads in English, maths and wider curriculum, allowing us to ask questions and challenge leaders to ensure your children are receiving the best possible opportunities to flourish and maximise their potential for learning. With focused link governor visits to school, attendance at school events and presentations from staff, we have been able to gain evidence that the teaching team are doing their maximum to ensure pupils are consistently challenged and engaged in learning. The importance of environmental concerns has become embedded in the school's daily life with pupils' involvement in Green Futures, We have heard about the success of the new lunch clubs and the promotion of good mental health and wellbeing through outdoor experiences.

The board is also responsible for ensuring both pupils and you, the parents and carers, have an opportunity to give feedback on the implementation of objectives and, from conversations at parents' evenings, informal teacher meetings and regular pupil voice discussions, I can assure you it is regularly taken into account during board meetings.

With the hope that Spring and all its brilliance of colour is just around the corner, the Board of Governors and I wish you and your children a continuation of both academic enrichment and extra-curricular activities.

Best wishes,

Maggie Matthews

Chair of Governors



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