



MALTBYLEARNINGTRUST
Exceptional Experiences. Successful Lives.



Wath Academy

**PARENT AND COMMUNITY
ADVISORY BOARD (PCAB)**

INTRODUCTION FROM PRINCIPAL

Dear PCAB Members,

Thank you for volunteering your time to be part of our Parent and Community Advisory Board (PCAB) initiative.

We believe Wath Academy has the potential to be one of the best schools in the country and genuinely believe it can become a beacon of educational excellence. We are passionate about our curriculum offer which includes a broad and balanced suite of academic subjects, a fantastic selection of enrichment activities, as well as a specific focus on Character Education and Global Awareness . The combination of these puts us in a great position to pursue our vision: *Delivering exceptional learning experiences than enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives.*

This is an exciting time to be a part of Wath Academy, despite the challenges of recent months, we feel that we have worked tirelessly to provide our students with the best education possible. A huge part of this has been the feedback we have been able to gain from parents/carers, students, staff and governors. The purpose of the PCAB is to further enhance opportunities to gain feedback and engage with our community.

Thank you once again for your commitment to our community and I look forward to meeting you all in person as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Liam Ransome
Principal



WHAT IS PCAB?

In order to reflect on the areas of strength and opportunities for development within our curriculum and wider provision, we have created the Parent & Community Advisory Board (PCAB), that will meet once per half term, with the Senior Leadership Team and Governors.

The PCAB has a dual purpose:

- It allows parents/carers and members of the community to provide feedback to leaders on current systems, successes, and areas for development
- It is an opportunity for the Academy to provide updates to our members on the progress we are making and share early thinking about upcoming developments.

The launch meeting was planned for November 2020, however, because of the second national lockdown this had to be postponed. Instead, we asked members to complete an electronic survey so that we could gain some initial feedback.

In light of the January 2021 government lockdown, we were yet again unable to hold a face-to-face PCAB meeting as previously intended. However, we ran an online event where members were able to meet with the Wath Academy Leadership team. This took place on 11th of February at 5pm and the meeting lasted 1 hour 30 minutes. Several members of the leadership team presented on their areas of responsibility with the Principal, Mr Ransome, answering some questions at the end. Due to time constraints on the evening, we were unable to answer all questions. However, where possible these are answered in this document.

OUR KEY DRIVERS

Wath Academy

Delivering exceptional learning experiences that enable all young people to thrive in a competitive world and lead successful and fulfilling lives



Our Key Drivers

World-class learning

World-class learning every lesson, every day

The highest expectations

Everyone can be successful; always expect the highest standards

No excuses

Create solutions not excuses; make positive thinking a habit

Growth mindset

Believe you can improve; work hard and value feedback

Never give up

Resilience is essential; be relentless in the pursuit of excellence

Everyone is valued

Diversity is celebrated; see the best in everyone

Integrity

Be trustworthy and honest; deliver on promises and walk the talk

OUR CURRICULUM INTENT



All students develop an inner belief and ambition to fulfil their dreams

Students acquire the knowledge, skills and character needed to live happy, healthy and successful lives. All are included and work hard to fulfil their potential regardless of background or starting point

All students develop a passion for life-long learning

An appetite for acquiring further knowledge, skills and awareness throughout their lives

All students gain first rate qualifications

Qualifications that ensure all doors remain open, giving our students the platform to compete and thrive on a global stage

All students develop exceptional character

Character that exemplifies a true growth mindset, a phenomenal work ethic, confidence and high levels of grit, resilience and determination; ensuring they are fully prepared to flourish in an ever-changing world

All students develop high levels of cultural and global awareness

Awareness that develops through diverse experiences that enrich our students, enabling them to engage in, empathise with, challenge and debate current affairs beyond their local community

All students develop a love of reading

All students become confident, invested readers who see the power of texts in fostering imagination and curiosity; driving their education, personal development and success in life

All students become responsible citizens

Students that are responsible members of both the school and local community; who grow into grounded and humble adults, making a positive contribution to society

All students gain an array of positive school memories

Positive school memories which last a lifetime. Memories that are created from students, staff and our community being fully invested in forging exceptional relationships based on trust, care, high expectations and a passion for genuinely making a difference

OUR LEADERS



Mr Ransome
PRINCIPAL

VICE PRINCIPALS



Mr Hopkin
TEACHING AND
LEARNING, BEHAVIOUR
AND ATTENDANCE



Mr Swann
CURRICULUM AND
ACADEMIC
OUTCOMES

ASSISTANT VICE PRINCIPALS



Mr Grayel
KS3/4 OUTCOMES AND
ASSESSMENT



Mr Shaw
HEAD 6TH FORM AND
KS5 OUTCOMES

ASSOCIATE ASSISTANT VICE PRINCIPALS



Miss Jandu
COVID-19 CATCH UP
AND BOYS PROGRESS



Mrs Schofield
T&L, ITT AND
HOMEWORK



Mr Wesson
BEHAVIOUR AND
CHARACTER
EDUCATION



Miss Gillatt
TRANSITION,
BRITISH VALUES
AND WELLBEING
- DSL



Mr Taylor
ATTENDANCE



PCAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the current attendance and how does this compare nationally?

The DFE are currently reporting the overall attendance in all state schools as 79.2% (16th December), Wath Academies attendance is currently 14.6% higher than this at 93.8%.

What school target for attendance? How does this compare with actual attendance figures?

Although overall attendance is above the current DFE national average for this academic year. The Academies target is 97%, overall attendance is below this at 93.8%. The academy reached 95% prior to the first lockdown in March 2020.

How many ITT students are teaching in the school?

These vary through-out the year as we link with a range of teacher training providers. We have reduced the amount of ITT's this year due to the current situation. Currently at this time we have 5 ITT students placed with us.

Does the praise from the Sheffield ITT mean that you have had lots of trainees in the school?

We want to attract the best teachers here at Wath Academy and we felt that the opportunity to present to the University allowed us to share our vision and approach to online teaching and this would help promote our Academy.

We are proud to work with a range of teacher training providers but carefully analyse the number of trainee teachers that we can facilitate is completed.

What lessons can be taken from online learning that will benefit face to face teaching?

We have explored a number of online tools that can also be brought into the classroom for face to face teaching.

PCAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What are you doing to ensure students can overcome technical issues with logging into live lessons?

We have distributed laptops to students who have struggled due to equipment issues. Also, we have our onsite ICT support team who can support with any technical issues.

How are you adjusting homework to take in to account the number of hours per day students are now looking at screens for learning?

Thank you for your question/feedback, we have since sent out additional guidance to staff regarding the setting of homework during remote learning.

If a student prefers online teaching, can they continue with this when schools re-open?

When schools re-open our offer will be in school, all students will be expected to attend in person. As was the case prior to Christmas, if a student has to isolate then we will provide them the opportunity to access their lesson via Microsoft Teams.

Will your scholarship programmes continue to be offered in future years?

The scholarship programmes have grown over the last 3 years. Initially starting with Football and Golf and later adding Dance. These provide an enhanced enrichment and help develop the wider experiences of our students. For these reasons they will continue to be a key component of our Post 16 study programmes.

Are you still offering any workplace-based experience for the older pupils to help them prepare for life after they leave school?

Each week students in the Sixth Form receive a Higher Education and Careers bulletin. This collates virtual work experiences into one document and students are encouraged to take part in areas that are of interest to them.

Each year students in Year 12 take part in a work experience placement. Unfortunately, Covid-19 restrictions have meant that this is currently not feasible.

We have started (January 2021) sending a monthly careers newsletter to students and parents in all year groups. This will encourage students to explore the world of work and take part in virtual work experience programmes.

Students in Year 7 take part in our work shadowing day where they go to work with a parent.

What type of communication would the academy expect from us as PCAB members?

We would welcome both written and verbal communication. The PCAB@wathacademy.com email is the most efficient way of contacting the school in writing. I would suggest using the email to arrange a phone call if you would prefer to speak to someone.

PCAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What would you want this group (PCAB) to achieve?

The PCAB has a dual purpose:

- It allows parents/carers and members of the community to be able to provide feedback to leaders on current systems, successes, and areas for development.
- It is an opportunity for us to provide updates on our progress and share early thinking about upcoming developments.

How often will we be meeting?

We will hold a meeting once per half term with six in total each academic year.

When is the next PCAB meeting?

The next meeting will take place this half term and details will be sent in the near future.

Is this PCAB group reflective of a cross section of parents of the school?

PCAB members are made up of parents from across each of the school years. This will help to gain a range of feedback that represents all ages within the academy.

How do you ensure the students are buying into the Key Drivers?

We are continuing with our Key Driver assemblies each week and staff should be referencing them during lesson time. It is evident to us that given the circumstances our students are certainly demonstrating 'Growth Mindset', 'No Excuses' and 'Never Give Up'.

Could there be a staff list on the web to make it easier to know who to contact without having to just email 'enquiries'?

We will be adding the following staff groups email address to the Contact Us section of the website.

- Subject Leaders
- Academic Year Leaders
- Pastoral Year Leaders
- Safeguarding Team
- SEN Team

How many students currently attend the school and is this growing?

We currently have over 1850 students at the academy. We envisage this growing next year with greater numbers in 6th form and in the new Year 7. The building is large with over 100 classrooms which means we have room should numbers continue to increase.

PCAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

With regards to achievements outside of school could you make it easier for parents to notify school of accomplishments outside of school?

We would love to share more student achievements from outside of school. Parents can email the student's Academic Year Leader who will then arrange for this to be shared on social media and in The Torch.

Could we have a way of sending praise/ thanks to staff which doesn't just go to them but is also able to go to someone above?

These can be emailed to enquiries@wathacademy.com. The reception team then share them with Mr Ransome who ensures they get to the staff member and their line manager. Any whole school praise also gets shared with all staff.

What are your current and future plans to support students and their mental health and wellbeing?

We will have the ongoing support from With Me in Mind, who we have been consulting with throughout the pandemic and school closure.

Students are signposted to the support available to them within the academy along with provision available to them from external agencies. Social media platforms such as Instagram are used to communicate these alongside more traditional methods.

On our Learning Platform we have the TALK button. In effect this sends an email to a member of staff who is in a position to respond and offer support.

Ongoing weekly support is being offered where the need has been identified. This was informed in part by a recent survey that students completed on Microsoft Forms.

Looking to the future we would like to offer anxiety and resilience work as a carousel provision, starting with Year 6 inductions up until year 11. The aim of this is to help build confidence and resilience within students with the view that when they do come across stumbling blocks such as assessments and exams they have the emotional and wellbeing tools to help them cope and work through rather than these things becoming a barrier.

In addition to this students will still have the opportunity to speak with our school mental health practitioner or attend smaller interventions when the contact restrictions are reviewed.

In terms of student feedback, what do they think about the character education sessions from Kevin Mincher?

We have used Kevin Mincher for a number of years at the school in many different ways. We currently utilise his skills once every half term for Year 7,8 and 9 to support the delivery of character education. Whilst not every student will be a fan of Kevin, I receive lots of positive feedback from students about his sessions. He is an expert in student psychology, and he inspires many of our students to work hard at school and see the value in developing their character.

PCAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How are you supporting the mental health and wellbeing of staff at the Academy?

Every week, an 'all staff' email is sent to signpost staff to the support available within the academy along with suggestions for support from external agencies. This includes a range of websites, phone numbers for counselling support and leaflets.

There are 16 'Wellbeing Champions' working in a variety of roles across the academy, to support staff with any wellbeing issues arising. There is also a WellbeingChampions@wathacademy.com email address that staff can access for support.

The 'Staff wellbeing hub' continues to be available for staff via 'Teams' on a Friday lunchtime. Two Wellbeing Champions oversee the running of the hub.

The 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' - 'GIVE' initiative has been running since Term 1. Staff have the opportunity to boost the wellbeing of a colleague by surprising them with a small gift and wellbeing message. 44 staff have signed up to the 'GIVE' initiative. This runs every half term and the invitation to get involved is always open.

How do you ensure our children hear from a variety of role models in terms of inspiration?

When creating activities for character education I am mindful to use a range of role models from different backgrounds. This ensure the messages we are teaching such as growth mindset and resilience are equally well received by all students. The examples of inspirational people used by Kevin Mincher always include a wide range of diversity.

The inspirational quotes in the student planner are male dominated. Would it not be better to have an equal balance of male and female role models?

We are always striving to improve the resources we use, and I am currently updating the student planner. This section will be amended to include a more balanced mix of male and female role models to offer greater equality in this section of the planner.

Can you please explain the rewards on offer at the school?

The school uses the online rewards system called E-Praise. This system allows students to earn reward points and then spend these on different rewards of their choice. There is an online shop where students can order items worth different values of points. Each half term the school runs a Golden ticket event to reward students for their hard work. Each event costs 50 points and activities this year have included Film night, Laser tag, E sports events, Table top games, Trampolining. Students earn rewards for completing homework, excellent contribution to class and filling their conduct card.

Can you also consult with parents on rewards as well as with children?

Parental feedback is always welcome and we will act upon it where possible. Please email suggestions about the rewards system to the enquiries email address and this will be passed to the relevant member of staff.

When will my child be able to spend their E-praise points?

They are able to spend these every half term on the Golden ticket event which is advertised during tutor time in the run up to the events.



Wath Academy

Thank you for attending the meeting, your time and involvement in supporting PCAB is very much appreciated. Please use the email address PCAB@wathacademy.com in order to provide further feedback.



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