



MALTBYLEARNINGTRUST
Exceptional Experiences. Successful Lives.



Wath Academy

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

INTRODUCTION FROM PRINCIPAL

Dear PCAB Member,

Firstly, welcome to those of you who are new to the group and thank you for attending your first PCAB. To those of you who have remained with us for the new academic year, thank you also for your continued commitment to making our academy better.

It was great to be able to present some of the achievements made by students and staff over the past 12 months. We are delighted with the progress being made but we recognise this is just the start. Using this as a foundation, what can be achieved by our students, staff and community in the coming years is truly exciting.

Leaders also presented two of our ongoing priorities for the next academy year: personal development and reading. Our personal development offer is something we are very passionate about as we believe it complements our academic offer and provides a range of exciting opportunities for our students. We are always looking for ways to build on our current provision and getting an input from you gave us some great ideas to go away and think about.

Miss Major then presented on the process we are undertaking to generate a true love of reading. I'm hoping that Miss Major's presentation captured what we are doing to identify barriers, remove the barriers and then beyond that how we are getting students to engage with reading as a passion. For some students this comes naturally; for others we need to provide more support, so it is important that we meet the needs of all students.

Please see on the following pages our response to the questions asked on the evening as well as the actions we are undertaking.

Thank you once again for your significant contribution.

Yours sincerely,

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) which meets 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.

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
DSL, BEHAVIOUR AND
ATTENDANCE



Mr Swann
CURRICULUM AND
ACADEMIC
OUTCOMES

ASSISTANT VICE PRINCIPALS



Miss Jandu
Y11 OUTCOMES



Mr Wesson
BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES



Mr Shaw
KS3 CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT
AND REPORTING, CHARACTER
EDUCATION



Mrs Boyd
TEACHING AND
LEARNING

ASSOCIATE ASSISTANT VICE PRINCIPALS



Miss Slasor
HEAD OF SIXTH
FORM



Mr Taylor
ATTENDANCE



Mrs Pritchard
ASSESSMENT
CALENDAR, Y10
OUTCOMES



Mr Meyerhoff
TEACHING AND
LEARNING, HOMEWORK



Mrs Schofield
HOUSE, PCAB,
STUDENT VOICE



Mr Wood
BEHAVIOURS,
CONSEQUENCE DUTIES,
ACTIVE SUPPORT, REWARDS





PCAB Question and responses

Parent Communication – How can this be improved?

Question	Answer	Action
Can a direct link to letters be sent?	This isn't possible at the moment due to the available characters in a text message. However, we are looking into a new app on which we can send personalised letters and communication easily. The letter would appear on mobile phones as a PDF rather than having to then visit the website. We are hoping to launch this in January.	LRA to communicate this with parents when it is finalised.
Could the video we have seen be shared wider?	We will be looking at sharing this widely when the results have been validated. (There will be very little movement but validated data will include reviews of marking so we may see a slightly positive shift.)	LRA to share the video as soon as possible.

PCAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Parent Communication – How can this be improved?

Question	Answer	Action
Could there be more functionality in the app?	As mentioned above, we are looking at a better app which is due to be rolled out from January.	LRA to communicate the launch of the app in the new year.
Could the website be improved? Could a staff directory be added to the website so it is easier to contact people?	There is a section on the website where contact information for key staff is available. The link for this section is: https://www.wathacademy.com/newcontact	LRA to continue communicating with parents/carers regarding the contact us page. LRA to work with a governor on improving the website again as we did last year.
Why has the extension to SEN and Sixth Form been removed from options?	Staff in 6th form and SEND are not always available during the school day. We were finding parents/carers were ringing through and becoming frustrated as no staff member was available to answer. We have therefore encouraged parents to contact staff by email. If it is urgent, they can speak to reception who can try and locate the member of staff if possible.	LRA to continue reviewing best lines of communication between parents/carers and the school.
Could the weekly newsletter return to what information it shared at the end of last year?	The newsletter will be in the format it was at the end of last year. We have had a change in personnel and the person completing the weekly newsletter is gaining knowledge of their new roles. Putting together this amount of information takes a considerable amount of time throughout the week, but we are confident that it will be back to normal very soon.	The newsletter will be returning to its previous format.
Can the calendar on the website be updated so it shows the most relevant information with links to relevant information?	The calendar on the website is currently being updated. We recognise that this should contain more information and we are working towards this now.	LRA to work with staff to ensure that the calendar is suitably updates.
Could more videos be uploaded to the website/social media?	This is a great idea. We will look into this and encourage departments and social media teams to do so.	LRA to communicate with staff the desire of parents/carers to see more videos on social media.

PCAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Parent Communication – How can this be improved?

Question	Answer	Action
Can an interactive tour of the school be created?	We have seen this done in a computerised version of by some other 6th form colleges. We will be considering this. However, we do like to meet people in person and show them around our academy so they can get a true sense of what it is like to be in school on a day-to-day basis.	Consider a recorded tour of the academy which can be available for parents/carers to view on the website.
Can sport fixtures be filmed and uploaded onto the website?	This isn't always possible due to image refusal rights of individual students. More video content would be good though.	LRA to communicate with staff the desire of parents/carers to see more videos on social media where possible.
Can a private YouTube channel be created for parents?	This is a good idea. It would be interesting to hear what content parents would like on there.	Discuss further with PCAB as to what material would be wanted.



PCAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Reading		
Question	Answer	Action
How frequent are the books updated in the library?	The library receives new books monthly. These are ordered in by the library team in response to student voice. We also frequently receive book donations from organisations such as BookTrust and LoveReading4Kids.	Books will be updated on a monthly basis and within the online library,
Could students be used to recommend books as well as staff?	Students are encouraged to complete book reviews in the school's magazine <i>Torch</i> . Students have opportunities to recommend books in their reading lesson. We are currently working on a display with student reviews.	We are currently working on a reading display in Social Area 2 which will include student recommendations.
How frequent are the reading tests taken and what action is done with these scores?	Tests are taken twice per year in autumn and then spring. Data is shared with staff and parents. Teachers receive training to help support readers. Students who are seriously below average are taken out of tutor time to receive an intervention.	Parents will receive a letter with their child's result in half term 2. After data is analysed, we adapt the intervention groups to ensure students are targeted appropriately.
Why are sixth form not tested?	Students are tested from Y7-Y10 to track and show progress in reading ability. We expect all students to be confident and fluent readers by Y10. In Y11 and sixth form, students will be monitored by their individual teachers. If there are concerns with reading/processing, this will be referred to SEN where a test may then be undertaken. Our sixth form admissions criteria requires students to have a Grade 4 in English; this would indicate their reading ability is secure enough to access the demands of a KS5 course.	Access arrangement testing where concerns regarding reading/processing are identified with students.

PCAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Reading		
Question	Answer	Action
Why are there only reading lessons in Y7 and Y8? Why is this not transferred into other year groups?	Students with low reading scores in Y9 do receive a reading lesson. In KS4, students do not have an explicit reading lesson that is separate to the English curriculum but will frequently look at extracts from fiction books, non-fiction texts and use the reading skills.	We are evaluating the impact of the reading lessons in Y7/Y8. We are exploring introducing reading into tutor time where students will be encouraged to practise reading skills.
Could social media be used to promote reading? Instagram and Tik Tok are used by students – the audience for reading.	We have a reading Instagram @wath_academy_loves_reading. Posts are shared across the school's social media. The school has Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. The school does not have a TikTok account.	Suggestion of TikTok referred to SLT.
Could the school subscribe to <i>The Week Junior</i> ?	The library do subscribe to some student magazines – both electronic and physical copies.	The library team could look into <i>The Week Junior</i> and evaluate student uptake to see whether it would be financially viable.
Do we have a book club?	No. Students are able to access the library during break and lunchtime to read. We do have resources in the library to run a book club. For example, we have sets of books sent by BookTrust to run small groups.	Library team currently looking into golden ticket events being a book reading event. GMA to explore starting up a book club.



PCAB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Personal Development

Question	Answer	Action
How do you know you are offering clubs that students want?	To ensure the clubs offered are those which students wish to attend, we have used student voice. However, we plan to update this each term.	Student voice enrichment survey to be sent to students in Half Term 2 to gain an insight into the clubs offered as we return to school after the Christmas holiday.
What is the offer for Y11?	Students in Y11 can attend all lunch clubs that are appropriate for their age range. In addition, clubs such as dance, football and rugby are offered after P4 so that students are able to attend.	Continue to advertise the enrichment offer for Y11 with a slide in tutor resources.
How do you ensure students get time for lunch if they want to attend a lunch time activity?	Students wishing to attend an enrichment club are asked to bring sandwiches.	For students unable to bring sandwiches, we will explore the use of a queue jump pass for those attending clubs.
What more can be done so that parents are aware of the experience passport?	<p>The experience passport continues to grow and with increasing numbers of students reaching respective milestones awareness will increase through rewarding these achievements.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the passport could become part of the transition meeting that Y6 parents attend.</p>	<p>Milestones to be rewarded at each half term rewards assembly. This is to include certificates and badges being handed out to students.</p> <p>To consider if the Experience Passport can become part of the induction meeting for Y6 parents.</p>
Do you have the 'buy in' from staff so the correct information is collected and students are rewarding for their experiences.	Staff 'buy in' is evidenced through the wide range of enrichment activities that are on offer each week.	So that students are rewarded for attending enrichment activities, we will be launching a new recording system using electronic scanners.



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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