

Governance Newsletter – September 2022

Friday 16th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you have all managed to have a good break during the hottest summer on record. Certainly, the children have returned to school with renewed enthusiasm for learning and they have made an excellent start in their new classes. As you are aware, the full Ofsted report from the June 2022 inspection was sent to the school last week. We are delighted that West Vale Academy was judged to be a good school and the inspectors agreed that the school has made “massive progress”.

We are also very pleased that Ofsted recognised that “Trustees and governors have taken effective action to ensure a rapid pace of school improvement.” The inspection report is clear that the interim principal was “leading an effective senior leadership team.” In addition, the inspectors were positive about the fact that “governors are already working with the incoming principal to ensure that this improvement is sustained seamlessly from September onwards.”

As well as the many strengths of the school that are described in the inspection report, there are two aspects of the school where we “need to do better.” Although Ofsted judged that “most pupils behave very well” and that “pupils’ behaviour overall is improving quickly” the inspectors’ view was that “it is not as good as it should be.” In addition, “a few pupils are not kind to each other.” We are confident that these aspects will be addressed quickly by the new principal with your help. Inspectors had noted that she “has already visited the school to talk to pupils about her high expectations of their behaviour.”

This is the third of our Governance Newsletters, designed to improve communication between school and parents and carers. As we stated in our July newsletter, we need your help this term as there are two vacancies for parent governors on the Local Governing Body – there will be more information on this soon from the new principal.

We look forward to your continuing support throughout this academic year.

Kindest regards

Mr J Power
Chair of Governors

Mr C Midgley
Chair of the Trust Board



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