



25th July 2024

**The South Wolds
Academy
and Sixth Form**

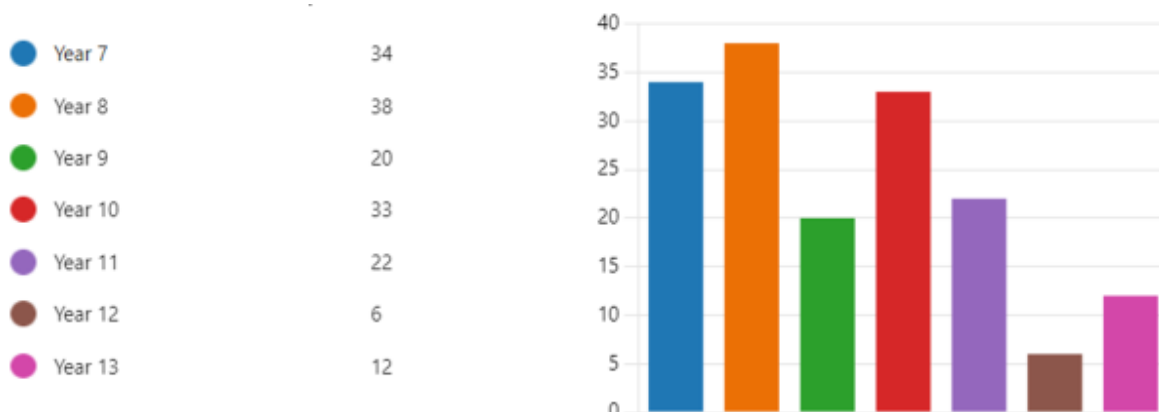
Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to the close of another academic year, I wanted to share my thanks to you for your continued support for the school. I am incredibly proud of the staff and students here at South Wolds and whilst there is an air of excitement about the impending summer break (hopefully with sun!) I wanted to take a moment to reflect on another great year. We are all proud of the students who have worked hard for their public examinations and I look forward to celebrating success on the two results days. Seeing how students have focused and prepared has been a privilege and I wish every student the best for the future. They certainly celebrated in style at their respective proms!

I have had the pleasure of taking afternoon tea and also breakfast (I sense a pattern!) with selected students who have gone that extra mile in their reading as well as students whose reports have celebrated their outstanding efforts this year. Also, at our annual Year 7-10 Awards Evening, it was wonderful to celebrate the achievements of students across these year groups and thank you to all parents and carers who could join us. It was a special evening.

I also wanted to thank all the students who have adapted so calmly to the changes around the site now as we undergo some significant site work. The closure of the kitchen and servery a few weeks ago for example was something we did not have a lot of notice about, and my thanks go to the staff who worked so quickly to look at the best options to maintain a service for our young people. The works are due to be completed in August so that we can welcome every student back on site to see the new larger kitchen and servery and I promise to share photographs of this new space with you as soon as possible. We are also excited for the arrival and installation of two new canopies in August, that will provide additional seating and social spaces for students outside.

In June, I sought your views on the school, what you felt were positive, and any wishes for our development. Thank you on behalf of myself and the governing body for your responses. We saw a 13.6% response rate and you can see from the chart where you identified year groups your child(ren) are in.



It was lovely to read your thoughts on what you feel we get right and I have shared these with staff and governors. We are always keen not to be complacent and I have noted some information below that I hope you will find helpful.

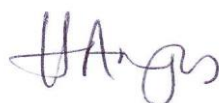
Home-School communication	I understand, as I know you do, that schools are busy places and so clear communication is essential. On our website, in the Parent section, is a link called Parental Queries. This shares information on ways you can contact the academy with subject-specific email addresses should you have a particular query in relation to an academic team. There are also contact details for the office if your query is more general for example. We have moved to virtual parent consultation events as an efficient way to share feedback about your child's progress and still operate in-person open evenings and information events. However, I do appreciate the ways in which face-to-face discussions can strengthen our relationships and so we will be running some parents' evenings on site as in-person events in the next academic year. Please keep an eye out for the details when they are published.
Extra-curricular activities	I am pleased to see the growing number of trips and clubs back on offer since the necessary capping of these during the pandemic. We are always conscious of offering events and opportunities that are financially, as well as academically and socially, viable. We are offering more opportunities to run trips abroad – those involved in the recent French trip had a fabulous time and there are planned trips to Belgium, Krakow and Berlin next year. We are also exploring year group reward trips with the pastoral teams. I do recognise it can be frustrating when after school clubs might have to be cancelled – these will always be with good reason and I am working with the staff to look at ways we might arrange these to avoid cancellations wherever possible.
Achievement points	We love to reward students where they exemplify our three core values of Be Kind, Work Hard, Aspire. In September, we are introducing Class Charts which will let you receive live achievement points updates. We appreciate the benefits of understanding why a point has been awarded to help you celebrate this at home and the Class Charts system should make this easier. Some survey responses indicated you are perhaps unsure what we do with the points: we review them all the time and as a result students are put forward for awards, raffles and wheel of fortune spot prize opportunities in assemblies, to name just a few!
Improve the site/buildings	The original school site was opened in the 1960s and whilst the team work tirelessly to maintain it, we would all love a brand-new building! However, we have recently seen significant investment in the site from the local authority and the trust and this work is ongoing (as detailed in this letter). Our current developments are improvements to the power supplied to the site; kitchen and servery expansion and refurbishment; investment in IT to improve use across the site and the addition of canopies and seating.
Lunchtimes	With the opening of the new kitchen/servery, we are confident this will alleviate any queuing issues students may have experienced in the past. Even in the interim period, students have responded well to the new queuing system and we can see already that with more till points, students can access food with ease. We know that certain items always prove more popular than others when on the menu and with the increased space and capacity the new servery will provide, we are confident that items will not run out as quickly as they may have done previously.

At the end of term we say goodbye to four members of the team: our thanks go to Mr Hallam for covering Miss Dixon's maternity leave and congratulations as he moves on to a Head of Department role, which is also the case for Mrs Knight, who is taking up a Head of Science role. Miss Dann leaves us to pursue her new business and Ms Haywood leaves to take up a promotion to Vice Principal. We wish them all the very best for the future. We are fully staffed for September and I will take an opportunity then to introduce the new members of the team. I am delighted to share some role changes in the existing team: Mr Levack has become our Senior Leader – Pastoral and will lead the Heads of Year. Please do look out for his letter regarding uniform this week so that your child can have the best start in September.

Congratulations go to Mr Manning will become Head of Year 11, Miss Fox who will be our SENCO from September and her Assistant SENCO will be Miss Giugno. Mr Murphy will become our Inclusion Manager and the work of this team will be overseen by Mr Askham, as Assistant Head teacher Attendance and Inclusion.

Finally, may I wish you and your families a restful summer and we look forward to seeing you in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely



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