

Care and Guidance Report March 2021

Assistant Headteacher: Miss Fiona Harrison

Year 7, 9 and 11 Parents' Evening

We ran Parents' Evenings for Year 11 on the 26th November 2020, Year 9 on the 21st January and Year 7 on the 28th January this term. They all ran on MS Teams and they were very successful. Some teachers ran extra sessions for the Year 11 Parents' Evening to ensure all students got an appointment. The Year 9 Evening was combined with the Options Evening – so parents were given the opportunity to speak to the teachers about their subjects and whether their daughter should take it. Each evening was busy. Year 7 parents are feeling the fact they haven't been able to come into the school yet – but hopefully this will be rectified when the restrictions are lifted.

Counselling Provision

We continue to use Renew Counselling service. 10 hours of counselling a week. This is constantly under review to ensure that we get the best value for money. We also use CARA (Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse) and EWMHS (Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service) by appointment. The School has just started her drop in's again. We have a new nurse – Tina. She is an ex-A&E nurse and she is keen on the prevention – her outlook is really encouraging. This service is well used. The school nurse provision is available to us at no charge, as part of our Healthy Schools Awards provision. DV incidents are brought to our attention through the school nurse. She also helps us with referrals to other services.

Safeguarding

GSA has attended the Two-Day Mental Health First Aid Training Course. We have LHI and CMA (both support staff) completing it at the end of the month. They will be supporting Main School and Sixth Form Pastoral Teams in the future. All staff are vigilant and inform FHR if they have any concerns. These are then recorded on My Concern. FHR runs a weekly Safeguarding Briefing for Year Leaders and MPA – these will start again as the school is opens. This means the team can get together to discuss best practice. It also gives us a chance to discuss if anything needs addressing before the weekend. Everyone has been vigilant in Lockdown. The Year Leaders have been doing Wellbeing calls throughout. They have called parents relentlessly – encouraging attendance in all lessons. We have also supplied laptops to PPG students and others who couldn't access lessons. We have encouraged all students to put cameras on during remote schooling to enable us to see them – essential for safeguarding.

MyConcern

[MyConcern](#) continues to be a great investment and is used effectively by all staff. **All staff are aware** how to report a concern on the **electronic system**. The DSL, Fiona Harrison and DDSL, Stephen Lawlor, Emma Ledwidge, Jo Cross, Michael Palmer and Katharine Adams can also see all concerns raised on the system, which also analyses referrals and the nature of concern. **All concerns are** logged electronically and reviewed and timely and appropriate referrals are made to Social Care or Family Support. Child In Need and Child Protection Case Conferences are always attended by School. This has been slower in Lockdown.

PSHE Programme

Sabina Buckley has taken over the PSHE role. She has updated many areas of the curriculum. She has also been organising the Sixth Form provision as EHI is on maternity leave. The RTP syllabus was suspended during Remote Schooling due to the delicate nature of some topics. This will start again with 'Time to talk' – the first session is with their peers and then TA2/Wellbeing sessions will be in

Week 3. The whole syllabus will be taught by the end of the year because we usually stop teaching it for the examination period. We are now shifting the 7 weeks missed into the Summer Term.

Free School Meals

Parents are reminded, via every school newsletter, of the path to apply for Free School Meal as follows. This information is also on the school website.

If you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit: Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance-Income Based, Child Tax Credit (Working Tax Credit is not a qualifying benefit. There are some non-qualifying benefits) If your taxable annual household income is less than £16,190.

If the above apply you may qualify for free school lunches.

HOW TO APPLY: Go online to www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards

Or request an application form from the Education and Awards enquiry line on 0845 603 2200.

This will also go on the Pastoral Twitter feed.

Pastoral programme in Year groups

Each year group has its own pastoral programme for form time and year group noticeboard to raise the profile of these. All involve some 'Stand up, Speak out!' activity as well as an activity that is focused on developing grit and resilience. A full overview of the activities for all year groups has been shared with Stephen, and SLT/Year Leaders may pop in at any time to observe these.

This has continued during Lockdown. Form Time has continued and Year Leaders have sent out daily communications. We have shared information on the Eating Disorder Awareness Week, LGBTQ+ Month and various activities have been enjoyed. The students even managed to compete in House Pancakes.

Year Leaders

All Year Leaders deal with individual pastoral problems as they arise, including extended illnesses, family and friendship issues, accusations of bullying, misuse of the internet and occasions of suspected theft. They liaise with students and parents to resolve issues and ensure that all of their girls are working to the best of their ability. They continue to monitor the progress and attainment of the students in their year group to ensure that appropriate support is in place to enable them to address issues as early as possible. They provide an action plan for those students who need support after each round of TA Data. Year Leaders also play an active role in their Meet the Tutor Evening and their relevant Parents' Evening. Year Leaders meet regularly and are confident in their support of their cohort. They have been particularly busy this term dealing with the aftermath of the national lockdowns and the impact COVID is having on our community.

Year 7 – Mrs Nina Lewis

Year 7 have made a great start to their Spring Term despite the challenges they have faced once again with lockdown and remote schooling. Tutor time remains focussed and students are absolutely finding their voices with "WOW Wednesdays", where students present in pairs about a topic of their choice, and "Teambuilding Thursdays", both give the students a real opportunity to socialise and work together to continue to build their bonds. Tutors have worked very hard to support and energise students at the start of every day but have also been encouraging our Year 7s to reflect during "Mindful Mondays".

The Year 7 contribution towards House Pancakes was outstanding; students were asked to wear fancy dress if they were competing. One student covered her face and hands in green face paint and remained in character for the full day with a huge smile on her face. They have been documenting their time in lockdown through art, photography, writing and more, and are keen to share this as a whole year group to inspire one another to try something new.

Year 7 are really looking forward to returning to school and I expect the Year 7 form rooms will be absolutely buzzing with energy when they are all back together.

Year 8 – Miss Hayley Busby

Whilst Year 8 have spent the majority of this term remote learning, this has not stopped them engaging in some brilliant learning and form time activities.

Their form time activities have been full of diverse activities. The pupils have enjoyed some mindful yoga, great book discussions and class assemblies presented by the pupils themselves. I was lucky enough to attend a particularly interesting one on snow, where I learnt that just because it is cold enough it doesn't mean you will get snow instead of rain. They continued to enjoy their weekly 'Winning Wednesday' quiz and even some dance lessons. 8H had the pleasure of me joining them for a Kpop (Korean pop) dance tutorial, I think I needed to improve my coordination but some excellent dancing was seen by our students.

8C took the crown for both the Winning Wednesday quiz, a particular weekly highlight for our students where their weekly knowledge of the news and general knowledge gets tested, as well as the house pancakes competition. 8C's Dr Who themed pancaked entry was particularly well thought out, narrowly missing out was 8G's pumpkin pie themed dress.

Every day I have been contacting the students with my email of the day. Here I get opportunities to share my 'words of wisdom' on various different topics and offer some inspirational words. Whether this is in the form of sharing details of my women of inspiration, Rosalind Franklin, sharing photos and details of my lockdown activities with my own children (snowman and baked goods were heavily featured) to funny memes and inspirational quotes, the students seemed to really enjoy these emails.

Coming up in the next week I will be launching a competition looking into NHS careers. We will be investigating the trust we owe so much too, especially in the past year, and the different careers involved. This will include looking at various roles and responsibilities of various jobs in the NHS, hopefully raising awareness for different career choices in the future and promoting careers in STEM to our students.

I am really looking forward to our welcoming our students back to school where they can get back to learning in the classroom, restart their extra-curricular and cross-curricular activities and we can be reunited as our CCHS family again.

Year 9 – Miss Charlotte Burnham

Year 9 have now had a substantial period attending remote learning and I am really looking forward to them getting back into school, to jump into their studies and extra-curricular clubs.

Since Year 9 have been off I have been sending them an email each day including different things, a few examples but not limited to; daily memes, inspirational quotes, fun facts of the week, guess the teacher emoji, good morning in different languages and FriYAY photo/ meme of the week that made them smile!

Whilst on remote learning it has not stopped Year 9 getting involved with various different events, including house pancakes, where we saw some brilliant duo costumes and the Sixth Form organised Kahoot quiz before Half Term. They have got involved with all of these activities and did so to the best of their ability.

During this time they have not only enjoyed the variety of events put on by CCHS but also started to make some important decisions regarding their GCSE Options. Year 9 have now started this process and have been given an Options booklet including information on every subject that we offer at school. They will then make their final decisions at the end of March, with a view to start the GCSE courses in September. I know that they will be excited to take on the next big step and challenge in their school life.

Year 10 – Miss Georgie Sales

During this period of remote schooling, words cannot even begin to explain how impressed I have been with Year 10. The way they have conducted themselves, the way they have communicated with their teachers and their peers and level of attendance are to be commended. Form times have been full of energy, with form tutors sticking to the normal weekly routine as best they can. Year 10 paired up, and dressed up for House Pancakes and as we return to school we looked ahead to a brand-new House event – House Bench Ball! Something I know Year 10 are extremely excited about.

As a cohort, Year 10 cannot wait to get back at school, to see their friends, their teachers and to get learning in a classroom again, and I can't wait to see them.

Year 11- Mrs Marion Chumbley

This has been a very busy term for Year 11 students. They have worked extremely hard preparing for their mock examinations in which their conduct was exemplary. Their written reports have been issued and parents have taken the opportunity to comment on these. They illustrate the progress that the girls are making and give them guidance on how to maximise their potential. They suggest that the students are on course to do well this year.

Each student has had an options discussion with their tutor and senior staff; this was a chance to talk through the different options which are available and to help firm up student choices for their studies in the Sixth Form. Despite their busy schedules, girls are managing to remain active in extracurricular activities. The TA2 data and mock examination results will be issued shortly. On the whole year 11 have managed to maintain a very positive outlook throughout this second spell of remote schooling.

Care & Guidance Report – Sixth Form

Dr Michael Palmer – Assistant Headteacher; Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Jacqui Hicks – Assistant Head of Sixth Form; Year 12 Leader (currently on sick leave)

Mrs Hayley Ellen - Assistant Head of Sixth Form; Year 13 Leader

Sixth Form General – Dr Michael Palmer

Despite the considerable challenges of remote schooling over past term Sixth Form students continue to work cheerfully and effectively both on their academic work and in terms of their contributions to the extra-curricular life of the school.

The work of Mrs Hopkins as Higher Education Adviser and Dr Hiner as Head of Careers continue to be invaluable in ensuring that our students are as well supported as possible as they plan for their futures. Both university open days and 'encounters with the world of work' are more difficult (if not impossible) in the current circumstances but students continue to be encouraged to make use of the increasing range of online resources as they plan for their futures and they have been very successful in so doing. Our Year 13 students have received a very encouraging range of university offers though it is noticeable that in some circumstances the flexibility which universities offered to applicants in August 2020 has made things a little harder for this year's cohort.

The Sixth Form Pastoral Team continues to respond effectively to the needs and concerns of students in Years 12 and 13. The first point of call for each student is their tutor and the tutors are ably led by the Year Leaders for Years 12 and 13. The tutors, ably supported by Mrs Carroll (our Sixth Form Attendance Officer) have been effectively monitoring student engagement in remote schooling and dealing with the daily concerns of their students. More serious matters are dealt with by the Year Leaders or the Head of Sixth Form. The Sixth Form Administrative Officer also plays a vital role in supporting the work of the pastoral team. She provides weekly reports on attendance and punctuality, is most effective in her liaison with parents and students, and her support of all aspects of the work of the Sixth Form. We are sad to record that Mrs Carroll will be leaving CCHS at the end of this term but are delighted to have secured the services of Mrs Lesley Hiskett as her replacement.

Year 12 – Mrs Jacqui Hicks

Sadly it must be recorded that Mrs Hicks has been on sick leave since the middle of January. However we are very grateful to Mrs Amy Hopkins who has found time to take up over many of the most important aspects of Mrs Hicks' role on a temporary basis. Governors will be notified of the longer-term arrangements for this role in a different forum.

Our Year 12 students have continued to make excellent progress. A small number of them have regularly worked in school during the period of remote schooling and it has been good to be able to support them in person. Other students have accessed support of different sorts in response to the pressures of home working. In a small number of circumstances we have allowed students to give up their fourth subject so as to better manage the competing pressures under which they are working. However, in the majority of cases students have adapted well to the challenges they face and at the time of writing we are much looking forward to seeing all of them back in school from the 9th of March.

We have been particularly impressed by the energy and enthusiasm with which all Year 12s have taken on their various prefect roles; they have been proactive in finding alternative ways to support staff and the wider school community and we look forward to continuing to work with them over the next months. Similarly, students have shown initiative and insight as they have involved themselves in a wide range of essay competitions, virtual work experience opportunities and other activities which will help them prepare for their future courses and careers. Additionally, 10 Year 12 students have been involved in a pilot programme running in collaboration with Mental Health UK to run a series of student workshops focussed on academic resilience. This has been delivered online to our students starting in February and so far they have completed 3 of the 6 workshops. Feedback has been very positive and we are very pleased to participate in this initiative as part of our commitment to addressing all aspects of our students' wellbeing and progress.

At the time of writing it is still slightly unclear whether the Y12 examinations scheduled for mid-May will have to be moved to accommodate provision for extra support for Year 11 and 13 students. However, we remain sure that Year 12 will be well supported to have as normal an experience as is possible in the circumstances and Mrs Hopkins and Dr Hiner are looking forward to working with them as they consider their future plans in more detail throughout the summer term.

Year 13 – Mrs Hayley Ellen

This has been a particularly challenging term for Year 13 who learnt of the cancellation of their A level examinations on the evening of the first day of term and then had to wait (as did school staff) for the guidance on grade award which was only issued on the 26th February. In this uncertain situation Year 13 sat their mock examinations remotely and received very encouraging results. Our thanks are due to the Examinations Officers, to Mr Cable and to our team of invigilators who rapidly became experts in the smooth running of remote examinations.

As in Year 12, a number of Year 13 students have been working in school since January and we are very glad that we have been able to offer this opportunity to them. Most students have now been working at home since December and we are very glad that all of them have continued to make good progress towards their target grades and at the time of writing we are much looking forward to having Year 13 students back in school from the 8th of March. Their return will allow staff to offer much more in the way of personalised support and extra guidance than has been possible during remote schooling and we are sure that this work will help many students push their final grades up to the very best level of which they are capable. We are working with individual students to make sure that we have personalised support in place and also that they take full advantage of all the support which is on offer to them. Our detailed review of the January examinations has helped us to formulate these plans.

It is clear that the weeks between now and the end of May will continue to be a challenging time for all our Year 13s; they will know that they still have the potential to make improvements to their work and influence thereby the final grades that the school submits on their behalf. Consequently the pressure they will put on themselves will be considerable and perhaps more challenging than the normal pattern

of revision followed by public examinations. However all staff are aware of this and will continue to support the students to the best of their ability.

We also look forward to celebrating with Year 13 the end of their time in school. We are not yet sure what restrictions the Covid situation will put on these celebrations but will be adaptable as we seek to make sure that these students have a fitting end to what has been an extremely disrupted Sixth Form experience.