

## **Care and Guidance Report – March 2022**

### **Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral): Miss Fiona Harrison**

It has been a busy start to 2022, as always, but many wonderful things have been happening in school as the students return to a sense of normality.

#### **Year 9 and 11 Parents' Evening**

We ran Parents' Evenings for Year 11 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January and Year 9 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February this term. They both ran in person and they were very successful. Both evenings took a slightly different format, with the teachers using allocated classrooms to meet parents. This meant that the parents got to see the campus and got a flavour of their child's learning environment. We also had COVID safety in mind – avoiding the inevitable crowding which comes with all meetings being held in the hall and the canteen. Each evening was busy. Parents were very pleased to be on site meeting staff. There was a positive buzz in the air on both evenings.

#### **Year 9 Options Evening**

This event also ran on site this year. The evening started with a talk to parents in the hall. They heard from Stephen Lawlor as Headteacher, Jo Cross about the Teaching and Learning picture, Emma Ledwidge about curriculum choices and Hayley Busby (the Year 9 Leader) about the pastoral support in place. The parents then visited the different subjects spread across the campus. It was lovely to see our Year 9 parents in school helping their child with the next step in their academic journey.

#### **Wellbeing Week**

In line with the 'Place 2 Be' Children's Mental Health Week – we ran some wellbeing activities for all year groups. The week started with an assembly for Year 11 on mindset called 'Run your own Race' delivered by Jon Skelton a local life coach. The week ended for Year 11 with a whole year group dance session in the sports hall – which all tutors and their year leader got involved in. Year 7 had walk and talk sessions out on the Astro each morning and the other year groups completed a variety of tasks to help with their wellbeing. Jon Skelton is also running a 6-week programme working with a group of Year 8 students on their mindset – this is in response to a number of post lockdown anxieties.

#### **Healthy Schools**

We are continuing our work with Healthy Schools and their liaison Vanessa Gardiner. We have now launched the Peer Educator pilot scheme – the work has already started on them being the eyes and ears for PSHE/RSE. We deliberated over many applications, but the final team are now in place.

#### **Counselling and School Nurse 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 Nurse continues to run her drop-in sessions. Tina has been great at involving other agencies. We also have a Year 11 and Year 10 student accessing other outside sessions online which they have been referred to be the School Nurse. The School Nurse provision is available to us at no charge, as part of our Healthy Schools Awards provision. Domestic Violence incidents are brought to our attention through the school nurse. She also sees students who have accessed the crisis team at Broomfield – to follow up on them. She is great at supporting us with referrals to other services. Furthermore, we are working with CPW's in the area who come in to support some of our students with anxiety and we also have a student being supported by Kids Inspire.

## **Safeguarding**

All staff underwent their level 2 Safeguarding training at the beginning of the year. Furthermore, I have run sessions to update all new staff who have joined us. All safeguarding concerns are entered onto MyConcern – and I follow everything up as DSL or set a task for the Year Leader to complete. We are currently ensuring all safety plans are reviewed. I run a weekly Pastoral Briefing for Year Leaders and MPA – these are invaluable as it gives the team the opportunity to share good practice. Year 7 to 13 Year leaders attend plus our SENCO. It gives us a chance to discuss if anything needs addressing before the weekend. I now attend a half-termly MESH DSL group. This gives all DSLs in the area the chance to support each other and work together. The first session was fabulous. We will also receive extra training in these sessions.

## **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, Katharine Adams, Marion Chumbley and Nina Lewis 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, MARACs, TAFs and Child Protection Case Conferences are always attended by School.

## **Free School Meals**

Parents are reminded, via every school newsletter, of the path to apply for Free School Meal as follows:

*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](http://www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards) Or request an application form from the Education and Awards enquiry line on 0845 603 2200.*

This information is also on the school website and will also go on the Pastoral Twitter feed. A letter also went out to all parents about how to apply for PPG funding – should their circumstances have changed.

## **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.

## **Year 7 – Mrs Nina Lewis**

Year 7 have well and truly found their feet and have settled in to school life beautifully. They are an extremely mature cohort and have made a great impression by getting involved in lots of extra-curricular events and continuing to be the year group with the loudest cheers during House events. No bench bench-ball has been their favourite event so far with the court edges lined with cheerleaders and chants; a fierce but healthy rivalry has definitely formed between 7H and 7F.

The Dance Show saw thirty Year 7s taking to the stage to perform. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience with some already practising for next year. This was an amazing opportunity for them to meet likeminded students and form bonds with peers in other year groups.

As part of Mental Health Week Year 7 took part in a Walk and Talk event out on the astro during morning registration. The idea of this was to give students an opportunity to get some exercise and have a morning chat with friends to start the day and hopefully appreciate the power of exercise and socialising in supporting a healthy mind. During the week they also wrote messages of kindness and explored some "Happy News" courtesy of Emily Coxhead's The Happy Newspaper.

### **Year 8 – Miss Sidnie Sales**

Year 8 have continued to thrive this term by completely immersing themselves into their studies, house events and extra-curricular clubs.

We started the new term with the Dance Show, and it was fantastic to see so many Year 8s involved. No doubt more will be involved in next year's show. Students in Year 8 are throwing themselves at everything the school has to offer, lots of Year 8s entered the LGBTQ+ Art Competition which is lovely to see. So far, we have had House Benchball, where 8S took the crown. House Debate was just before, where 8H won. We have House Pancakes on the horizon, and I cannot wait to see who not only wins that but who also participates. I am so proud of how the students organise teams, give out notices and generally conduct themselves. We have a very exciting trip to look forward too, Bletchley Park at the end of the month.

Form assemblies continue to be a success with some very interesting topics being covered along with them being very eloquently presented. Our Friday Frenzy's during tutor time are as competitive as ever. So far, we have had new winners every half term, 8F, 8H, and with the last round being a draw with 8C and 8G.

The students in Year 8 continue to be very happy in school and enjoying all that is put on offer to them. I am super proud of them all thus far.

### **Year 9 – Miss Hayley Busby**

Year 9 have had a fantastic start to 2022 this year and are ready to make some important decisions as they start to slowly switch from KS3 to KS4.

Form time has been busy as usual. We are continuing with our weekly program of quizzes, debates, TEDtalks, class assemblies, and Friday Funday. 9C, 9H and 9S are all tiebreaking to take the crown on the ever-popular weekly general knowledge, the last few weeks are going to be especially competitive! During this term we have also managed to use form time to discuss important issues affecting our students. We had a whole week of activities supporting mental health week, including Mindful Monday, and took part in an online assembly organised by 'A Place to Be' mental health charity with thousands of other schools across the country, and culminated the week with workplace yoga. They have also used form time to think about what they would like to do to help support people around the world who are in need of humanitarian aid.

This term has also marked a series of firsts for this year group. They are taking part in their first ever school trip to the Harry Potter Studio tour, something they are very excited about. This year group has been hit especially hard in that area due to the limitations of the last couple of years, so it is lovely to see them taking part and making memories in these key schooltime events. They also had parents evening and options evening, where they heard many speeches and had the ability to speak to their teachers to help them make some important decisions in the next steps in their education. As they are getting older they are able to make these more independent choices and we will be there to support them along the way.

Year 9 have really risen to many challenges this term and I am looking forward to everything they will bring to the summer term!

### **Year 10 – Miss Charlotte Burnham**

Year 10 are now into their GCSE subjects and are thriving in them. They are an inquisitive year group that really harness the love of learning. This term we have had lots of different activities and house events. The house events for this term have consisted of a very competitive no bench, bench ball (but then when aren't Year 10 competitive) and house pancakes where we saw some brilliant iconic duos.

During form time we have been doing more for our mindfulness and quizzes, as they love an interhouse competition. For mindfulness we have found some inspirational podcasts as well as a walk and talk and some meditative yoga in the Sports Hall. Our form time is always ever changing with new ideas put forward by students and staff alike, as well as events that we are celebrating and discussing to maintain current.

The Dance Show and School Production were a massive success with some Year 10 students taking part in both. It was so lovely to see so many Year 10 students involved with arts extra-curricular and I look forward to all that we have still to come.

### **Year 11– Mrs Marion Chumbley**

This has been a very busy term for Year 11 students, they continue to work hard and have prepared well for their second set of mock examinations. Their written reports have been prepared and will be issued shortly. As usual parents will have the opportunity to respond with any comments on these reports. They represent the progress that the students are making and give them guidance on how to maximise their potential. Everything suggests that the students are on course to do well in their summer examinations.

Each student will have an options discussion with senior staff; this is 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, Year 11 are managing to remain active in extracurricular activities. A large number took part in the highly successful Dance Show at the end of February and Year 11 was well represented in the cast of 'A Mother's Voice' in late January. As ever our students remain fully committed to all aspects of school life.

## **Care & Guidance Report – Sixth Form**

Dr Michael Palmer – Assistant Headteacher; Head of Sixth Form

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

Mrs Emma Hiatt – Assistant Head of Sixth Form; Year 12 Leader

### **Sixth Form General – Dr Michael Palmer**

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. We have noticed an increase in the number of students with mental health concerns and are continuing to respond to these concerns with sensitivity and support. This increase is a reflection of a national picture and also a reflection of the continuing impact of the pandemic.

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. 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 and 2021 has made things a little harder and also lengthened the process for this year's cohort. Our information is that the admission to the most competitive courses is projected to become tougher over the next few years as universities seek to rebalance their numbers at the same time as the number of school leavers rises across the country in line with population trends.

At the time of writing we have 15 students holding offers from Cambridge University and 5 from Oxford. This is an extremely encouraging figure, and testimony to the hard work of students and the staff who have so ably supported them. Additionally students have a range of offers from other institutions and for a wide variety of competitive courses; we will be able to report more fully on these offers later in the year once the cycle is completed. All applications were sent off by the January deadline and of the 150 students in the Year group, 134 made a university application. Many of our students are currently attending interviews for their chosen course and these students have been supported by the Sixth Form Team and Subject Leaders in their preparations for these.

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 Bernard (our new Sixth Form Administration and Attendance Officer) have been effectively monitoring student attendance 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 delighted to have secured the services of Mrs Theresa Bernard following Mrs Hiskett's decision to resign from this post in January.

### **Year 12 – Mrs Emma Hiett**

Year 12 have had a busy term so far and have now settled into the flow of Sixth Form life. Prefect roles officially began at the beginning of the Spring Term and students are now supporting subject areas, running house events, fundraising and getting involved in all manner of other activities. We particularly welcome our new team of Senior Prefects who have already made an excellent start to their significant leadership roles.

An increasing number of students are requiring pastoral support from form tutors, their Year Leader and the wider pastoral team. This is for a variety of reasons, but is in large part a consequence of the disruption of the past two years and the remaining uncertainty in their minds about what their immediate and more distant futures might hold. They feel enormous pressure to succeed in everything they do, and some students are finding this difficult to manage. In most cases these students can be helped with regular encouragement and mentoring by their form tutor, but a very small number of students have needed more significant intervention such as reducing their curriculum to 3 A Levels.

Academic study remains the priority and focus for the students, and they are generally showing themselves to be ambitious and committed to achieving highly. As usual, a large number of students are participating in activities beyond the curriculum including Young Enterprise, Bar Mock Trial and various other competitions. Those students who are in need of academic support are receiving it in a variety of ways from their subject teachers, and ongoing monitoring by their form tutors and the Sixth Form Team.

### **Year 13 – Mrs Hayley Ellen**

Year 13 have continued to approach their A Level examinations with determination and grit in the face of significant uncertainty surrounding their assessments as demonstrated in their success in the January set of mock examinations. These were held prior to the Government announcement the external examinations would go ahead this year. Many students achieved excellent results in these examinations and those who did not perform as well as we would have hoped have been offered significant support opportunities across all subjects through additional intervention sessions, subject mentoring and

pastorally including 1:1 mentoring. We have worked closely with our SENCo, Mrs Adams to ensure that we meet the needs of our SEN students at Key Stage 5 and this collaboration has had a positive impact on the current progress of SEN students in Year 13. In addition we have held two parent insight sessions for Year 13 parents focused on suggesting strategies and techniques to support their child in preparation for the A Level examinations. These events received extremely positive feedback from the parents that attended. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of February Examination boards released advance information on the summer examination content for A Level subjects. The detail and value of this information has differed between examination boards and between subjects. Subject Leaders and their teams have provided Year 13 students with excellent advice and guidance related to this which students really appreciate and this has led to increased confidence for many students.

The majority of the cohort continues to work with energy and enthusiasm and without hard evidence of a lasting impact of the past two years. For a minority of students, we have already introduced a rigorous programme of Academic and Pastoral intervention, the impact of which has been reviewed regularly to ensure support is implemented where needed. Following the Year 13 Mock examinations it was clear that many of the interventions had a positive impact on individual students progress however they also highlighted other students who were struggling and therefore the programme has been adapted to address changing need. There are a small number who struggled with remote schooling in the Spring term of Year 12 and there are some who are now struggling with mental health difficulties which for some has resulted in poor attendance. The Sixth Form team continue to work with department leads and our SENCO to ensure that appropriate catch-up plans and academic and pastoral support is in place for these students, and we are communicating regularly with some parents.

We continue to celebrate the extra-curricular activities of our students and thank our Year 13s for everything they have done to support a wide range of activities in school. We were delighted to see the recent return of the CCHS Dance Show after its cancellation in 2021. This great success once again demonstrated the creativity and commitment of all our students but in particular highlighted the hard work and dedication of the Year 13 Dance Officials. We now look forward to the return of live concerts to CCHS with the Spring Concert in the last week of term; this will be our first large scale musical performance since December 2019; our Year 13 musicians are particularly looking forward to their final school performance after so long.