

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

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

It has been a busy start to the year, as always, but many wonderful things have been happening in school as the students return to some sort of reality.

### **The Year 11 Leadership Conference**

The hugely successful annual Leadership Conference took place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022. This was held in the Chapman Centre and it was entitled 'The Diversity of Success'. We welcomed other students from St John Payne, and it was wonderful to see the extended community come together to soak up the messages delivered by the keynote speakers. With this year's theme being the diversity of success, we had a range of speakers – the students thoroughly enjoyed hearing from: Mitra Janes, Alison Jackson-Carter, Ella Jerman, Verity Wilde and Heather Melville. Their speeches were followed up with seminar style workshops where the students could get involved with the ideas they had heard about in the morning. It was great to hear music ringing through the corridors as many Year 11 students performed during lunchtime. Then the Workshop Team ran sessions on a variety of subjects from Sign Language to creating a very relaxing Zen Studio. All in all, it was a hugely enjoyable day led by our very own Year 11 Leader Miss Burnham

### **Pastoral Care**

We have triangulated the dissemination of information about how to access pastoral care. We gave the same information to staff at the beginning of the year, parents at Meet the Tutor and students via a week of assemblies. This means that everyone in the community knows how pastoral care can be accessed. We are seeing that this is working – students are walking through our doors more frequently and I also know they are accessing services out of hours if in crisis. The Pastoral Hub is a wonderful space – it is being used for time outs and much more. It has a fabulous mural on the wall and CCTV to keep everyone safe. The Hub is also used for Art Therapy with Jo Stevens – this is a new service this year. This is very exciting! The PA were kind enough to donate money to get the Hub kitted out.

### **Meet the Tutor Evenings**

We ran Meet the Tutor evenings for years 7, 8 and a curriculum evening for Year 10. These were all very successful and it was wonderful to see parents. Each meeting had a pastoral section – where I talked to parents about online behaviour, mental health, wrap around care, helpful websites, and how they can contact the pastoral team. As a team we have continued to see a rise in parents contacting us, which is extremely positive.

### **Counselling and School Nurse Provision**

We continue to use Renew Counselling service. We have increased this to 15 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 CAMHS. Unfortunately, we do not have a school nurse at the moment as the provision has been cut – we can arrange for someone to come in if needed.

### **Safeguarding**

All staff underwent their Level 2 Safeguarding training at the beginning of the year. I also ran a session for invigilators and new cover supervisors. As part of this – I went through our systems in school – which I think has been helpful. All safeguarding concerns are entered onto MyConcern – and I follow everything up as DSL or set a task for the Year Leader to complete. 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.

### **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 DDSLs, Stephen Lawlor, Jo Cross, Michael Palmer, Katharine Adams, Marion Chumbley and Nina Lewis can all see the 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.

### **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 Marion Chumbley (for Nina Lewis)**

Our latest cohort of 180 Year 7 students have made an excellent start. They have adapted extremely well to life at secondary school and are coping with new demands. The results from the Year 7 settling in survey echo this and reflect a very positive first term. When asked, "what have you enjoyed most so far" the top answers given were: making new friends, lessons in new subjects and exciting learning opportunities.

The Elevate programme was well received by Year 7. This provided transition support with a focus on organisation and study skills. This took place at the start of term.

Extra-curricular clubs for Year 7 are in full swing and are proving very popular. Attendance at house events has been incredible and the support the students show for each other is a pleasure to witness.

The Year 7 and 8 Disco was well attended and the Year 7s had a lot of fun.

Lastly, it was good to see such a big turnout at the New Parents Welcome Evening and to hear the very positive comments from the parents.

### **Year 8 – Mr Bradley Copper**

It has been a jam-packed beginning to the academic year for Year 8. After the challenges of Year 7 – taking new subjects, joining a new cohort, and getting involved in all the trimmings of our School's extracurricular provision – they came back optimistic and ready to continue their academic journeys of hard work and resilience.

Accordingly, there have been numerous exciting changes and events for them this term. Saying farewell to the incredible Mrs. Lewis and her team of dedicated Year 7 team and being greeted by a new Year Leader and new set of Form Tutors has been a fantastic transition; it was made all the better by the fact that Mr. Jones has come along with them on this ride. They have also experienced their new weekly form time activities, including the always-exciting 'Friday Frenzy', a whole-school weekly quiz ranging a variety of topics, from guessing the teacher from their baby photos to pontificating on the top five most popular chocolate bars in the UK. Competition has been stiff and rife, but as it stands 8A are at the helm. There have also been some brilliant House Events, with one highlight being the moment a more-than-healthy contingent of Year 8 students filled the new sport hall's balcony to scream in support of their houses in House Indoor Athletics.

This has been capped off by two Enrichment opportunities: a dramatic Science workshop about magnets and magnetism, which left its Year 8 audience laughing and enthused, alongside their first Enrichment Day, which focused on the creative arts. Resounding reviews filtered across the year group at the impressive drama, dance, music, and textiles produced across the day.

It has been a pleasure to lead this year group thus far, and Year 8 have so much to look forward to going into Christmas and the New Year.

### **Year 9 – Miss Sidnie Sales**

Year 9 made an excellent start to the year and made a smooth transition from Year 8. The students are still creating new friendships beyond their form classes, cementing friendships to last for many years to come. All lessons across all subjects are now in different sets, and no more lessons happen in form groups, which is something I know the students enjoy, as they like to branch out and gain a new level of confidence, outside the form group.

We have enjoyed many House events so far this term, with many more to come. A favourite amongst the year group is House Decorated classrooms, which will take place just before the Christmas holidays. On Enrichment Day 1, the year group ventured to Ypres, where we got to learn and appreciate stories from WW1, visit various museums and spend some time down in the trenches. Year 9 overall were fantastic on this trip and showed impeccable behaviour throughout, showing maturity beyond their years. I was an extremely proud Year Leader!

We have a various activities going on in form time; admin on a Monday, thoughtful Tuesday, where we do all things mindfulness such as colouring in, meditation, making lists/goals etc. Wednesday, we have assemblies or paired assemblies, Thursday we have Thursday Fit where we learn how to become more physically, mentally, and emotionally fit and finally on a Friday, we have a whole school Friday Frenzy which is a great way to finish the week, organise chaos.

To support students within the year group, some students have been monitored on tutor report and year leader report. A student will go on tutor report for 3 weeks, if then the student has made no further progress/improvements they will then come up to year leader report. Both reports, they can have up to 3 targets, for example, arrive on time to lesson, follow staff instructions first time etc. staff will then tick or cross the target per lesson, if they get a cross, time is then owed at break or lunch. I believe this is a great way to keep some of our students on track and with evidence that the reports are having an impact.

In the new year, Year 9 will start to select their options for GCSE, where they will be able to be more selective in their studies.

### **Year 10 – Mrs Hayley Busby**

Year 10 have come back with a roaring start the year. They have settled in really well to their KS4 studies and have been so excited to dedicate their learning to the subjects they are truly interested in. Whilst they have been slightly nervous at times, with their new venture into their GCSEs, they have taken it all within their stride and are truly making me proud.

The form time activity rota has changed slightly from last year and they are really engaging with this important start to the day. 'Move it Monday' has proved to be a great way to start the week, the excitement is palpable for the week ahead as they use form time on a Monday to reengage with seeing each other, fitness and nature after the weekend break. They are even starting to get competitive with seeing who can do the most laps around the astro pitch, we definitely have some skilled power walkers! Assemblies being back in the hall together has also been a highlight. 10H did a superb job with their assembly celebrating inspirational people from all different cultures, every person left that assembly truly enlightened and mesmerised by the brilliant stories, dancing and singing.

Year 10 have already had so many enrichment activities. They took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out workshops, this was brilliant to see so many students speaking out and doing so with such passion and confidence. They also had an excellent careers day. They were truly inspired by the stories from past students and other volunteers from local industries, it has opened their eyes up to various different careers they hadn't considered and made them think what they truly want to achieve in their jobs in the future. They have also had various house events such as house football, house indoor athletics, and they are busy preparing for the long-awaited house karaoke.

It was also my pleasure to welcome parents back into the school a KS4 information evening. This enabled both the academic and pastoral team to give an insight to parents for the year to come, share the vision we have the students this year and enabled parents to meet their form tutors for the first time. I know many parents found this a very rewarding experience.

To celebrate the end of the Autumn Term with Year 10, we will be selecting students to fulfil their prefect roles. This is a fundamental role for the Year 10 students enabling each and every student to take on a role of responsibility in an area they are passionate about. I cannot wait to hand the students their prefect badges and announce their prefect roles in the last assembly of the year. I don't believe there is a better way to celebrate our amazing students at the end of term and it is truly a right of passage allowing our students to take a more active role in the school allowing them to have even more accountability on how their school works.

### **Year 11 – Miss Charlotte Burnham**

Year 11 have just finished probably one of the busiest half terms this year. In between the hard work they have been putting in, in preparation for their mocks they have also been busying planning and organising the Leadership Conference.

This year our conference was titled 'The Diversity of Success', stemming from our year motto 'success is how you define it'. The students wanted a focus on having ex-students as the speakers to make them even more relatable. We had some brilliant speeches from three ex-students and subsequent workshops that left the students 'buzzing' at the end of the day. Furthermore, we had an additional two other speakers one of which was over Microsoft Teams for the first year ever!

Aside from all of this they have been busy with all their extracurricular; music and the upcoming concerts, drama and the upcoming production, dance and the Dance Show and of course so many different sporting activities. Following on from this they have had an English Enrichment Day and

many house events. This year group thrives in the enrichment of the extracurricular and have a wonderful mentality towards attendance and practise making perfect.

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

Dr Michael Palmer – Assistant Headteacher; Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Emma Hiatt - Assistant Head of Sixth Form; Year 13 Leader

Mrs Rhiannon Connolly – Assistant Head of Sixth Form; Year 12 Leader

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

We were delighted to welcome 125 visitors from Year 11 at other schools and our own Year 11s to our recent Sixth Form Open Evening and are grateful for the support of our Year 12 and Year 13 students in making this event such a success. The process of recruiting both internal and external students into Year 12 for September 2023 will follow a similar pattern to previous years.

The Rolling Tutor Program in the Sixth Form continues to offer much to stretch and challenge our students beyond their academic subjects as well as to give some skills and knowledge that will help them settle successfully into university. Mrs Hiatt has done much excellent work in adapting this program on the basis of feedback from staff and students and she has now passed over responsibility for this area to Mrs Buckley.

In both year groups the range and seriousness of pastoral issues which are presented to the sixth form team continues to be challenging. Many of these issues have no immediate solution and we continue to work with a range of external bodies to support those students whose needs are greatest. We feel that our expertise is growing very fast but also that there is no sign of a diminution in the scale of the problems we face. Mrs Hiatt has done a great deal of work to secure the school the Bronze Award for Young Carers and continues to support students who have these responsibilities.

Support for SEND students and students who come from financially disadvantaged backgrounds continues to be a considerable priority. For the former we obviously work very closely with Mrs Adams and Mrs Fairchild. For the latter we are grateful to Mrs Thrower for her excellent work supporting the Sixth Form Bursary students and we look forward to working with her replacement. We are also continually reviewing the nature of the support we are able to provide to our disadvantaged students.

#### **Year 12 – Mrs Emma Hiatt**

We were pleased to welcome over 50 students new to the school in September and they have quickly begun to work well with those students who moved up into our Year 12 from Year 11 at CCHS. The move into Sixth Form study is a time of considerable change for all students and can be challenging for those moving schools. However, Mrs Connolly and the Year 12 tutors have supported all our students over the past weeks and helped them to settle quickly into a new rhythm. Staff will submit monitoring grades on student performance (for internal use only) this week and these grades will inform further planning in terms of 'Access to the Curriculum' lessons and other focused support.

As is usual at the start of Year 12 we have responded supportively to a good number of requests from students to change their options; whilst there is a good deal of work involved in these changes it is clearly in everyone's interests to accommodate requests for change as far as is possible. The window for these changes is now closed (unless exceptional circumstances obtain) and we look forward to the students making excellent progress in their subjects.

We are very pleased that (owing to a good deal of hard work from the School timetablers) we are now able to timetable a good number of supervised study periods for our Year 12 students. In these lessons they will work under the supervision of staff in the Old Library and it is much hoped that these sessions will help them make the very best of the non-contact time which is on their timetables.

We are very pleased that following the 'Freshers' Fair' in September the Year 12 students have thrown themselves into attending the wide range of clubs and societies on offer and we look forward to them taking over running these activities in due course. At the time of writing we are beginning to encourage Year 12 students to think about applications for the variety of Prefect roles which they will shortly be able to apply for; we are sure that we will have a strong range of applications for all these important posts. Other school activities such as Young Enterprise are also now up and running once again.

### **Year 13 – Emma Hiett**

The Autumn Term of Year 13 is a tremendously busy time for both staff and students.

We started this term with some opportunities for students who had underperformed in their May examinations to re-sit certain papers; these tests happened on the INSET days in September and the results thereof have informed further support which is now on offer to certain students.

Following detailed analysis of last summer's internal examination results and discussions with students we have seen a good number of students dropping the fourth subject which they studied in Year 12. Obviously we and they hope that by concentrating on three subjects from now on they will be able to produce their absolute best results in next summer's examinations.

At the time of writing we are in the final throes of processing the 'early entrant' UCAS applications for this year. Over 70 students have chosen to make applications to Oxford or Cambridge or to Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine. We look forward to further supporting the students in their preparations for interviews. In this regard we are grateful to those CCHS parents who have volunteered to organize and to conduct practice interviews for our students. Our particular gratitude to Mr Dharma and Dr Uscategui for co-ordinating this initiative. Many students are now working hard on their NEA essays (in English, Geography and English) and their preparation for the various university entrance tests which are set for admission to the most highly competitive courses.