

Care and Guidance Report – June 2023

Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral): Miss Fiona Harrison

Year 11

Year 11 students completed their final GCSE on Friday 16th June. CBU will say more. To celebrate the students going on study leave, CBU planned a lovely event on their final day in the Main School. The students enjoyed some 'House' style sporting activities in the morning followed by an extended lunchtime with pizza provided. There was also an ice cream van, and the students entertained each other with singing and dancing. Although we had to move the celebrations to the Hall due to rain – it did not spoil the day. A fabulous time was had by everyone. We look forward to welcoming them back in September.

Year 9 Examinations

Year 9 have completed their first session of formal 'in-house' examinations. They have each navigated the experience in different ways. We have certain students with particular needs in this year group and getting them all to complete the examinations has been a challenge. We have been inventive though and those students in school have managed to do well with the experience.

Welcome Meetings

Our 2023 intake enjoyed their Welcome Meetings in June. Each student had an individual meeting with a member of staff and then they were given time to socialise on the field with other members of their form. It was wonderful to welcome them all. After lots of game playing and icebreakers, they all looked relieved as they walked out. They came in quite nervous and left chatting away and smiling. Staff loved meeting the new students and found the experience very positive – so everyone was happy.

Taster Day

We will be welcoming our new intake back on Wednesday 28th June for our 2023 Taster Day. They will get to know their Form Tutor, have various taster lessons and then an introduction to 'House' style sports in the afternoon. They also get to meet their PenPal – a lovely initiative – which pairs a Year 7 student with a Year 6 student and gives them the opportunity (in their English lessons) to write a helpful letter. This is loved by both Year 6 students and our Year 7 students. I know this day will make any worries disappear and help our new students to look forward to the CCHS journey ahead.

Year 7 Stubbers Trip

The Year 7 Stubbers Trip will run again on Monday 10th July – NLE will say more. However, we know it will be another fabulous day. It will be great to see them all working together – whether on raft building, high ropes, climbing or team games. I know it will be another successful day.

Year 5 Summer School

We will be running the Year 5 Summer School on Thursday 6th July this year. We are changing it this year - in line with the 'Leaders of Tomorrow Programme' we will only invite PPG students who have registered for the test. This gives them the opportunity to experience some lessons (Maths and English in particular) – and to look at some FROG familiarisation material. It also gives the students the opportunity to fall in love with our school and which will hopefully give them the drive to achieve in the Entrance Test.

Primary Outreach Work

Primary Outreach continues to be successful NLE and CMA have led a team of Year 7. We have paired Year 7 students up with their old Primary School and taken them in to talk to Year 5 students about our school. This has given them familiar faces – people from their own community to engage with. We

have also taken our Primary Outreach Senior Prefects with us, to show some familiarisation (typical questions – to show the students that the test is accessible. These visits are wonderful – a big thank you to Clair Maslin and Nina Lewis.

Counselling and School Nurse Provision

We continue to use Renew Counselling service. 15 hours of counselling a week. This will rise to 20 hours from next year. This is constantly under review to ensure that we get the best value for money. We also use CARA. We have been having monthly visits from the school nurse this term and she is hoping to up this to fortnightly visits next year – which would be amazing! We also have various students accessing other services through outside sessions online which they have been referred to by the CWP's. We also have the wonderful JST doing Art Therapy sessions – which is working well. I am amazed by these sessions and what they unlock.

Safeguarding

All staff continue to be vigilant and inform me if they have any concerns. These are then recorded on MyConcern. 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. It also 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 DDSL, Stephen Lawlor, Jo Cross, Michael Palmer, Marion Chumbley, Nina Lewis 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, 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 Meals. This information is also on the school website. This 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 – Miss Nina Lewis

The Summer Term has been a busy one and Year 7 are coming to the realisation that their first year at CCHS is almost complete. This has sparked a surge in energy, and they are really making the most of their time by joining new clubs and setting traditions for next year...such as boardgames at break time.

For many Year 7s, Open Evening was their first experience of a large-scale formal event taking place at school. Two Year 7s spoke on stage during the Headteacher's talk where they spoke about life at CCHS.

Others acted as proud tour guides who were very popular with our visitors sharing stories about their own experiences of the transition from primary to secondary school.

Primary Outreach visits have also taken place with our Year 7s once again taking on a vital role in this important piece of work. Year 7s spoke honestly with Year 5 students about preparations for the entrance test and helped to combat misconceptions about CCHS.

Naturally at this time of year preparations for sports day and house drama are in hand which everyone is looking forward to. This term also marks the start of the transition events for our new intake. The welcome meetings were a success and pen pal letters have been exchanged. In addition to this, taster day is approaching. This is where our Year 7s really have their moment, they share their own words of wisdom during the Pen Pal picnic and help to facilitate conversation between our new intake. They fill a very important role during this day and add an incredible amount of value.

Finally, Stubbers Adventure Day is due to take place soon and Year 7 are absolutely buzzing about it. This is their first-year group trip and it's set to be lots of fun!

Year 8 – Mr Bradley Copper

It has been another exciting term for Year 8, with a range of activities academic and extracurricular filling their schedules as they make their way toward the summer break. As ever, House Events have remained a constant point of enthusiasm and competition, with a new range of sports allowing students to battle it out in events like House Badminton. Perhaps one of the most exciting parts of this term thus far for me has been walking around during form time and discovering the hordes of Year 8s preparing for House Show, and the wide-ranging and often unusual plays that have been picked for them, with which they can focus and showcase their dramatic efforts.

Preparations are also underway for great events that end the academic year at CCHS. Year 8 have their Languages-run Enrichment Day – 'Roman Day' – to look forward to, while I have little doubt that their instinct for charity will make for some exciting costumes and performance contributions at the Senior Prefects' summer event. Many Year 8s are also practicing after their success in auditioning for the Cabaret Concert, a truly strong showing from the year group that I know will be an exciting evening of which they will be proud. A more relaxed musical environment will give them a chance to offer more of their personal artistic interests. On this note, dozens of Year 8s have submitted their Bronze Arts Awards this term, too, requiring them to research, visit, and create their own art in an attempt to showcase their passion for this sector across a range of disciplines.

There remain, as ever, a number of students in Year 8 receiving support for their pastoral and mental health needs, and they are supported by myself and an attentive and thoughtful team of tutors. The plan now is to keep our expectations of them high as they move forward to Year 9 and all the excitement and academic rigour that waits them there.

Year 9 – Mrs Victoria Goksel & Miss Jo Stevens

Miss Stevens and I are currently 9 weeks into our new role of joint Year Leaders of Year 9. It has been an important term for Year 9. They have finalised their GCSE options, and after much deliberation, they are all finally complete, all students have been given their first choices. Additionally, this term has seen Year 9 embark on their first set of formal examinations, some in the classroom and some in the exam hall. The year group conducted themselves brilliantly throughout the exam week and were a credit to themselves. This has provided a much-needed stepping stone in preparing the year group for their GCSE years.

From a pastoral view point the year group unfortunately continue to have a number of significant pastoral concerns. There are currently 3 students with long term absence. Reasons include a long-term

eating disorder and mental health issues, in some cases external agencies are involved and in liaison with the school. We are very hopeful that with the right help these students will gradually return to a position where they can access their education. Katharine Adams is working hard to formally assess and put in place NNWs for a number of students with suspected SEN needs. Feedback from the year 9 examinations will provide valuable evidence for these important SEN assessments. As YL we are surrounded by a fantastic team of tutors who continue to support those in their form who are experiencing difficulties.

Finally, to end on a positive note, the year group have had a very fun term. We have enjoyed many House events so far this term, including bench ball, Coronation Cakes, Basket ball and Tennis and look forward to House Drama and Sports Day to see out the term. Year 9 also have their Science Workshop during Enrichment Day to look forward to. Our programme of activities during form time is quite varied with activities such as 'Musical Mondays', 'Colour, Chat and Chill Tuesdays', 'Would you rather Wednesdays', 'Thursday Fit' and 'Friday Frenzy'.

We are both thoroughly enjoying our new role and are looking forward to spending more time with the year group and getting to know them even better.

Year 10 – Mrs Hayley Busby

This has been an absolutely fantastic year for Year 10. They have stormed into the start of their GCSE course, making absolutely brilliant strides of progress. They have all worked so hard throughout the year and it was fantastic to see their hard work pay off by their fantastic results in the Year 10 exams.

This year has not been all about exams. It has been fantastic to see the return of residential trips for our students, and the majority of the group have had the opportunity to take part in these fantastic learning opportunities. 77 of our year group got to experience a complete cultural emersion in Nice, where they attended a French school, learnt all about the history of Nice, visited Monaco and even visited a sweet making shop for a masterclass in French sweets. The cultural emersion was truly amazing to see, and the students did an absolutely fantastic job communicating in French and bonding with their host families. It was also a bit of a work out as most days we walked around 25,000 steps!

Nearly 30 of our German language students got experience an exchange in Germany. The German students has previously visited earlier this academic year and it was their term to go visit. At the time of writing this they haven't returned yet but I am sure they are having a fantastic time.

It is good to remember that this year group has had a lot robbed of them due to COVID. They never got to experience the residential in Normandy, Stubbers, Rhineland or all the other fantastic experiences we usually offer. They have never been able to experience a trip with school friends, making memories that we ourselves perhaps take for granted. I know they have had such a fantastic experience and have truly appreciated this opportunity that the teachers have worked hard to organise.

Along with these fantastic trips, they have also managed to participate in some fantastic sports and house events. They have had some fantastic assemblies, both in class and together in the Hall. They have learnt some key guidance from staff and students alike on what they would say to their younger selves, as well as getting educated on a key exam resource GCSE pod to help them on their up-and-coming exams. I will also have the pleasure of taking some of the year group to a careers fair at Anglia Ruskin university. This will be a fantastic chance for the students attending to learn more about the wider range of careers in the health sector, and what they need to get there. I am looking forward to them discovering careers they may have never thought of before.

The year group have also started to think ahead to year 11, having stared planning their Leadership conference, "A World of Opportunities". I look forward to seeing all the fantastic things they will do to celebrate this fantastic theme.

Year 10 have worked incredibly hard this year, I am sure they are ready for the summer break so they can come back recharged for the important year ahead.

Year 11 – Miss Charlotte Burnham

Wow well what a year it has been from start to finish. To note a few big events Year 11 have had this year: the Leadership Conference, Year 11 mocks, enrichment days, countless house events, our Celebration Day and let's not forget their formal GCSE examinations!

Firstly, to recap our brilliant celebration day, we started the day with form tutors for their last form time in the Main School. It is so lovely to see the brilliant rapport that they make as a form group being the only group they are in from Year 7! We then went on to the field for a 'primary school sports day' in which we played many different games and relays and of course we got the form tutors to race at the end. There was an incredible amount of team spirit and the competitiveness for their houses had definitely not depleted. We then went into benchball, this slowly but surely led to all teams off doing 'Just Dance'. The students in Year 11 actually know some of the 'Just Dance' choreography off by heart now so they were able to do this just from memory- it was so wonderful to see them all break out into dance when the songs came on. Then lunch time was in the Main Hall with dominos and shirt signing to start and then last but definitely not least all of our incredible performances. You will know from my previous articles that we have such a talented year group and the performances did not stop, we probably could have gone on all day and night! Of course there was a little surprise from the form tutors and myself, we 'tried' to dance using some of the iconic 'Just Dance' choreography, as well as a whole school good luck to year 11 video.

The current Year 11 will now start their transition into 6th Form and there are many opportunities to give them the best start. They will be invited to an induction day, take part in taster lessons for some of the subjects they are interested in taking for A level and they have already their report reviews to help them make informed decisions for their future.

As you will know from all of my newsletters, the students have been involved with such a variety and they should be so proud of themselves for everything they have achieved whilst in the Main School at CCHS. They have been an incredible year group, I will miss being their year leader but I hope to see them in the corridors for the next couple of years. It is true what they say, teamwork does make the dream work and of course none of this would have been possible without the dream team that is the Year 11 form tutors! A massive shout out to them for all their hard work, it definitely didn't go unnoticed.

Care & Guidance Report – Sixth Form

Dr Michael Palmer – Assistant Headteacher; Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Emma Hiett - 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 continue to focus considerable energies on recruitment into the Sixth Form. In March we were pleased to welcome just over 80 Year 11 students from 34 different schools for Year 12 taster lessons. Each of our visitors attended two Year 12 lessons alongside our current Year 12 students, giving them valuable opportunities to understand more about the nature of Sixth Form teaching and learning in this school. We are now looking forward to our Sixth Form Induction Day which Mrs Hiett is organising. This will take place on 30th June and give both current CCHS Year 11 students and applicants from other schools much useful information before their summer break and will help enable

them to make the strongest start to their Sixth Form studies. We are again looking forward to very healthy numbers taking up Year 12 places in September.

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 Hiett has continued to develop our work supporting Young Carers and Mrs Bernard (our Sixth Form Administrator) is shortly to undergo Mental Health First Aid training.

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 Neale for her excellent work supporting the Sixth Form Bursary students. We are also continually reviewing the nature of the support we are able to provide to our disadvantaged students and have again this year been able to access support for students resident in certain postcode areas under the terms of the 16 to 19 tuition fund which offers support for students in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The Sixth Form Team also continues to develop its work with former students of the school. Our particular thanks are due to Mrs Rowan Carroll who has worked for the past 15 months to support the development of Alumnae relations and is shortly to leave CCHS to pursue other opportunities. Mrs Carroll was instrumental in the highly successful Senior Speech Day held in Chelmsford Cathedral just after Easter and has also helped to organise 3 separate reunions for former students during the summer term as well as managing our alumnae social media accounts. She has also provided much support to the school's Community Service Programme for Year 12 students. Her energy and efficiency will be much missed.

Year 12 – Mrs Rhiannon Connolly

The first year of our student's 6th form has passed very quickly. Many of the students who joined our school in September blended in seamlessly and those who initially struggled to adapt have grown in confidence over the year. Senior prefects were appointed, along with house officials and department prefects ready to start their roles in January. Since then, they have involved themselves in running the societies and creating others such as ChemSoc. Other clubs such as British Sign Language have also been launched, run entirely by year 12 students. The House officials have been very enthusiastic and have often been seen encouraging all year groups to participate.

In May year 12 students sat their end of year examinations and have recently found out their grades and predicted grades ready for their UCAS applications. Mrs Hopkins has launched this process to the students, and all are currently filling in their details and looking at possible universities. Many students are visiting a number of universities over the next month, including Cambridge and Oxford. We have also launched the platform Unifrog, which enables the students to compile shortlists of universities and courses dependant on their predicted grades, ranking them as either aspirational, solid or safe. Every student has registered and are using it regularly. Tutors will be undergoing training to enable them to use this platform to help write their references following the new UCAS changes.

In the remaining weeks we have many students visiting universities & undertaking work experience. We have one of our Arkwright scholars undertaking a week's work experience at Maclaren in the lead up to the F1 grand prix at Silverstone. We also have the Senior Prefects festival which is being organised at the moment. Year 12 students are also helping at the induction day later this month, ready to pass on their advice as to how to approach the start of sixth form. It has been a busy year and the students are looking forward to having a rest in the Summer ready to restart in September.

Year 13 – Emma Hiett

Year 13 are currently midway through their A Level examinations and, so far, they have gone smoothly and students seem to be cautiously optimistic about their preparation and the papers that they have completed. This year group did not sit GCSE examinations and, although they did sit formal examinations in Year 12 and in January of Year 13, these are the first set of public examinations for this cohort. This has caused some increased nervousness for some students, but on the whole they are coping very well.

We have therefore seen quite a few students in school since they began their study leave in mid-May, including several who have attended every day. Many students report feeling better able to focus at school, and prefer to continue with the familiar school routine. Others have been accessing support with examination stress and anxiety, as well as meeting teachers to ask questions and discuss their revision.

Earlier in the term we enjoyed celebrating their time at CCHS with the usual dressing up week and Leavers' Reception, and a final assembly on their last day in which we were reminded again that we are lucky to have such talented musicians and singers amongst the student body.

At the end of the examination period Year 13 students will return to school to hand in their textbooks before a well-deserved summer break. A number of students have volunteered their time on the upcoming Sixth Form Induction Day, to share what they have learnt about being a successful Sixth Form student with prospective Year 12 students. In August we will be supporting students as they receive their examination results and university places are confirmed. Mrs Hopkins, our Higher Education Adviser, and other staff will be available to assist students making decisions on August 17th and following days, as well as to congratulate all Year 13 students on the results of their hard work over the past two years.