

Care and Guidance Report – March 2024

Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral): Miss Fiona Harrison

We continue our quest to provide amazing pastoral support to all students. The darker months of the year saw a rise in hub use – but all students that visited were greeted with a friendly face and a way forward. We have referred to the Family Hub, Family Solutions, CAMHS, IAPT, Thrive, the school nurse and our own counselling service. Always making sure we work with outside services effectively. Of course, we also had a visit from OFSTED who acknowledged the care and warmth felt within the school.

In years 7 to 11, we are mirroring good practice in the sixth form. We have started to run a late detention. If a student is late 5 times or more then they get a lunchtime detention. Although some parents have not been keen on this approach – we have asked for parental support in upholding our standards. Half a term in – we are already seeing students' attitude changing. Mrs Chumbley is leading on this, and her efforts are working.

The year leaders continue to support their year groups. Whether this is navigating students through friendship difficulties, how to communicate or finding their place – a great job is being done. Currently, Year 10 are navigating their way through their Year 10 examinations – and even though some students have their challenges – they are all trying their best. Year 11 are enjoying their transition meetings – which means each student has an individual chat to support them with their next steps. This has coincided with Year 11 reports being ready for both students and parents to see. The Year 11 mentoring scheme is also up and running – with many students being supported by various members of staff. Year 9 are going through the options process, and we are fast approaching both Year 9 and 10 parents' evenings. Year Leaders work tirelessly to keep the hub working effectively – chatting to whoever is in there and using the timers to encourage those a little more reluctant back to class. They also keep their notes up to date on MyConcern – ensuring a clear picture is being built. SSA has returned from maternity leave which has given us the opportunity to have an extra pair of hands until Easter.

It is full steam ahead in the sixth form. Year 12 are rapidly approaching their Year 12 examinations. They have been keeping EHI busy with requests to drop certain subjects – as well as starting to think about next steps. All new students have settled in well and the year group has gelled well. The UCAS process has started – so it is an exciting time for our year 12 students. The Year 12 tutors are also mentoring any students who need it – which EHI tracks weekly. Year 13 are counting down the days now. They know their final days at CCHS are here, so they are working hard. They have completed their mocks, and they are also doing extra assessments to give them as many chances as possible to be successful. All UCAS references are now in, and the Year 13 tutors are working hard to support them across the finishing line. The team are encouraging attendance with their wheel of fortune – everyone who achieves 100% attendance goes into a draw. They love it - as they can win prizes such as a fast pass to the front of the Costa queue! Home study passes are also hot property – students are starting to realise the importance of earning their pass.

RCO is also working on the 'Wellbeing Award'. We have had to evaluate our support for staff, students, parents/carers, external services, and our use of professional development. RCO had her first meeting with our designated rep and it went well. We are on track for the award – we are just looking at how we can achieve the highest status.

In all year groups the range and seriousness of pastoral issues which are presented to the team continues to be challenging – however we keep learning and talking so we can best support our students.

Counselling and School Nurse Provision

We continue to use the Renew Counselling service. 20 hours of counselling a week. This is constantly under review to ensure that we get the best value for money. If students are ill – then we use the spaces for drop-in sessions – which works well. We also use CARA and Thrive. We continue to have monthly visits from the school nurse. We have various students accessing various other services. 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 – 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. I am also giving staff weekly safeguarding questions – which are then discussed at tutor briefings/line manager meetings. Ofsted recognised our ability to safeguard effectively, but I think we do so much more than that!

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 can all see concerns raised on the system, which also analyses referrals and the nature of a 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.

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

Year 7 have had a very busy and productive Spring Term. There has been an excellent uptake of extra-curricular activities with an increase in student-led clubs such as Chess Club and Cubing Club. The Dance Show saw many Year 7s taking to the stage to perform. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and felt truly inspired by the dance officials. House pancakes was lots of fun, and the Spring Disco was also a popular event. The Krispy cream donut sale was a highlight for many and saw lots of Year 7s walking down the corridors with a box of 12 donuts each.

Year 7 Wow Wednesday presentations have been fantastic and form group assemblies have been brilliant. They thoroughly enjoyed watching the matinee performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream with lots of students asking how to get involved in the next school production.

Year 8 – Mrs Sarah Clements & Mrs Hayley Barker

The year continues to be a busy and exciting one with much going on for our fantastic year group! As always, they continue to be involved in the extra-curricular life of the school including sports teams and clubs, music ensembles, drama activities to name but a few. A huge number of the year group were involved in the Christmas Concerts, the Dance Show and more recently the wonderful production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', all of which we both thoroughly enjoyed attending. In keeping with our motto this year 'Make it Happen' we have had some students start their own Scrapbooking Club which has been highly successful and given some of our students a very welcome, social yet quiet environment, on a Friday lunchtime. Other student-led clubs have been suggested and are in the pipeline. We have also now had the results from the 'This is Me' poetry competition and are thrilled that a number of our students had their poems published in the resultant book! Mrs Barker has a copy if anyone would like to read them.

Some of our students have needed a more targeted level of support with various difficulties they have been experiencing and we have seen some appear quite vulnerable so have therefore acted quickly to access the appropriate support. The Pastoral Team and wider associated team of staff have worked and communicated together particularly successfully so that we can now report all students are receiving regular support and making progress, whether this be a formal referral to external services, regular 'check in and chat' with us as Year Leaders, Art Therapy, seeing the School Counsellor, or making use of the Quiet Room and Pastoral Hub when required.

Looking forward to the rest of the school year we have more House activities, Cabaret Concert auditions, sports events and much more to enjoy. And we continue to enjoy the privilege of being Year Leaders for these remarkable young women in their journey with us here.

Year 9 – Mr Bradley Copper

I am pleased to update you on the noteworthy academic and enriching endeavours undertaken by our Year 9 students during the current academic year's spring term.

The standout Enrichment activity for this term for me was the gloriously animated 'House Pancakes', where students explored and celebrated their sense of humour and competitive panache. We also had this year group's second House Debate; fortunately, I had the privilege of judging some of these insightful argumentations, witnessing the students' eloquence, public speaking, and on-the-spot critical thinking skills!

The Options process has commenced, too, setting the stage for upcoming events like Parents' Evening and Options Evening. These occasions mark crucial milestones as students navigate through the decision-making process regarding their academic paths. And while last term I spoke of Culture Fest and Enrichment Day 1 being the focal point of Year 9's busy-ness!, the spring term was dominated by an equally exceptionally busy Careers Evening that kicked off our students' GCSE journeys. The evening provided students with valuable insights into various professions, fostering a sense of direction for their future choices. Additionally: I must mention the outstanding Duke of Edinburgh application process that our Year 9 students actively participated in, showcasing resilience and a commitment to personal development.

Academically, the term has been marked by the expected robust academic framework, including another iteration of the Registration timetable with more focus on private and independent study. This change allows students to dedicate significant time to organise and prepare their work as they progress towards their Options choices. From a PSHE perspective, we also welcomed in once again experts from the 'Smashed' workshop group, who offer illuminating and educational insight into the perils of underage drinking.

The commitment to student wellbeing remains a priority at our school. Form Tutors continue to play a crucial role in providing pastoral care, ensuring that each student feels supported and valued. Regular check-ins, open communication channels, and a continued focus on mental health contribute to creating

a nurturing environment where students can thrive both academically and emotionally. This is our cornerstone at CCHS. As we reflect on the accomplishments and experiences of Year 9 in this spring term thus far, we take pride in witnessing the growth, resilience, and unity of our students as Form Tutors and Pastoral Leaders. And we eagerly anticipate the continued success and well-being of these young individuals as they progress through their academic journey into the remainder of the year.

Year 10 – Mrs Jo Stevens & Mrs Victoria Goksel

Year 10 have enjoyed a good few months, they have settled into their GCSE subjects and recently began preparing for the Year 10 exams, which run over the first two weeks following the February half term. Preparations for the Year 10 school exams have included revision sessions in RTP led by Mr Selby and subject leaders sharing tips on how and what to revise for their subjects.

The changes in option classes and core sets have created some expanding friendships groups within the year which has been great. We have had one new student join us, she has had a brilliant start and fits in well with her groups and CCHS in general.

From a pastoral view point the year group unfortunately continues to have a number of significant pastoral concerns. There is still 1 student with long term absence from school. External agencies are now working with her, alongside the SEND team – who continue to provide wellbeing checks, both in person and via TEAMS. She is under CAMHS and undergoing diagnosis for ASD/ADHD. The plan is for her to be educated by Mid-Essex Co-operative Academy.

Another student that has continuing challenges with attending lesson, also has a difficult time attending school – this seems to be in reaction to changes in home life – but again we are working alongside the family, with the SEND department and a referral for an EHCP has been submitted. Two additional students continue to struggle with poor mental, which is impacting their ability to remain in lessons and at times attend school. One of these students has made great progress since last year as we have been working closely with her family, and support strategies in place are having a positive impact. The other student has been struggling with anxiety and we have been putting some strategies in place to help with this – we are hoping to see some improvement in attendance now that this has been uncovered.

We have taken advantage of an external agency to provide free counselling through, 'Thrive', this has enabled several of our students that were waiting for counselling to be seen, which has been very beneficial.

Heidi Pocock in the SEND department is continuing to work hard formally assessing and putting in place New Ways of Working for existing and new students with emerging needs, this is already having a positive impact on attendance to, and confidence in lesson.

On a more positive note, we have also had lots of fun again this term. We have enjoyed Decorate a classroom at Christmas which had some of the best efforts we have seen. House Pancakes with some great dressing up, House Karaoke which some of our more vulnerable students took part in, Badminton, Swimming and House Debate.

Our programme of activities across a 2 weekly timetable has been working well, we continue to include wellbeing activities and finding ways to explore learning styles and personality types to help find coping mechanisms and revision techniques that suit each student.

We are both continuing to thoroughly enjoy roles, we know the students well now and are excited that our positions have now been made permanent with this year group. The Year 10 exams have got off to a great start so far and we are proud of the mature way that the students have approached these.

Year 11 – Miss Charlotte Burnham

Year 11, as ever, have been super busy with preparing for their GCSEs and mocks, attending numerous interventions in between. However that has not stopped them participating in all of the extra-curricular

and house activities. During the last week we have been undertaking the Year 11 report reviews which have given us not only a brilliant insight into the great work they are currently doing and how they are going to maintain this for next few months, but also the students' choices for their future in A levels and beyond.

This term we have had House Basketball, House Swimming and House Pancakes. The competition is starting to get heated as there are two houses in the running for first place, which I might add, is the first time it has not just been one clear winner. With their new found competitive nature it is brilliant to see them battling it out till the end of Year 11 and the end of the House Shield!

Lastly Year 11 have Enrichment Day 2 coming up, which for them, is a Maths Masterclass. This day starts at ARU, to give students a small insight into what university lecturing will look like, with many different mathematics topics being covered throughout the morning. They will then return to school in the afternoon for different tailored maths workshops. This day is a great way to consolidate any challenging topics and enables the students to work closely with different members of the Maths Department.

Year 12 – Mrs Emma Hiett

Our Year 12 students are now well settled into the Sixth Form and are feeling more comfortable with routines and expectations. The primary focus for students has of course been to get to grips with their A Level courses, and the majority have established good working habits and are making good progress. TA1 data at the end of the Autumn term identified those students who were in need of additional support and the Sixth Form tutor team and I have been working with these students each week in 1:1 mentoring sessions during form time, offering support with whatever the student might need from organisation to motivation to, in some cases, specific subject support.

Attendance and punctuality continue to be a priority for us, and it is encouraging to see that students are understanding the importance of high attendance and really trying to be in school as much as they possibly can. The Sixth Form tutors are supporting this process with attendance review conversations for students who have lower attendance, and Mrs Bernard continues to be instrumental in this process as Sixth Form Attendance Officer. In January those students who were meeting all expectations were given home study passes for the first time, allowing them more flexibility in where and when they study. Home study passes are intentionally difficult to access, so that only students who we can be confident are able to independently manage their study time are awarded this privilege.

Once students had found their feet, they were able to look to taking more responsibility within school, both with the Year 12 lunchtime duty rota and with their prefect roles. As usual there were a high number of applications for the Senior Prefect positions and all other roles were filled with enthusiastic and capable applicants. For many students their prefect roles are a highlight of their time in the Sixth Form, offering an opportunity to be creative and have a real impact on the school community.

Students continue to be in need of support for a wide variety of reasons, including mental health, stress, confidence, friendships and higher education/career plans. Several students have accessed counselling in school, and others have accessed support outside of school either through the NHS or privately. In Year 12 we have three students with EHCPs, as well as several more on the SEND register. Miss Pocock and I have worked closely this year to support these students as they settle in to A Level courses. All students know they have a number of people within school that they can call on if they are in need of help, and we are proactive in identifying those students who might need a check in, through wellbeing surveys and weekly tutor time sessions.

Year 13 – Mrs Rhiannon Connolly

When we returned to school in January Year 13 sat their final round of formal mock examinations. The exams all ran very smoothly and all students are fully aware of the expectations surrounding the exams. During this period many students had the added complications of preparing for interviews to courses such as medicine at university so a number of exams were rescheduled. After the exams the remainder

of the cohort sent off their UCAS applications in time for the equal consideration deadline on the 31st January. Many of our students have now heard back from all their universities and are making the tough choice of where to firm and where to put as an insurance option. There is a wide range of courses and universities amongst the year group, however York seems to be popular this year. In late January students also found out about Cambridge and Oxford applications. Some were understandably upset but others delighted. Our focus now turns to supporting those who plan to take gap years or who are applying for apprenticeship roles. One student has just been offered a place at Morgan Stanley and is facing the tough choice between that or Cambridge. She is also in the last round of a number of other apprenticeship schemes.

The countdown is now on and the outgoing senior prefects are starting to finalise the end of school celebrations with the customary dress up week themes under consideration, I think they have enough ideas for nearly a month! Thinking about the end of their school life is inevitably causing some concern and worry about the future but they are starting to plan and carry out revision. In RTP and tutor time they have looked at how to live independently, finances and other topics that may affect them such as drink spiking. It has been a delight to work with these students and see how they have developed over these two years, they are well prepared for the next stage of life and I look forward to seeing where they head off to.