

## Care and Guidance Report – November 2024

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

It has been another busy start to the year for all our year groups. MCH continues to be a fabulous support as Senior Pastoral Leader. She is now our named Attendance Champion, as well as taking an active role in upholding our standards. We are, as always, hot on uniform standards, and we also run Monday lunchtime late detentions to look at ways to support students getting to school on time. MCH and I are now attending the local BAP meetings – chaired by a colleague from Sandon and held at Great Baddow. This gives us an opportunity to speak to colleagues in similar positions to us about key things such as attendance.

In Years 7 to 11, we have had various events already. It all started with the Year 7 students' first day. They completed team building/ice breaker activities - alongside the traditional 'treasure hunt'. NLE worked closely with her tutors, nurturing our newest students. They have all settled in well and when help has been needed NLE has been there. The 'Choc and chat' group has made a triumphant return for any students who need a little help with friendships. The LoT students are in and settled – their transition before the holidays has clearly helped them feel confident in their new school. Two of the LoT students have also become 'Friendship Ambassadors' – helping other students in Year 7 feel included. This is working beautifully. They really are a lovely year group. CBU has returned to Year 8 – from her two-year stint in Year 11. She started the year with a fabulous speech at Meet the Tutor Evening – and she has been working on standards of behaviour within the year group – her firm but fair approach is really starting to take effect. She has dealt with many friendship worries already this year – which has challenged her as she hasn't worked with the little ones before. Of course, she is doing a fabulous job! Year 9 have already had their annual trip to Ypres – SSA accompanied the trip and she said she was very proud of how they conducted themselves. Year 10 have thrown themselves into their GCSE studies. BCO continues to support his year group – he is launching the Year 10 prefect programme in assembly this week. VGO and JST have planned and executed this year's Leadership Conference – which was another triumph! They have just supported the students through their mock examinations – they are currently identifying students for the Year 11 mentoring programme.

It has been an interesting start for the Sixth Form. Year 12's transition has been expertly facilitated by RCO. She has worked hard to ensure her many new students have felt supported - alongside facilitating the transition from 11 to 12 for those students who have always been with us. With record numbers in Year 12 – she really is doing a fabulous job juggling their needs. We had our first enrolment morning this year – which was a lovely chance to welcome our students/parents into the school before the official start to the year. It worked a treat and gave us a real insight into who would turn up on day 1. They enjoyed a day teambuilding on the first day – with impromptu Karaoke performances in the afternoon. Since then, we have had Meet the Tutor Evening, welcome meetings, wellbeing surveys and various assemblies – and a teambuilding day off site at Skreens Park making sure all students feel supported in their next steps. The sixth form year leaders have implemented a new uniform card. This is being used to help maintain high standards. They also continue with their fabulous attendance strategy – giving prizes in assembly for 100% attendance. All these elements feed into the hallowed 'Home Study Pass'. The Year 13 team have been incredibly busy supporting UCAS applications and early entries. EHI's office is never empty – the students know she is there, and they go to her whenever they need a kind word or support. She continues to do a fabulous job.

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 Renew Counselling service. 15 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. We continue to have been have monthly visits from the school nurse this term. We have various students accessing various other services. We also have the wonderful JST doing Art Therapy sessions – which is working well. I am still 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.

### **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**

Our latest cohort of 180 Year 7 students have made a smooth transition from primary school and are coping well with new demands. Choc & Chat has made a strong comeback this academic term. This takes place during the first term every Monday Week A. It's a lovely opportunity to start the week off nicely with a morning get together for a hot chocolate and a welcoming space for students to make new friends. Friendship "buddies" have also been introduced this year along with the setup of the Hangout Hub which is a student led club running every week. It's led by a group of 4 Year 7 students with the aim of offering a supportive and quiet space for Year 7 students to make new friends. So far, they have played various board games, cards and made friendship bracelets.

There was a great turnout at the New Parents' Welcome meeting in September and parental engagement was fantastic during the tutor sessions. Parents have responded well to the key messages given and communication with parents so far has been extremely positive. The parental engagement so far this year has been noticeably positive and complimentary.

The Elevate programme took place at the start of term and was received well by the Year 7s. This provided transition support with a focus on organisation and study skills. Tutors have recently delivered a follow up session during RTP to remind students of how to effectively incorporate these skills into their everyday school life.

Extra-curricular clubs for Year 7 are very well attended and with lots of Year 7 led student clubs taking place such as: crochet club, origami club and chess club. Tutor group assemblies and WOW Wednesday presentations have been delivered brilliantly with students “finding their voices” and challenging themselves to speak in front of an audience. As per usual, attendance at house events has been incredible and the support the students show for each other is a testament to the energy and encouragement from their tutors.

A trip to Mountfitchet Castle took place in September with all 180 students venturing out to the medieval site in the pouring rain as part of their History curriculum. The Halloween disco was a hit, as was the movie night. Year 7 are really enjoyed the events run by the PA and are looking forward to the next one. The pantomime is due to take place in December and the Year 7s are incredibly excited about the planned activities in the lead up to the Christmas break.

### **Year 8 - Miss Charlotte Burnham**

Our motto in Year 8 is ‘let’s grow together’, this year is all about making new friends, learning new subjects and of course taking on new challenges. Whilst the students are growing, it is so important that they support each other and in fact work together. Year 8 have had a thriving start to the academic year. We have been mixing it up in form time with many different activities ranging from musical walks and talks to an all-time classic, sleeping lions. This time in the morning is imperative for setting the students up for the day ahead.

Within this first term we have had the brilliant culture fest, which on the last day allows all students to come into school in their cultural dress. What a wonderful week this was with many performances and events taking place. On the last day it was so lovely to see the students fully involved and learning more about each other’s cultures.



House events are as ever extremely popular and Year 8 have taken part in the following, football, athletics and of course the upcoming karaoke and decorated classroom.

Alongside all of this they have been involved with their first enrichment day, creative day. During this day they got the opportunity to explore drama, music, art and dance not forgetting the brilliant performance at the end of the day. There was such a brilliant ‘buzz’ surrounding the day and it is great to see students getting so involved, for some of them, in something they never thought they would do.



Last but definitely not least, all of Year 8 have also had the opportunity to actively participate in restart a heart week. During this week they spent a lesson learning how to give CPR, put someone in the recovery position and how to help someone that is choking. This was extremely important to us as a school and now means that all students are educated on how to do this. Year 8 did so with great maturity and questioning and were also able to practise on some CPR dolls.



I am looking forward to the year ahead with Year 8, let's grow together!

### **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; 'Mindfulness Monday', where we do all things mindfulness such as colouring in, meditation, making lists/ goals etc. admin on a Tuesday. Wednesday have 'Work it Wednesday' or House Assemblies, Thursday we have 'Tuneful Thursday' or Year Group Assemblies, 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. We also have students seeing the School Nurse, Renew Counselling and other external agencies for support.

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 – Mr Bradley Copper**

I am delighted to share with you a summary of the exciting academic, pastoral, and enriching activities that our Year 10 students have been engaged in so far during the autumn term of this academic year.

The highlight of the term for Year 10 has been our inspiring Careers Enrichment Day, which saw alumni and school partners visiting to share their experiences and insights into their careers and education. This event provided students with an invaluable opportunity to explore various career paths, learn

about the skills needed in different industries, and engage in interactive sessions – including Q&As and a one-hour bespoke session on Medicine. The day aimed to equip our students with a greater understanding of their future options, while also motivating them to strive toward their aspirations with confidence and determination.

In House Events, F House emerged victorious in the House Football tournament, showcasing remarkable teamwork and strategy. Their captain's creative tactics and seamless collaboration and substitutions on the pitch led them to a well-deserved win, much to the delight of their compatriots. This was just one example of how Year 10 students have demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship and dedication in both individual and team sports thus far this year. This term also featured our Jack Petchey Speak Out! Internal Final, led by the English Department and following a day where all girls in the year delivered a speech under the guidance of Jack Petchey's external workshop experts. In our final, all of Year 10 came from their English lessons to see a range of speeches from the cream of the crop, as our winning students gave brilliant and thought-provoking speeches on a range of topics both personal, humorous, and political. The audience – myself included – was captivated by the confidence, eloquence, and passion of the speakers, making the event a true celebration of student voice.

This competitive and creative spirit has extended to other House events as well, as we look to the upcoming House Karaoke and the high-energy House Decorated Classroom. These activities have allowed students to showcase their talents, strengthen friendships, and contribute to the vibrant sense of community within the school in the past; this Christmas will be no exception, as rehearsals are already ramping up.

And finally, alongside these enriching experiences Year 10 students have continued to engage with their studies, supported by a structured Registration timetable that focuses on effective organisation and preparation for their GCSE studies. Student-led clubs in the year group also continue to thrive with valuable contributions from Year 10 members, adding depth to their extracurricular engagement – with a particular academic motivation since September. Maths and English competitions have been especially popular. And indeed, at the heart of everything Year 10s dedicated Form Tutors ensure the wellbeing of our students remains a priority. Regular check-ins, open communication, and an emphasis on mental health have helped foster a supportive environment where students feel valued and empowered.

As we reflect on the achievements and experiences of Year 10 this term, we are proud to see their growth, resilience, and enthusiasm shining through as ever. I look forward to their continued success and development as they move forward into the rest of the academic year, with their first set of internal GCSE mocks on the horizon.

### **Year 11 – Mrs Jo Stevens & Mrs Victoria Goksel**

Year 11 have had an excellent start to year, with regards to academics and enrichment. They have had two main events to prepare for, their Leadership Conference and the Year 11 Mock Examinations.

The year group did themselves and the School proud during their Mock examination period. Students that required access arrangements and exam adjustments were all catered for, furthermore we worked with the Exams team and the SENCO to ensure their needs were met. As with each mock exam session, we will reflect on all that happened and use this to support everyone further. We will soon be introducing the Year 11 mentoring programme to support students academically and pastorally.

The Leadership Conference was a hugely successful and enjoyable event that gave the year group a chance to work with different groups of students, as a result some new friendships have emerged, and we saw new students find their voices and take on leadership roles in the student led workshops. Our new student who joined during Year 10 is now fully integrated into the school community and enjoys performing piano and singing at school events, including the Leadership Conference.



From a pastoral view point the year continues to have a number of significant pastoral concerns. We have three students with significant attendance concerns and YLs, FHR, MCH and HPO are working hard to support the attendance of said students. Two additional students continue to struggle with significant poor mental health, which is impacting their ability to remain in lessons and at times attend school. That said both of these students have made great progress since last year as we have been working closely with her families and have supportive strategies in place which are slowly having a positive impact. We have 4 students on safety plans, that have carried over from last academic year and one new student this term.

The year group continues to be supported both academically, through a rigorous intervention programme. They are also supported pastorally with the Renew and Thrive counselling. The upcoming Year 11 mentoring programme will add an additional layer. The form time programme has a range of activities to help them develop study skills as well as skills to help with heightened anxiety.

On a more positive note, we have also had lots of fun again this term. We have enjoyed a great Leadership Conference, a range of House events, an entertaining but thought provoking PSHE play on road safety and a brilliant live poetry day. We look forward to the Dance Show and House Karaoke.

We both work hard to look after our year group and we look forward to continuing the support we give them. We know it is essential and it will help them to achieve their potential in the summer.

### **Year 12 - Mrs Rhiannon Connolly**

The first term with Year 12 has flown by. We have 186 students in year 12, with a number who joined us in September. For the first time we held an enrolment morning in late August where all students came in and signed up. They had the opportunity to buy blazers, get their welcome pack (including timetables and a 6<sup>th</sup> form handbook) and to pay for our first ever team building trip to Skreens Park. This seemed to be a successful morning with students grateful for the opportunity to come in and it led to a much smoother start to the year. There were however still lessons for us to learn! Due to the enrolment morning all students started at the same time on the first day of term which led to all students being able to spend more time within their forms. The form karaoke in the afternoon went well with all students taking part, with the new students realising that there is more to life at CCHS than just studying!

The team building trip took place shortly after the start of term to the activity centre in Skreens Park, Roxwell. They took part in a number of activities such as crate stacking, axe throwing and rifle shooting. The weather was a little chilly but it didn't rain and pupils enjoyed getting the chance to know the rest of their form. Since then life has settled down into somewhat more of a routine. The new students aren't new anymore and all have thrown themselves into life at CCHS. Many of the students are relishing the opportunity to attend and run lunchtime societies.

Immediately after half term a monitoring exercise gathered feedback from subject teachers on selected Year 12 students, including those new to the school, disadvantaged students and those who entered the Sixth Form following an appeal. The feedback was in the main positive, indicating students are settling in well and getting to grips with their A Level courses.

We have just finished the process of appointing the Senior prefects where 35 students applied and presented their vision for the role to Miss Harrison and myself before 21 students went through to the interview stage with Dr Palmer and Mrs Cross. The quality of the candidates was excellent and I am positive that the 12 students will be great in the role. The next round of applications for house, sports, dance and eco prefects is about to start. It has been a hectic first term but the feedback from year 12 has been good and positive.

### **Year 13 - Mrs Emma Hiatt**

The Autumn Term has, as always, been a period of significant activity for Year 13 students. It began with resit examinations for those who had not achieved their desired results in the previous year's Year

12 assessments. These resit papers offer an essential opportunity for students to address feedback from their prior exams and to start the Year 13 academic year with renewed confidence and clarity, positioning them for success. Encouragingly, the majority of students showed improvement, with some achieving notable gains.

The initial weeks of the term were particularly demanding for students applying to Oxford and Cambridge, as well as for those seeking to pursue degrees in Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine. These students have now completed and submitted their UCAS applications and are awaiting invitations to interview. The process of preparing applications, including drafting personal statements and preparing for university admissions tests, can be challenging and especially so when they also need to balance A-level studies and other commitments. Throughout this period, students have received guidance and support from their form tutors and the broader Sixth Form team, ensuring they manage their time effectively, make informed choices, and refine their applications. Meanwhile, other Year 13 students are also in the process of finalising their applications, with all UCAS submissions set to be sent before the equal consideration deadline at the end of January. These students continue to receive valuable support from staff throughout the application process.

We are fortunate that several parents have again volunteered their time to conduct practice interviews with Year 13 students, providing a valuable preparation opportunity. This initiative is open to all students, and it is heartening to see that students with a variety of career aspirations have made use of this service. The experience, alongside the subsequent feedback, is immensely beneficial, and we are very grateful to the parents who contribute their time and expertise to support this important annual event. For those applying to Oxbridge, additional academic practice interviews are arranged, facilitated by Dr Michael Palmer, to provide tailored preparation.

Currently, a number of students are focused on the coursework components of their courses, including English, History, Geography, Computer Science, Music, and Physical Education, and all students will be aware that mock examinations approach in January. With this in mind, students are keeping themselves busy, and most have now settled into productive routines, demonstrating an ability to manage their time and workloads effectively. The team of Sixth Form Tutors has been crucial in supporting this process, with study planning sessions held at the start of each week and one-on-one mentoring provided during form time for students who may be facing challenges in managing their academic responsibilities.

In summary, the Autumn Term has been one of hard work, dedication, and growth for our Year 13 students, and they are well-positioned as they approach the final stages of their A-level studies.