

Care and Guidance Report – June 2024

Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral): Miss Fiona Harrison

As the academic year draws to a close, pastoral care and safeguarding remain at the forefront of our minds. We are currently looking at who will need a check in over the holidays – these are completed via Teams by the team. The hub continues to be a sanctuary – however it is only ever a stop gap to facilitate the students getting back into a lesson. We continue to work with outside agencies when applicable to enable our students to access the best support possible. We continue to work hard as a team to always be there for our students.

A large proportion of time during the second half of the summer term is dedicated to our transition programme. Our 2024 intake have just completed their welcome meetings. They all had an individual meeting with a member of staff and then they joined the other members of their form in some ice breaker games. They all thoroughly enjoyed their time in school. Some may have been apprehensive on arrival, but by the time they left they were smiling and chatting away! NLE and I met all the ‘Leaders of Tomorrow’ students which was an absolute privilege – meaning they have that specialised support from the start. We will be welcoming them in again on Wednesday 26th June for their taster day. NLE has put together a wonderful programme which will enable them to get a real flavour of the school. As always, they will get to meet their PenPals and enjoy a teaser of our house system. The PE staff continue to run their weekly sports sessions for our 2024 intake. New this year, are the Leaders of Tomorrow sessions which are running after school on a Monday with our incoming 18 disadvantaged students. These sessions include Maths, English, Languages and Philosophy. The buzz in the air has been palpable – they are loving coming into their school and working closely with staff.

We also have many things to look forward to during the last few moments of this academic year. Year 7 will be going to Stubbers again on Monday 8th July. It gives them a chance to work together whilst – raft building, swinging from high ropes, climbing various apparatus or through team games. This is always a fabulous day full of joy. We are also looking forward to the up-and-coming Year 5 Summer School. This is the next cycle of our ‘Leaders of Tomorrow’ provision. We will welcome in all the disadvantaged students who have registered for the test to work with them on English and Maths – plus we will run some familiarisation. This is the next phase in the plan to make sure all students access the test on an even playing field.

We look forward to getting all our students to the summer holidays mentally fit and ready to enjoy their break!

Counselling and School Nurse Provision

We continue to use the Renew Counselling service. We currently offer 20 hours a week – however this will be cut to 15 hours a week next year due to budget restrictions. We are savvy with the time – using sessions missed due to illness for drop-ins. This works well and can give an apprehensive student an insight into what the sessions are like. We also use CARA. We have a new school nurse called Sophie – she has been coming in fortnightly to do what they class as level 1 care. We also have various students accessing other services through outside sessions online such as ‘Thrive’ run by Mind. We also have the wonderful JST doing Art Therapy sessions – which is still working well.

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 meetings 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 great 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 and Nina Lewis can also see all concerns raised on the system, which 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 is 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.

Year 8 - Miss Sidnie Sales

It has been another productive, yet exciting term for Year 8; with various events and trips and some are still to look forward to. Form time continues to set the year group off to a good day, with structured activities, quizzes, and assemblies. The 'Friday Frenzy' quizzes are still very popular, 8A are the recent winners for this term and enjoy their prize during tutor time.

We celebrated the Schools' birthday with the popular House Cakes, where 8F absolutely smashed it. We also took part in House Swimming and House Tennis, both in which were a great success. Year 8

also took part in the Maths Challenge, which again the year group took in their stride, where 49 students got through to the Kangaroo Challenge and 1 student got through to the Olympiad which is a huge achievement.

Year 8 are an extremely talented year group, one of the most talented I have seen from lots and lots of musicians, to incredibly great athletes and artists, to great actresses and so much more and beyond. The highest numbers for auditioning for Bussy Malone, of course come from Year 8. The students in Year 8 continue to be very happy in school and enjoying all that is put on offer to them. I am super proud of them all thus far.

I look forward to carrying the girls through to Year 9 and starting the options process with them, as well as, watching them grow and develop in to articulate young woman.

Year 9 - Mr Bradley Copper

I am pleased to share the highlights of the academic and extracurricular activities undertaken by our Year 9 students during this summer term. It has been yet another jam-packed and successful moment for the year group.

A key highlight this term was the lively preparation for House Music, recent auditions for the school production, and trials for the Cabaret Concert, which showcased the students' creativity and teamwork in equal measure. We of course also have Sports Day on students' lips and on the horizon. Additionally, our students participated in the newest sports event: House Cricket, further enhancing their sporting spirit in a new guise, led by Mr. May. A major event was the successful two-day Year 9-wide trip to Ypres, organised by the History Department, which provided an enriching educational experience without question, receiving wondrous feedback from staff, students, and parents. The trip was both respectful and intellectually stimulating, offering a profound, evocative insight into historical events. It was a pleasure for me to be able to support as their Year Leader and witness their exceptional behaviour.

As this term progresses, students are deeply engaged in exam preparation for their end-of-years. This included an RTP session and two dedicated assemblies to support their studies. We are also proud of the Year 9 students who completed the Duke of Edinburgh Award, as mentioned in my previous report, demonstrating their resilience and commitment to personal growth – particularly noteworthy while in a damp tent! Academically, we have also introduced an updated Registration timetable that emphasises revision-focused activities. This change allows students to better organise and prepare their work as they look forward to their GCSEs.

Our school and year team continues to prioritise the wellbeing of our students. Form Tutors play a pivotal role in offering pastoral care, ensuring every student feels at home and supported. Regular check-ins, open communication, and a focus on mental health, as we always say, create a nurturing environment that fosters both academic and emotional growth. As we look back on the accomplishments of Year 9 this term, we are proud of their growth, resilience, and unity.

Year 10 - Mrs Jo Stevens & Mrs Victoria Goksel

Year 10 did very well in their Year 10 exams, we were able to recognise and amend exam access needs and speak to those students that may have needed additional support. It was a great opportunity to have this experience in preparation for public exams next year.

From a pastoral viewpoint, the year group continues to have several significant pastoral concerns. There is still 1 student with long term absence from school, her situation remains the same and both the SEND department and external agencies are working with her.

We continue to support the three students that were struggling with attending school and lessons, alongside the SEND department, making use of the quiet room and hub, to prevent school avoidance.

Some additional students have been added to our close watch and safety plan list due to safeguarding issues.

The external counselling via Thrive, continues to work well for some of our students, the first few have now completed the sessions with positive outcomes and some new students are starting too. We also are taking advantage of the session via Renew within school, with positive feedback from students.

Heidi Pocock in the SEND department is continuing to work alongside new students and families as more barriers to learning and SEND needs are explored/ diagnosed. This has resulted in new 'Normal Way of Working', documents that are distributed to staff to help with best practice for everyone. We have also discussed and will be likely implementing considerations for curriculum adjustments for 2 students this term to allow them to the best opportunity to be successful in their remaining subjects.

We have lots of things coming up to look forward to, with trips to Germany, France and the Saatchi gallery for some of our students. House Music and Sporting events. Academically, we have also introduced an interventions programme early, starting this term - to ensure we are best supporting those students that need it, across all subjects. This is run within each department, by teaching, staff at lunchtime, before and after school.

The wellbeing activities within our tutor programme are working well as a time for students to have some time for themselves, we are also adding in some time for tutors to reflect and have conversations, to ensure the effectiveness of the intervention programme being put in place.

For us as Year Leaders, throughout this next term, we are looking forward to the planning of the Leadership Conference, getting ready to make contact with guest speakers, working with our prefect teams and the PTA to get things started!

Each term we feel we are becoming more familiar with the year group, having got to know the students individually, their friendship groups, academic and pastoral needs. We are proud of what they are achieving and continue to encourage them.

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 started with house cakes and then onto the ultimate benchball competition where the sprint finish to the house shield was on! There was an incredible amount of team spirit and the competitiveness for their houses, it had definitely not depleted. 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. Of course there was a little surprise from the form tutors and myself, we 'tried' to dance using some of the iconic Beyoncé 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 had their transition meetings to help them make informed decisions for their future. Furthermore they will have access to a whole range of optional bridging work to help get them started with their best foot forward.

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.

Year 12 – Mrs Emma Hiett

The focus of the Summer Term for Year 12 has been their examinations at the end of April and beginning of May. Students worked hard to prepare for these formal assessments and coped very well with the stresses and anxieties associated with important examinations. The results of these examinations were shared with students through May and into June as they became available, and predicted grades were published to students in mid-June. The Sixth Form Team, form tutors and teaching staff are all working together to support students moving forwards. As usual, the majority of students have achieved excellent results and are excitedly planning applications to the universities and courses of their choice. There have also been some disappointments and some students will now benefit from very close academic monitoring and support moving forward into Year 13.

The UCAS process was introduced to students earlier this year and once the examinations were out of the way the information and support provided to students has increased, with significant time set aside in form time and rolling tutor period to support students through this process. Mrs Hopkins, our Higher Education Advisor, has led on this work and is currently dealing efficiently with the very large numbers of students wishing to discuss their plans for university, and Dr Hiner, Head of Careers, has arranged for a significant proportion of the year group to meet with an external careers advisor for independent advice. We are also seeing a continuing increase in interest in degree apprenticeships as an alternative to university.

This cohort continues to be in need of significant pastoral support, with the need seeming to increase every year. The Sixth Form tutors continue to be committed to providing the best support, both academic and wellbeing. A number of tutors have also been working more closely with students in need of increased support and the efforts of the tutors to support some of our most vulnerable students is much appreciated. This year we have highlighted our disadvantaged students at various points throughout the year, to keep these students most in need of our support at the forefront of our minds. We have been able to offer mentoring and advice, to arrange for them to go on trips and other opportunities, and where needed to purchase resources. These students are making good progress, and whilst it is difficult to link this back to specific actions, it is pleasing to see.

Year 13 – Mrs Rhiannon Connolly

Since the last report we have said goodbye to our Year 13 students and as I write they are just about to enter the last week of their exams. Their last week of term was full of the usual tradition of dress up week with costumes ranging from stars to fried eggs to the whole of the Toy Story gang...I am not quite sure how the two students joined up as Slinky made it to their different lessons! The leavers reception evening was very well attended by parents, with many sad that their child's time here at CCHS was ending. The Leavers Assembly went well, thanks to Dr Palmer's organisational skills, and there were lots of tears, both of sadness but also of joy at the times they have had and memories they have made at CCHS. No sooner had they left but they returned to either study or sit exams.

The new Sixth Form Common Room became the Year 13 study space, and it has been well used throughout the exam period, as has the Library, with more students finding it easier and more beneficial to study in school. The exams have all run smoothly. There were a number of students who struggled with anxiety and had panic attacks in the early exam period, but all sat their papers successfully. Thank you to Miss Pocock and the Exams office for being so accommodating with the individual needs of the students and changing arrangements at the last minute. One student was unable to sit one paper due to a sickness bug but did sit the other two papers for that subject. Book return day is taking place on the day of the last exam, and this will be the last time we see the students. I wish them well in the future and look forward to taking over Year 12 in September.