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Student Wellbeing and Safeguarding Newsletter: March 2023

We have a fantastic team of staff who support our students every day. We thought it would be useful for you to know a bit more about some of the newer support staff in our pastoral team and their roles.

Mr Phillips- Evolve Mentor

'Hi, I am Mr Phillips and I support students primarily with their mental health. The focus is often based around different issues such as behaviour, anger, anxiety and depression among other things that could lead/contribute to poor mental health. Putting different coping mechanisms in place and trying to help students understand their own issues so that they are able to manage their feelings and reactions better in moments of upset. This work could take place over a number of weeks/months or it could be short term. This means it is possible to work with students who are suddenly facing issues at home such as bereavement or a family separation who just need some help to navigate their feelings around all of this as it catches them off guard. Sometimes a quick check in is all some students need. A place to offload so that they are able to continue with the day with a positive outlook.'

Mrs Ferris – Wellbeing Lead and Deputy DSL

'Hello everyone, my name is Mrs Ferris. My role in school is the well-being lead and deputy safeguarding lead. I check in on our students' mental wellbeing. I provide them with a safe space to open up about their thoughts, feelings and worries and can work with them in a therapeutic way. It is great to work with such fantastic young people.'

Mrs Christie-Mileham- Attendance Officer

'Hello, my name is Mrs Christie-Mileham and I'm based full-time in the Pastoral office. My role is mainly Attendance, but I am available for all students to pop in and see me for any reason, no matter how small or large. My door is always open if they just need time out or a chat. I liaise with many members of staff and students on a daily basis and can pass on relevant information on behalf of students if needed. I also make sure that students have access to the correct uniform and equipment!'

In addition, we have practitioners from the 'Well-being in Mind' NHS team working in school.

If you feel that you or your child needs any support, please get in touch through our enquiry email or by phoning school to speak to Mrs Ferris.

Each term we will send some reminders to help everyone to continue to safeguard our young people and to promote ways of helping them to look after their own wellbeing. We have a dedicated area on our website with useful contacts and information.

Our safeguarding team can be contacted through our enquiry email if you have any concerns of which you need to make us aware. If you have any urgent concerns over the holiday, you can directly contact the safeguarding team at your local authority or contact the police.

A few safeguarding notices...

- We have recently sent out a text to remind everyone that all visitors to school, including parents, must report to reception. All our visitors have to sign in and are given lanyards with different coloured cards so they can be easily identified. We expect all visitors and parents to be respectful at all times to both staff and students. Anyone not following these protocols is referred to the police team who support 'safer schools'.
- Many thanks for your ongoing vigilance in identifying anyone who is 'vaping' or attempting to sell vapes, all information received is greatly appreciated and helps us to deal with any issues and to notify parents.
- Our anti-bullying ambassadors have completed a draft of our revised 'anti-bullying strategy'. This will be placed onto our website (in our policy section) over the Easter break. Please have a look and send any feedback/recommendations to our enquiry email by 18th April. Thank you.

