



Trinity School

A Church of England
Academy

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Sheila Johnston and Derek Kay
Co-Headteachers

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Dear parents and carers,

Re: Pastoral Care at Trinity School

As you know we take pride in the high quality of pastoral care that we offer to our students; this has been validated in many inspection reports, including the most recent SIAMs report 18 months ago. As this is such an important part of our work we constantly strive to review and improve the care we give to students.

When we wrote to you in January with the plans to make some changes to the lunchtime arrangements for September 2018 we talked of the growth in student numbers over the last five years, following successful admission appeals, resulting in 1700 students in a school designed for 1500. As well as the impact of the growth in numbers on dining areas, we have been conscious this year of the increased number of students in each of the four houses in the 11-16 school, making it more difficult for staff to meet the needs of students as well as we would like. With 276 students in Year 7 for September, replacing a Year 11 group with 240 students, there will be further pressure on the current system.

In order to address this, we plan to change the way we organise pastoral care in the 11-16 school for September 2018; instead of students being organised in Houses (eg Amazon, Nile) we will move to a year group system. Heads of House will become Heads of Year, looking after approximately 280 students, rather than in excess of 350 each if we make no change. Students will remain in the same form group with the same form tutor. The tutor will only change, as happens every year, where a tutor moves elsewhere or to a different role. Tutors will continue to remain with the same group from Year 7 to Year 11 to provide the first point of contact and to build long term relationships with students and their families. Moving to year groups rather than adding an additional house avoids disrupting all the form groups which would be necessary to ensure equal numbers across the houses. Continuity will also be provided by the Year Group Tutor, the equivalent of the current House Tutor, who will also move through the school with the year group they take on in Year 7.

There are a number of advantages in moving to a year group system which will benefit our students. Pastoral staff will have greater capacity to work with individual students, to know them well, and to give sufficient time to our most vulnerable students. In addition to this Heads of Year will be able to specialise in the needs of the particular year group in their care, for example the Head of Year 11 will specialise in the preparation necessary for GCSE examinations and progression post 16 and the Head of Year 7 will specialise in transition. Heads of Year will be able to focus more closely on the progress of students in their year group, looking at how students are doing in all subjects and working to ensure that no student falls behind.

We understand there may be some sadness at the shift away from Houses, as there was when we altered the House system in 2012, but Heads of Year will be working hard to create a strong year group identity and to create the sense of a small community within a larger community that is a feature of our current system. We understand also that parents and carers, as well as students, will be keen to know which staff will be working with them; this information is outlined below. There is some change to pastoral staffing for September due to two of our current Heads of House moving to new roles. Mrs Moody is moving to take up the post of Head of Modern Foreign Languages at Caldew School and Mr Hall has made the decision to reduce his hours to part time next year. We will certainly miss their skills and expertise but have appointed excellent, experienced staff to fill the gaps. As we said earlier, it is important to remember that form tutors, who are the mainstay of pastoral care, will not change.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Johnston and Derek R Kay
Co-Headteachers



The pastoral structure for 2018/19:

Year 7:

Head of Year: Miss Constant (Miss Constant will remain as Head of Year 7 to ensure primary staff get to know her well, supporting successful transition)

Year 7 Tutor: Alison Wylie

Year 8:

Head of Year: Mrs Walton (The Heads of Year 8 and 9, with a specialism in progress through KS3 and the options programme, will rotate so Mrs Walton will remain with this group for two years)

Year 8 Tutor: Mrs Davidson

Year 9

Head of Year: Mr Watchman

Year 9 Tutor: Mrs Ward

Year 10:

Head of Year: Mrs Hamer (The Heads of Year 10 and 11, with a specialism in preparations for GCSE and transition post-16, will also rotate. Mrs Hamer will therefore remain with this year group for two years)

Year 10 Tutor: Mrs Barwick

Year 11:

Head of Year: Mrs Armstrong

Year 11 Tutor: Mr McMullen

Jumpers

On a practical note, current jumpers have a house stripe. We would like to move to a system where we have a year group stripe, for ease of identification.. The following colours will apply for 2018/19 and once given a colour, that year group will retain the same colour during their five years in the 11-16 school; this will mean, for example, that when Y8 move to become Y9, they will still wear the white stripe:

Y7: Blue; **Y8:** White; **Y9:** Yellow; **Y10:** Red; **Y11:** Green

We have retained the same colours as those used currently as two forms in each year will already have that colour and it helps the Uniform shop utilise existing stock. If you are purchasing new jumpers, please do so with the new colour stripe. Existing jumpers can still be worn until there is a need for replacement; if you are continuing to use existing jumpers we will issue stripes to students on the first day of term in September so that the colour can be changed. Many thanks in advance for your help with this as we move to the new system. Our aim is to avoid additional expense for parents.