

PASTORAL CARE

We believe Crown Hills is a caring community:

The pastoral system is an integral part of the life of every student at Crown Hills, providing care and support as she or he progresses through the college. All students should experience Crown Hills as a caring community, in which they are enabled to achieve self-respect, and respect for other people. Every teacher has a valuable pastoral role, facilitating the development and maintenance of good relationships amongst all college members.

We support tutors and the positive ethos:

All students know and are known by their form tutor, who is their main daily point of contact. Tutors are encouraged to create and maintain a positive form ethos that enables students to make the full use of their learning opportunities and to care for individuals in the form. The form tutors are supported by the Key Stage Leader in their daily routines and in meeting the needs of specific students. The college emphasises stability and strength of these relationships in following a system where tutors and Key Stage Leader remain with a group of students as they progress through the college. The team of Key Stage Leaders works closely to provide a consistent, thoughtful and constructive response to all pastoral matters.

We provide advice and counselling:

The pastoral team advises students on matters of personal and social welfare, educational progress and career choices. Students with particular concerns are counselled on an individual basis. There is a strong emphasis on working as a team to meet these needs sensitively, on working closely with specialist colleagues where appropriate, and on calling in the support of a range of external agencies. We support student 'peer counselling' and advice services. We are proud of the excellent relationships we have built with parents.

We aim for effective communication:

Communication between all staff and thorough recording of actions taken or other developments are essential in underpinning a pastoral system, which places the needs of the student at its core. Any member of staff with concerns about the welfare of a student should communicate these as soon as possible to the form tutor or the Key Stage Leader. Self-referral by students is encouraged. Information concerning contact with parents should be shared with Key Stage Leader/Tutor as soon as possible, so that pastoral staff always have an up-to-date picture of developments.

We are readily accessible:

The team is based in the Key Stage Leaders Office, and there is normally someone from the team available during registrations, at break and at the beginning and end of the lunch period.

We use positive strategies to encourage responsibility:

The involvement of the Pastoral Team in discipline matters is a separate area of the Team's work, set out in the "Discipline Routes" policy document. The underlying principle of the Pastoral Team's involvement is to use positive strategies, including the use of negotiated targets, from an early stage in order to enable students to improve their self-control and to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, CAREERS AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Since September 2000, all students have taken part in a programme of personal, social, careers and health education during timetabled lessons. These lessons have been delivered through the Life Skills Curriculum.

We teach Personal, Social, Careers, Citizenship and Health Education:

- to enhance student self-esteem, and engender confidence and security which will aid the development of self-discipline.
- to give value and recognition to the social, personal and emotional needs which students bring into college.
- to give students an opportunity to explore issues such as race, gender and relationships which do not come up elsewhere in the formal curriculum. We aim to develop awareness of the rich multicultural heritage within our community, and of the importance of equal opportunities.
- to help students develop their personal skills, moral attitudes and sound knowledge base needed to help them to make informed decisions when dealing with the range of sensitive and difficult issues in modern life. These include problem solving, communication skills, skills of working independently or co-operatively with other people.
- to provide students with knowledge about, and an opportunity to discuss, the range of issues related to health and growing up.
- to help students develop good working relationships within the school community, and to promote active and responsible citizenship in the widest context, encouraging participation in college life and the local community.
- to prepare students for post 16 opportunities and to help them learn about the world of work.
- to understand the concepts of individual rights, responsibilities, authority and respect for others, promoting the moral values of honesty, fairness and justice.