



The Crossley Heath School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

17th July 2023

Safeguarding/Pastoral update

I am writing to provide you with a safeguarding update including some reminders of our school systems and support available outside of school.

To support with pastoral issues in school we have 2 lower school Pastoral Leaders. Mrs Griggs (Key Stage 3) and Mr Irving (Key Stage 4). If you have a concern regarding a pastoral issue such as behaviour or a safeguarding issue, please contact Mrs Griggs or Mr Irving in the first instance. Students are also welcome to come and see any member of the pastoral team if they need support in addition to their form tutor. Each year group also has a Progress Leader to support pastoral issues and lead each year group's overall academic progress. Mr Davis Year 7, Mr Spencer Year 8, Mr Smith Year 9, Mr Charlesworth Year 10. If you have a query related to academic progress, please contact your child's Progress Leader. If your query is focussed on a specific subject then you should contact your child's subject teacher.

Our pastoral team work closely and liaise with a variety of outside agencies to safeguard and support the pastoral needs of our students. Sometimes we are duty bound or feel it is in our students and their family's best interest to make a referral for support to the local authority. If you feel you need support you can also contact these support agencies directly. This is especially important during school holidays. If you have an urgent safeguarding matter please contact MAST in Calderdale on [01422 393336](tel:01422393336) or Kirklees on [01484 456848](tel:01484456848) or Bradford on [01274 435600](tel:01274435600) or Childline on [0800 111 111](tel:0800111111)

If this a matter which would involve 'PREVENT against extremism' please refer to our webpage for support <https://www.crossleyheath.org.uk/prevent/>

Our goal is to ensure that students' emotional well-being is at the very heart of our school. We intend to help create a school culture that enables our students to be energised, effective, healthy and positive with a growth mind-set, allowing them to cope with the stresses of being a teenager in the modern world.

Although we aim to minimise the requirement for mental health 1st aid, we support our students in need, with the very best help and support that the school and outside agencies can offer, so they can continue to recover, progress, and excel in the face of all life's challenges. We hope to have a lifelong positive impact on the mental well-being of our students. We advise students on ways to maintain a healthy emotional fitness level and work closely with CAHMS/Open minds. Waiting lists for support can be long. We encourage our students to make use of www.kooth.com should they need well being support outside of school.

We have teamed up with **Open Minds – Calderdale** to offer a programme of mental health and wellbeing workshops for parents/carers that we hope can build a better understanding of the emotional needs of the young people we work together to support. This is especially prominent in light of the emotional impact that the pandemic can have on children and young people. Sessions are delivered by Specialist Mental Health Practitioner, Kirsty Longbottom.

You will be aware that we have operational CCTV in parts of our school and this continues to be expanded. Our students have told us this helps them to feel safe in school. We have installed CCTV in the shared WC

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communal areas to secure the health and personal safety of all students and to prevent vandalism and damage. We have had some incidents of vandalism and vaping in these areas. All schools are facing these problems. Our students tell us that one of the areas in school where they feel less safe are the W.C. areas. The CCTV roll out will also allow us to invest in making these areas a nicer environment as well as a safer environment. We also want to be able to ensure effective resolution of any concerns or accusations.

Our WC areas are closed off areas by nature of our school building and are not easily supervised by staff. To support our younger students, we have introduced designated key stage WC areas. In addition, to bring us in line with other schools, and as part of our CCTV rollout, we will introduce CCTV on the entrances to the WC and sink areas within to be live in September. We must stress that students' privacy is assured, and that access is restricted to our pastoral and ICT team (all trained in safeguarding) for the viewing of the footage when there has been a reported issue. If there is an issue the footage from these areas will be viewed by a member of staff of the same gender in the first instance. Live footage is not viewed. Signs are displayed to notify all users that CCTV is in operation and the images filmed are held in a secure location that can only be accessed by those who are authorised to do so. Every camera records simultaneously and the images are stored on disc for a period of up to 14 days. After that time all images are erased apart from any which relate to an incident subject to an ongoing investigation. Routine checks are also made to ensure that the system is operating in accordance with the terms of the school's CCTV policy, and that information relating to the recordings are accurate.

Students still have the option to use our easy access single access toilets should they wish, these are not monitored by CCTV, should they wish to adjust a head dress for example.

We, of course, as part of our Personal Development programme educate the students about the dangers of vaping and the impact of vandalism. Vaping is an increasing danger to children in the local area and we are aware that some young people who attend other schools have been hospitalised through vaping. They also often contain extremely high levels of nicotine. I do feel I should point out that behaviour in school is excellent for the vast majority of the time. Furthermore, can you please ensure that students have a pencil case and this is fully stocked including black or blue pens, green pens (we use these for student additions and editing), a ruler, pencils, eraser, mathematics stationary which includes a scientific calculator.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that nose piercings, false eye lashes, less than moderate make up (none in Year 7 and Year 8), false nails are not allowed in school. Footwear should not be trainer shoes and trousers should not be deliberately short (3/4 length). Skirts should not be tight fitting and be of near knee length. Skirts should either a straight black skirt with a small vent at the back for movement, or a plain black skirt with box pleats or a black A line skirt. Please refer to our [uniform policy](#) and ensure that your child has the correct uniform. Good quality, previously loved uniform can be donated and obtained for free from the YMCA in Halifax.

We would also like to point out some useful local services. Unfortunately, we do know that some people live with domestic violence. If you or someone you know requires support, it is freely available from <https://calderdalestayingssafe.org.uk/> or <https://pdap.co.uk/> or <https://bradford-dasv.co.uk/>

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to promote <https://andysmanclub.co.uk/> for any male who needs emotional fitness support.

Thank you for your support in these matters

Yours sincerely

Mr Lee Chesters
Assistant Head - Pastoral