

Parental questionnaire

What does the School do to support students' mental health?

Student well-being is at the forefront of our work. Across the life of the school students are encouraged to lead an active and healthy lifestyle, contributing to positive mental health - with a preventative approach rather than reactive. In recent years, the students' led by the Senior Prefect Team and School Council have organised and led a focused week on Positive Mental Health, which has involved liaising with and inviting into school outside agencies to talk to the student body. We have several visiting speakers who address year groups to highlight issues children may face growing up and advertise specialist organisations and their contact details around school and in the planner for further information and advice.

In addition, particular reference is made to mental health in whole school and section assemblies. Weekly tutorial lessons cover a variety of topics including:

Decision making and consequences; Staying safe online; Time management; Revision & Study Skills and Creating balance; Resilience; Respect; Friends and Friendship; Anti-bullying; Equality & Diversity

A full programme of extra-curricular activity is offered weekly: team sport, non-competitive physical activity and access to the fitness suite; art and crafting activities; music, all of which encourage students to extend their talents and/or find a new interest.

Students are encouraged to talk if they are finding things difficult and this can be to any member of staff. We have very effective learning support advisers, who aid students one-to-one; trained Sixth form mentors who staff a room each lunchtime and we also employ a qualified counsellor who students can arrange a meeting with.

What does the school do to monitor homework?

We have taken on board the comments that some parents made relating to homework, both in terms of the quantity and the timing. This year, we have issued a new Key Stage 3 homework timetable to staff and emphasised its importance in helping students to get a consistent amount of homework, as well as confirming that homework should not be set for Key Stage 3 students over a holiday. We also created a student group to look at the sort of homework tasks that they feel benefit them the most, and we fed these ideas back to our teachers' Raising Standards Forum. The kind of areas that were discussed were the setting of larger homework tasks over a number of weeks versus the value of shorter tasks, the range of tasks that students might face for homework and the ways we can give students an element of choice in homework tasks.

How does the school monitor behaviour on the bus?

Whilst many bus journeys are routine and uneventful we do hear about unacceptable behaviour during travel to and from School. Students are encouraged to report any instances of poor behaviour on their bus, either to their form tutor or to Mrs Buck (Deputy Head). The School encourages students to behave appropriately by sitting in their seats and wearing their seat belts, whilst travelling. This is reinforced by bus prefects who are senior students in the school. We also work closely with the bus providers and our partner schools (who share the

buses) to identify and eradicate poor or unacceptable behaviour. Sanctions are imposed. It is important to all of us that the children travel safely and comfortably on their journeys.

How are concerns from parents dealt with?

School endeavours to respond to parents concerns wherever possible as quickly as possible. Please contact the form tutor or Head of Section in the first instance. We are keen to work together to resolve concerns. If you feel that your concern has not been resolved satisfactorily, then there is a complaints procedure. Copies of the complaints procedure, along with other school policies can be downloaded from the website under the information tab.