

21 July 2016

Dear parents and carers

## **Re: Collective worship, Chapter Time, Mentoring and Pastoral Care**

As we come to the end of any academic year, we take time to reflect with members of the school community about school life.

Moving into the academic year of 2016-17, we are disbanding our “horizontal tutor group” programme. Students will be grouped in a more familial environment as we change to vertical chapter groups. This will have significant benefits for the children and a review of the whole programme has been effected. To help parents and carers to understand more about the vertical chapter group initiative, which is a model used by a great number of schools, please do visit the school website and look under “support and guidance” for more detailed information. The groups will initially comprise a mixture of Year 8-11 students, with Year 7 children joining after the spring term is completed. The groupings and rooms for the groups will be emailed out to students' email accounts in the final week of the summer holidays – this is our usual practice; we will not finalise the groups until later in the summer break.

Our collective worship will continue to be led by a mixture of school staff and outside speakers. Collective worship will take place in year groups, allowing for chapter time staff to spend time with half of the group every week. Every student will have individualised 1:1 mentoring twice a half term in order to support pastoral and academic development. Some of our students are also being trained as peer mentors to offer support to younger and older students alike.

The pastoral care at The King's is something of which we are very proud. Please be reminded that any absences must be reported by 9:15am every morning to Mrs Edwards, Attendance Manager. We require letters / appointment cards for any doctor, dentist or hospital appointments in addition to the phone calls that you may make. Mrs Wilcock will continue to provide pastoral support and advice to students and families when the need arises and she can be contacted by phone via reception, or direct by email on [cwilcock@thekings.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:cwilcock@thekings.staffs.sch.uk); our safeguarding team in school remains unchanged:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss Milne
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Wilcock
- Other members of the safeguarding team: Mrs Verow, Mr Hughes and Mrs Nevard

Please be reminded that chapter time will take place AFTER lesson 2 this year and that lessons start immediately at 8:40am, with statutory registration taking place between 8:40am and 8:45am in



period 1. The attendance policy has been updated to reflect that our governors will only authorise 5 minutes of lateness in a morning to school. This will take effect from 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

Should you have any questions about the pastoral care of students, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes for a peaceful summer,

Sarah Milne

Assistant Headteacher

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