



Pastoral Survey – The Results Are In!

Thank you to everyone that participated in our parent/carer pastoral survey last week. When considering ways to improve our pastoral care of student, it is essential that we reflect on what we do and how we can improve to ensure all children are cared for and nurtured.

As I'm sure you can imagine, there were many similarities between parent/carer responses with children in different years – but also some differences; this was the same when comparing to staff responses. We thought you would like to capture a flavour here, by looking at responses from parents/carers in Year 7, Year 10, the Sixth Form and also staff:

What should a good pastoral system at Chepstow School include?

Parents/Carers of Year 7 identified the following as their top priorities:

1. Caring support for children;
2. Mental health first aid;
3. First point of contact between home and school.

Both Parents/Carers of Year 10 AND the Sixth Form identified the following as their top priorities:

1. Caring support for children;
2. Mental health first aid;
3. Life coaching - support with options, Post-16, careers, etc.

Staff identified the following as their top priorities:

1. Ensuring attendance to school is good Mental health first aid;
2. Reinforcing expectations regarding work, behaviour & uniform;
3. Caring support for children.

What should the role of TUTORs be?

Parents/Carers of Year 7 identified the following as their top priorities:

1. Caring support for children AND first point of contact between home and school;
2. Reinforcing expectations regarding work, behaviour & uniform;
3. Academic mentoring - supporting students to achieve their potential grades.

Parents/Carers of Year 10 identified the following as their top priorities:

1. Caring support for children;
2. Academic mentoring - supporting students to achieve their potential grades;
3. Reinforcing expectations regarding work, behaviour & uniform.



Parents/Carers of Sixth Formers identified the following as their top priorities:

1. Caring support for children;
2. Academic mentoring - supporting students to achieve their potential grades;
3. Life coaching - support with options, Post-16, careers, etc.

Staff identified the following as their top priorities:

1. Reinforcing expectations regarding work, behaviour & uniform;
2. First point of contact between home and school;
3. Caring support for children;

Thinking about the future and how we could improve the structure (how we organise the pastoral system):

- Year 7 parents/carers – would like to combine houses Year 7 to Year 13 with Heads of Houses (HoH);
- Year 10 parents/carers – would like to continue the current system with Heads of Houses (HoH);
- Both staff and parents/carers of Sixth Formers would like to move to year groups with a Head of Year (HoY).

As expected, as well as some positive comments about our current system, there were many ideas for how to improve. We also appreciate that there can be many inconsistencies between houses, year groups and tutors – this is something we wish to eradicate.

“Our experience has been excellent. When my daughter was having a rough time because of some family illness we had great and speedy support from Mrs Back.”

“Mr Robson and Miss Martin are amazing teachers who deserve a lot of praise they are teachers who genuinely care for the wellbeing of their student and are always available to listen and help where possible.”

“Chepstow school provides a safe, caring and supportive environment for children to learn. The staff are very approachable and always available to help.”

“Attendance and Inclusion Manager provides exceptional support for students she works with; Mrs AJ and the amazing support she gives to students and families who are struggling with mental health issues.”

“When students request support, it must be actively dealt with and not just be about tea & sympathy. Teachers need more help to recognise and deal with low level mental health issues & stress. Consistency is needed across staff. More knowledge & consideration is needed by staff and an understanding of how to deal with the issues.”



“Advertise the pastoral system to the children more. Help the children understand why the team is there, exactly who they are. I think there is generally a lack of understanding amongst the children the purpose of the pastoral team.”

“Closer communication with parents.”

“Far more personalised attention for individual students - linking academic progress with career planning; close scrutiny of participation and progress across all aspects of school life. Critically, we would like to be able to believe that Chepstow school will help every student to find what they are good at, will encourage participation and a have-a-go attitude, and will never let a student slip through the system unnoticed.”

We will, of course, keep you updated with all developments over the next few months. In the meantime – here is a handy reckoner for you to cut out and keep on your fridge! Please contact these people in the first instance with any pastoral matter.

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