



Dear Parent/Carer, it has been an exceptionally busy school year! We thought we would take this opportunity to update you on some non-academic events and also provide you with some safeguarding information which we hope you will find useful.



Our students have been acquiring an amazing amount of house points for showing school values, great academic work and extra-curricular achievements. Our house program of activities is up and running, unfortunately however, we still cannot hold our swimming gala. Preparations for 'House Drama' are in full swing! Remember you can buy your house merchandise via the link at our [online shop](#).



Carnegie Award

We were delighted to have been awarded the Carnegie Schools Mental Health Bronze award. This award formally recognises our work creating a culture of mental health awareness, tolerance and acceptance. Work in this area has promoted good behaviour and positive mental health strategies. To achieve the award, we were assessed on: Leadership & Strategy, organisational structure & culture for staff and students, support for staff and students, professional development & learning, working with parents & carers and our work with external services. It is an extremely robust process and the achievement of such a prestigious award is sound recognition for the pastoral support offered in our school.

Goodbye and thank you, Mr O'Connor!

It is with great regret that we say goodbye to Mr O'Connor who has secured a full-time position with England RFU. The opportunity to be involved in rugby full time was too much of a pull for a man obsessed with the sport. Mr O'Connor has served the students of our school for the past 13 years with heart and passion. He has supported countless young people and their parents/carers through the years. We thank him deeply for the work he has done and he will be greatly missed. We have started the recruitment process for a KS4 Pastoral Leader. **GOOD LUCK MR. O'CONNOR!**

Uniform!

It's always great to see our students looking smart in their uniform. Please ensure students have school shoes, not trainers and that trousers and skirts are the required length. Please support us by ensuring your child is dressed accordingly for school as per our [school policy](#).

We have set up second-hand uniform shop in Mr Chesters' office in the pastoral base. We have a selection of items available. Should your child need replacement items they may come to the Pastoral base during social times and purchase what they need. We shall take their name and form and the cost of items purchased will be added to be paid for through Parentpay. All money collected will go towards our student support budget. Prices of items are; Blazers and jumpers £10. All other items are £5 except shirts and sports socks which are £1. Items are bought as seen and cannot be refunded.

Free School Meals

Did you know that if your child qualifies for free school meals, not only can you save hundreds of pounds on lunches per year: the school also receives extra funds to improve school resources/provision. We do not share this information and the money simply gets discretely added to your child's parent pay account each day. See if you qualify by clicking [here](#)

Extra-curricular balance and tiredness

We have noticed that some students are quite tired in school. Some of this may be attributed to staying up late but also students tell us of their extra-curricular activities, which are marvellous! However, some students are reporting spending hours every night of the week doing these activities, with the addition of homework it is leaving some of our students tired during the day and so negatively affecting their schooling. If you have any concerns of this nature, please contact your child's Progress Leader.

Our safeguarding survey: Our students tell us that they feel safe in school, they know who to turn to for support when they need it and they know how to report abuse. **The district wide independent ENHA survey showed that our students on average are happier in school than students in all other Calderdale schools.** Our students also told us that they know that homophobic, sexist, racist, transphobic, faith based negative comments are not banter and that although rarely heard are unacceptable.

Young people and derogatory language

Hearing derogatory language can have a deep effect on a person, especially a young person. Our students have been writing 'say no to hate' speeches during tutorials and are receiving assemblies on the effects of such language and the power we all have in eradicating this from our communities both in school, online and our home communities. We encourage our students to be positive bystanders, to call out hate talk and such language, to enable positive peer pressure to take place to help keep our school a safe, calm and happy place for all members of our school community. It is our similarities not our differences which connect us.

We understand that there are media influences at play and that our young people need to understand the difference. This is taught formally in our Personal Development lessons.

We have seen young people use language online and in chats that does not befit their ordinary character. We ask for parent/carers support in monitoring their child's online behaviour.

Such language is never banter, and is not seen as such in school. If you feel you need support in challenging such language and behaviour at home, please contact your child's Progress Leader.

In school we deal with all reports seriously and treat such hateful language, even if used casually, as Serious Misbehaviour. This will involve a serious sanction but more importantly we will use restorative conversations to educate any perpetrator to minimise the chances of repeat offences and to ensure that life lessons are learned.

SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT CAN BE SOUGHT BY CALLING CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

If the child lives 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/>

Safeguarding Leaders

Our designated safeguarding lead is Mr Chesters and he can be contacted on i.chesters@crossleyheath.org.uk or you can contact your child's Pastoral Leader with any safeguarding concern.

Peer-on-peer abuse is never OK

If you are, or have seen someone, being harassed or abused in person, through messaging, or online, you must report this to a trusted member of staff. This kind of behaviour is never ok, even if it looks like 'banter'. This could include:

- Bullying
- Harassment
- Sexual abuse
- Sharing of inappropriate photos
- Inappropriate comments
- Unwanted touching
- Up-skirting



Online safety

Students are taught about online safety in school. However more and more young people are being allowed unrestricted access to the internet. Social media sites, gaming sites, tik tok videos and youtube are all designed to keep our young people watching and can be very addictive. You may have read about the tragic case of Molly Russell who took her own life aged 14. Her father claimed that social media helped to kill his daughter. It was ruled that the negative effects of online content were a contributing factor in Molly's death, unfortunately adult material can be accessed online by our young people. Social media firms use algorithms that bombard young people with content of a similar nature to something they may have searched for. There is advice available to parents/carers through www.thinkuknow.co.uk A number of parents/carers also use an app such as **google family link** to help limit the time spent online, what apps and level of content can be seen and also set bedtimes.