

NHSG Year 9 Parent Information Evening

Headlines from the presentation given by Head of Year, Mr Davison

Quality Care

Intro:

Slide 2

- I would like to thank you all for the support you have given to your children in both Year 7 and 8. It is clear that the year group have a huge potential and I am looking forward to seeing your daughters taking full advantage of the opportunities available throughout the year.
- Tonight, we shall speak about the pastoral team, the PSHE schedule, reports, the Options process, transition from Y8 into 9 and beyond and the PTA.

Slide 3

- Ms Patterson will be returning in January from maternity leave to retake the form and see them through the year and I would like to publicly offer my thanks to Mrs Yard, who has covered for Ms Patterson in the interim and will step down upon her return.
- The tutor of Venus since Year 7 is Miss Collins and she continues this year. Mars maintain their tutor from last year, Miss Cross Padden, while Jupiter have a new tutor in Ms Faerber, herself an experienced teacher and former pastoral leader.
- Saturn continue with Mr Duncan, and Neptune also have consistency with Mrs Jayaraj.
- Pluto, have a new tutor this year in the shape of a new teacher to Nonsuch but not new to teaching or of being a tutor, Mrs Khan.

REMINDER: If you have any queries or concerns, your child's main form tutor should be your first port of call. It is their form tutor who will see them each day and know them best and who will be able to help. If you have a subject specific issue please contact their subject teacher.

Slide : 4 Pastoral care

- Our aim is to create a safe and happy environment in which your daughters will thrive.
- The heads of year work very closely together, so if I am not around another head of year will be able to help your child.

Slide 5: Key support personnel

- **Ms Osborne**, who your child will know from Year 7, is at present leading the pastoral team and is the final authority on safeguarding issues within the school.
- **Mrs Bond** is the school Special Educational Needs Coordinator and helps arrange extra help for those students who have particular requirements.

- I lead the Year 9 tutors to provide daily support and guidance. We want to work with you to give your child the support they need so please let us know, via the link on the school website or phone the main school office if we need to be aware of any issues or changes in personal circumstances. Collectively we are working together to create dynamic, accepting and extraordinary young people.
- You can now see the other members of the pastoral support we have available to us at school who can work with our students depending on their needs.

Slide 6 Pastoral support

- **Mrs Hicks** is our Pastoral Support Officer and brings to the team many years' worth of experience in supporting young people on the spot with any issue
- **We have an ELSA – an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant – Miss Campbell** who is available to work with students who are feeling stressed or anxious, experiencing body confidence or friendship issues or just need someone more independent to talk to.
- **Ms Mutaseb is our Neurodiversity Mentor** and works with our Neurodivergent students on a 1-2-1 basis.
- We are fortunate to have a **school counsellor** who meets students who need more pastoral support. **Ms Weaver** is in school 4 days a week and is new to the school but comes with plenty of experience of supporting young people.
- **Welcome Ms Vargas-Clara– the new Child Wellbeing Practitioner** We– to the school. Ms Vargas-Clara will offer rapid access to guided self-help interventions, which is a structured set of sessions based on the principles of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). This type of therapy can be effective in dealing with difficulties with worry or low mood and exam stress.
- Additionally, we have a **school nurse in Ms Idowu** who is available for drop-in sessions on Tuesday mornings. She is able to see students about both physical health and emotional health issues.

Slide 7: Social Media

Social media's growing influence in our lives, especially among millennials, has raised concerns about the impact it has on young people. With reports of excessive screen time and stories of negative consequences, such as high-profile dismissals and embarrassing incidents due to social media posts, it is crucial for parents to be aware of their children's online activities. Engaging in open conversations about the apps they use and the content they post, along with implementing controls on screen time, can help prevent harmful behaviour. Encouraging young people to pause and consider the impact of their online actions can protect them from making regrettable decisions

Slide 28: PSHE/RSE Curriculum

- At Nonsuch, it is called 'PSHE'- Physical, Social and Health Education which also incorporates a half term of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

- This year, as always, we have put together a very comprehensive and wide-reaching PSHE programme to provide lots of information and support for your child's well-being.
- We are guided by the PSHE Association when we put the scheme together and so far we have covered transition from Y8 to Y9 and What it means to be a good citizen, which involved a significant amount of planning to design a stall in order to raise money for our chosen international charity, which took place two weeks ago. I am sure your child would have mentioned this at some point and the Year 9 cohort did exceptionally well this year, raising over £2600. The money will go towards building a new water tower to improve the lives of the students in the Kipkelion region in Kenya.
- After half term we shall be looking at the Options process, as Ms Wright detailed before me, then RSE which covers Sexually Transmitted Infections, Consent and the law. A letter will be sent to you nearer the time, as per the government guidelines, to let you know more details. The summer term sees the students looking at Personal Safety and Mental and Physical Health.

Slide 29: Reporting System

- Through the year you will receive two data reports and be invited to a Parent Teacher Consultation Evening (previously called Parents' Evening).
- The first data report has just been sent out and next event is the Parent Teacher Consultation Evening on the evening of Tuesday January 14th and afternoon of Wednesday 15th.
- The second data report will be later in July. The Year 9s will have a brief assessment period in May in which will allow them and their teachers going into Y10, to be informed about how they are doing in the various subjects.

Slide 30: Activities week

- In the summer term we shall have our annual Activities Week where students will be off timetable and be able to participate from a wide range of activities. A letter will be sent to you with further details once the events are finalised. Just like last year, bookings for these will be on Evolve.
- We also encourage students to join in a club or society that runs around school to foster the soft skills I mentioned earlier, and also make new friends they would otherwise not meet. For the list of clubs available, follow the link on the school website.

Slide 31: Study skills section

- It is a challenge to find the right method that works for you and students will do what they think is right and what feels right, but does not necessarily work effectively. Just because they are spending lots of time at a desk with books, a tablet, various coloured pens and beautiful-looking notes, it does not mean the information is going in. The key is to be organised. Start early, and do little bits but often. Anyone who plays a musical instrument or sport will know double the time practising tomorrow does not make up for missing a session yesterday.

- Encourage your daughter to find a study style that suits them, one which actually works. Perhaps the most effective way is to ask for help.
- Our teachers are approachable and will always offer advice to those who seek it. Above all, remind them to stay positive, especially in the face of adversity.
- Allow them to build resilience by trying their best to reach their goal. We know that everyone has their favourite subjects and ones they find less appealing. This means they are going to find it harder to sit down and revise for it, exacerbated if they have decided to drop it for next year.
- The important thing is to realise everything is possible, continuous effort has long term rewards and no hurdle is too high when you seek the right kind of help.

Transition year 9 into 10

- Stepping up into Y10 is an exciting and important time.
 - Next year, GCSE content will begin after all the foundation work is put in this year across all the subjects. Of course, they have to select some subjects they will not study again. However, the teachers will continue to offer the same high-quality lessons and support even if they halt their education in that subject, as they will still gain valuable evaluation, communication and analysis skills that they can use in their chosen subjects.
 - In order to support your daughter this year, we shall have clear communication of deadlines, expectations and requirements; strong pastoral support, as laid out earlier; mentoring programmes for those students who need some extra guidance; bespoke feedback from teachers on their assessments; an encouragement to join the plethora of clubs and societies in school as it is not all about academia, but rather a balanced approach to life; and finally, parental involvement to foster a close partnership between you and the school with a focus on your daughter and her progression.
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- This year more than ever we are:
 - Reminding students to remain ambitious.
 - Reminding students they are resilient.
 - That learning is joyful.
 - More importantly, we need to remember the brilliant things your child has done and continues to do.