

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will be aware, there have been a number of changes this academic year as we continue our relentless drive towards the highest standards to ensure the best possible outcomes for all of our students. One system that has come under review, following feedback from students, staff and parents, is the structure of our pastoral care.

In 2010, after much research, Kingsthorpe College moved to a vertical tutoring system. This meant that students were placed in tutor groups with students from each year group represented. The system has had many positive results for students and there have been some examples of outstanding success. However, having listened to the views of our students, staff, parents, and governors, we now feel that the needs and progress of all of our students will be more appropriately met through a horizontal tutoring system. This means that students will be in tutor groups with students from the same year group only. We will be adopting this system from September 2017.

We appreciate that this change may cause concern for some students and there will, of course, be support for those who require it. However, our internal feedback was overwhelmingly in favour of a move to the horizontal system. We strongly feel that for the students in our school, this system will allow us to effectively enhance the pastoral care for all of our young people, and will also further improve home-school communication - all of which will result in improved progress and outcomes in their broadest sense. The benefits of peer mentoring and the house system which typified the vertical tutoring system will not be lost, and the College is now in a strong position to select the best qualities of both systems and apply them to our day-to-day practice.

The Achievement Directors and Pastoral Managers leading the year groups from September 2017 will be:

Year 7: Achievement Director, Mr Butlin and Pastoral Manager, Mrs Ford

Year 8: Achievement Director, Mr Hill and Pastoral Manager, Mrs VanGeijlswijk

Year 9: Achievement Director, Mr Smith and Pastoral Manager, Mr Baron

Year 10: Achievement Director, Mrs Watts and Pastoral Manager, Mrs Patel

Year 11: Achievement Director, Miss Old and Pastoral Manager, Mr Heffernan

Students will be made aware of their form tutors for September the week beginning 10th July.

A move to the horizontal system has further benefits and I have only alluded to some within this letter. For further information, please see the 'Horizontal Tutoring' document which is on the College's website, but also attached to this letter.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact your son or daughter's form tutor in the first instance should you wish to discuss this further.

Yours faithfully,

Jennie Giovanelli
Headteacher