

How We Support Our Young People

Following our positive Ofsted report, we have been reviewing our offer and making plans to build on this for the next academic year. Our offer is named **DICE (Developmental and Inclusive Centre of Excellence)** and is based upon the key strands of a young person's wider education – behaviour, attendance, wellbeing, welfare and any additional or special education needs.

This is offered at four levels:

- ✓ **Universal (for all)**
- ✓ **Additional (for any emerging needs)**
- ✓ **Targeted (for known needs)**
- ✓ **Specialist (when we require the input of external services)**

The model works well across all areas of the school, with all staff contributing at the various levels, and ensures that we support students as fully as possible.

In a recent meeting with key professionals from Surrey, we discussed our DICE Model, our Special Educational Needs provision and how we can develop these areas for the next academic year. We had input from:

- the [Learners' Single Point of Access](#)
- an [Educational Psychologist from Surrey County Council](#)
- the [Surrey Youth Offending Service \(YOS\)](#)
- [Specialist Teachers for Inclusive Practice \(STIPS\)](#)
- the [Speech and Language Service](#)
- a [Locality Early Help Advisor](#) and
- the [Mental Health Support Team \(MHST\)](#)

We already work with a range of these services and have implemented plans to work with a wider range from September to utilise the skills of these professionals and build upon our already strong offer.

We have prioritised **Mental Support** due to the ongoing impact post-pandemic, and recognise the effort of our young people despite their struggles. In addition to the structured and positive pastoral systems we already have in place, we also work with the **School Nursing Team**, and local specialist services for bereavement support. We have an **Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)** who runs 1:2:1 and group sessions to support difficulties regarding friendships, anxiety and exam stress. We have worked with the [YMCA Team](#) to support students in school with 1:2:1 and group sessions and to refer to linked external services such as **Heads Together** and **WAVES**. We have a trained [Relate Counsellor](#) for one day a week this year and will be expanding this to two days from September 2023. We have received input from our **Locality Early Help Advisor** to seek support and signposting for our young people and families who have

found managing school challenging. Plans are also already in place for our Year 7s to attend workshops with the **Mental Health Support Team** as part of the next year's Excellence Programme. For the last four years, [Sparkfish](#) (a local charity) has chosen to work with us, again for 1:2:1 and group work which has included **Drawing and Talking**. This therapy is a hugely beneficial alternative to Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and has been of utmost value to our students. **Forest School** is a growing intervention and thoroughly enjoyed by Year 7s; plans to train additional staff and broaden this intervention are underway.

Our priorities for next year will be to work with Woodfield School, who will be joining us on site with six new students, and utilise their expertise regarding **Relational Practice**. We know relationships matter and want to further upskill our staff in this area. It is based upon flexibility, adaptability and willingness, and will be as important for staff as well as students to guide and support them in building resilience regarding their academic, social and emotional needs. Development of this work, alongside the invaluable support from Surrey's experts, will ensure we offer as much as we can to our students, and that it is of the best possible quality.

