

Pastoral Newsletter



Autumn Term 2 2024

SAFEGUARDING

Please note details of our Safeguarding team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

Mr Micheal Keeley

(mkeeley@morehousemail.org.uk)

Deputy DSL: Ms Paulette Monteiro

(pmonteiro@morehousemail.org.uk)

Deputy DSL: Ms Claire Phelps

(cphelps@morehousemail.org.uk)

Please contact one of the staff listed above if you have any safeguarding concerns. In an emergency, please use of the following number:

Emergency Safeguarding Tel: 07393 392745

ONLINE TUTORS - SAFE PRACTICE

The concept of an extra-curricular tutor is not a new one. Families have often sought to complement school hours with specialist tutelage to give additional support to their children. Up until a decade or so ago, this activity took place within the home. The image of the tutor hunched over a kitchen table going through maths problems with a child was not far from the truth. The internet, despite its issues, has connected the world and has allowed tutoring to move into the online world. Language tutors can now be acquired from the countries in which those languages are spoken, for example. PhD candidates can now be contacted for e-learning, and in general the world of personal tutelage has been accelerated in ease of access and quality. The COVID era contributed to the formation of a more sophisticated tutoring industry. Now there are specialised companies, open forums and sites laid out essentially in the same style of antiquated dating sites. E-Learning across this tumultuous period became normalised, and now the image of

the webcam tutor operating via direct link to a child's bedroom is predominant. But therein lies an issue, since it opens a vulnerability window where one did not previously exist. The London Grid for Learning (LGfL) has published guidance, to help treat this issue. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://viewonline.lgfl.net/hubfs/SafeguardED/Posters/LGfL-SafeguardED-safe-online-tutoring.pdf>

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH - ANXIETY

It is not at all uncommon for young people to experience anxiety at some point during their adolescence. This may be for all sorts of reasons but, commonly, may be linked to friendships or examinations.

At More House we take a proactive and preventative approach to providing pupils with the tools to cope with the challenges they may face in or out of School, whether through the assembly programme, PSHE curriculum, visiting professionals or pupil-led initiatives. We also provide support for our pupils where a need is identified through mechanisms including the form tutor, pastoral team, School counsellor or indeed outside agencies. [Youngminds](#) is an organisation which sets out to raise awareness of mental health in young people. It is a fantastic source of information, advice and support for young people and parents alike.

NEW COUNSELLOR

We welcome Flossie Fairbairn to the School as our new counsellor. Flossie has extensive experience working with children and young people with a wide range of needs in community services and schools. Flossie is registered with the Health and Care Professions Council and is a member of the British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies. She continues to be a member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. Flossie's extensive experience supports her holistic approach when working with individuals with both emotional and communication needs.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 11 - 15 November

We will be marking national Anti-Bullying week with special assemblies and classes.

There are many organisations that raise awareness of this issue and promote healthy relationships, which are an excellent source of advice and information. These include:

[Anti-Bullying Alliance](#)

[Barnardo.s](#)

[Kidscape](#)

At More House, we have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to bullying of all types, including online bullying. You can find our Anti-Bullying Strategy on the School website [here](#).

PARENTING COURSES

Being a parent or carer has never been easy! [Family Lives](#) has produced a series of online parenting courses to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link. It also offers a confidential and helpline service for families (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development.

For some children, attending school every day will be harder than for others. This is why schools, and local authorities in some cases, are committed to working together with families to solve problems and support your child's school attendance.

If your child is finding attending school difficult, is feeling anxious about attending school, or needs help to access their education, speak to the school,

arrange to meet to discuss reasonable adjustments and the support available for your child.

What are parents' responsibilities for their child's attendance?

As a parent, you are legally responsible for making sure your child gets a suitable fulltime education, usually from the age of 5 to 16.

For most parents, this will mean making sure your child is in school every day except when:

- Your child is too ill to go to school.
- You have permission for a leave of absence. **You should only ask for this in exceptional circumstances.**
- Your religious body has a day especially for religious observance.

If my child needs to be absent from school, what do I need to do?

You should contact the school **before 8.25am** or **as early as possible** on the first day of absence, and each subsequent day, to explain the reason for their absence. If no contact is made, the school will contact you to find out why your child is not in school.

You can request a 'leave of absence' for your child which gives your child permission to be absent from school. After receiving your request, the school has the final say over whether to approve the request and for how long your child can be absent.

All absence and leave request should be emailed to absent@morehousemail.org.uk

Do I need to provide medical evidence to support my child's illness related absence?

If your child is too ill to attend school, the school must record these absences as authorised. In the majority of cases medical evidence is not needed, but schools may ask you for evidence where:

- Your child is regularly absent because of illness, to assess how they can help your child by putting the right reasonable adjustments in place.

- In a small number of cases where they have reason to believe your child was not too ill to attend and a conversation cannot resolve the issue.

If you are asked to provide evidence this does not need to be a letter from your doctor or consultant, and doctors will not usually provide such letters. It can, instead, be appointment cards, prescriptions, or notes of previous consultations.

What should I do if my child needs a dental or medical appointment in school time?

To avoid disruption to your child's attendance, medical and dental appointments should not be booked during the school day whenever reasonably possible. When they are, you should contact the school in advance and collect them as close to the time of the appointment as possible and return them to school for the rest of the school day afterwards.

PHSE and RSE

Here are the PSHE and RSE topics each year group will be exploring during the second part of the Autumn Term:

Pre-senior: Health and Wellbeing

Year 7: Celebrating Diversity and Equality

Year 8: Celebrating Diversity and Equality

Year 9: Health and Wellbeing

Year 10: Celebrating Diversity and Equality

Year 11: Health and Wellbeing

Year 12: Bullying, Abuse & Discrimination

Year 13: Forming Respectful Relationships

SAVE THE DATE

- 27/11/2024, 6.00pm-6.40pm
Internet Safety for Parents & Carers at
More House (online)
Teams meeting ID: 383 228 818 421
Passcode: Lxcz7X