



COVID RESPONSE

It is so good to have our students back in school. Staff in schools go into the profession of teaching because they enjoy serving young people and seeing them every day. We have missed them all. During the Covid period the welfare team made over 2000 specific welfare calls and home visits. Food parcels were delivered home, and special arrangements were made for those students who were struggling with Lockdown. Thank you to all our parents who worked with us at this time to keep our children safe.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING AT HOLYROOD

We take safeguarding matters very seriously at Holyrood. This academic year we started with a full day Inset for all staff, focusing on key areas:

The basics: Staff revisited what constitutes physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect, female genital mutilation and the prevent strategy which focuses on extremism. Discussion focused on what to look out for as a member of staff and what to do if you suspect something is wrong.

Bullying and peer on peer abuse: Staff re-visited peer-on-peer abuse, the bullying policy and how to support a student who is a victim or a perpetrator. They addressed how to report and record bullying and what constitutes hate crime with regards to racism and homophobia.

Early Help Strategy: Staff worked in depth on the different levels of support offered in the Early Help Strategy, what constitutes a Children Social Care referral or the Family Intervention Service, and how to support key staff to help trigger these services.

The SEN graduated response: This session refreshed staff's knowledge of the interventions we have in school and with outside agencies, to support our

students who have any kind of learning need, including those who have issues around their emotional health and wellbeing, and mental health issues.

Contextual safeguarding: Staff considered what external factors may have significant influence on the wellbeing and safety of the children in our care. They explored how a child's friends and associates, the places they hang out, the social media they use can be difficult for caring adults to keep a track of and influence. We worked on how these influences can be monitored and understood, in order to safeguard. Staff discussed the potential for criminal exploitation and grooming in certain types of contextual and environmental settings.

Esafety policy: In light of the significant increase in our media profile during the COVID period with on line lessons, some video lessons and online email communications, we revisited how to keep both children safe and how to maintain transparent and professional relationships at all times.

CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING WITH THE POLICE

Holyrood Academy will be facilitating and meeting with the police, town councillors and a group of our students to discuss which parts of Chard present a risk to young people. We will discuss how these risks can be addressed or avoided and how to keep our young people safe in our town.

YOUNIQUE

Younique will be running once a fortnight during a lunchtime for any student interested in celebrating diversity. At this time students will be working towards a key event, yet to be decided, at the end of the Summer term. Anybody can attend this club - the more the merrier (social distancing allowing!).



SHARING GOOD PRACTICE

Holyrood Academy is hosting a meeting between the designated safeguarding officers and the safeguarding governors from the 4 schools from the Uffculme Trust this term. At this time we will share good practice and look at how governors can best work as 'critical friends' to challenge and support safeguarding practice in schools to ensure they are the best that they can be.

WELLBEING OFFICERS

Visitors must ensure that any information or issue relating to child Protection is reported to the school. This includes students at risk of radicalisation or sexual exploitation.

If you have any safeguarding concerns about anybody in the Academy, please contact one of these members of staff.

WELLBEING OFFICERS

Introducing our wonderful wellbeing officers: we have Mrs Akerman, who will be leading on mental wellbeing, Mrs Haynes leading on Safeguarding issues and Mrs Down as additional support for those children who are in receipt of free school meals. These staff will work closely with students, tutors, year leaders and parents to offer targeted support to those who need it.



SECURITY & INFORMATION

All visitors must sign in at either the Lower Site or Upper Site Reception, depending on which member of staff or department they are visiting. Visitors will be issued with a visitors pass which must be worn at all times. The pass must be returned to the relevant Reception before leaving the premises. You must stay within the areas of the Academy to which your access has been authorised. If you wish to have a tour of the Academy please ask at Reception.

Please do not take photographs or recordings of students, or use your mobile phone during lessons or while working with students.

Please keep your belongings with you at all times.

Fire & Evacuation

Upon hearing the fire alarm, which is a constant ringing bell, exit the building via the nearest fire exit. Make your way to the Turning Circle if you are on the Upper Site or the Playground on the Lower Site. Do not re-enter the building until advised to do so by a member of the Academy staff.

Toilets

You are only permitted to use toilets designated as staff toilets. Please ask your host or Reception if you need directions.

Smoking Smoking is prohibited within the Academy site.