



STUDENT SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

We are proud to be an inclusive school and providing support for students is at the heart of our ethos as a school. We work to provide this support in numerous ways, including our face-to-face work, and remote support for a small number of students who attend part time Alternative Provision programmes.

Our Student Support team is expertly led by Julie Tooth, our Inclusion Manager and has 4, well qualified Pastoral Support Assistants. Our Student Support Team is a vital part of our wider Guidance Team which also includes Learning Support, Our Learning Hub, Achievement Leader Team and our Pastoral Support Administrator. Our Pastoral Support Assistants link to specific year groups in school and work alongside the Achievement Leader for the year group to ensure that all students are making good progress, and implement appropriate interventions where this is not the case. The Pastoral Support Assistant and Achievement Leader work collaboratively with the Form Tutor and other professionals to remove barriers and help student achieve their potential. Our Pastoral Support Assistants are all Level 2 Safeguarding trained and work alongside the safeguarding team to provide day to day support and monitoring for some of our vulnerable students. Our Pastoral Support Assistants also lead or support in key areas of wider professional development for students.

These include leading our school Diversity group, monitoring of online safety and supporting in the organisation of events and opportunities such as the Year 11 prom. Opportunities for ongoing training and CPD are plentiful.

Our Student Support team are fortunate to work closely with a range of professional agencies and specialists to further enhance our provision for students. These include:

- CAMHS – our Inclusion Manager meets monthly with our link CAMHS worker
- School Counsellor – Sarah Terry provides two days per week support working with individuals
- Lichfield mentors – we have a number of mentors who work closely with our team to provide one to one mentoring for students.
- Local PCSOs
- Family support workers

Promoting wellbeing for all is a key priority at King Edward VI School. We recently achieved the 'Wellbeing Award for Schools.' This is a national scheme designed to promote positive social and emotional wellbeing for the whole school community and the work of our Student Support team is essential to this achievement.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PASTORAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT AT KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL

Two days are never the same. You never know what the day will bring! When the students arrive to school there will be a flurry of activity in the student support house - whether it be to borrow uniform, to calm anxieties before going into registration/assembly or lessons, or support students as they off load about something that happened last night. We attend assemblies for our year group, and are on a rota for supervising our isolation room where we have the opportunity to support the reflection of students to avoid repeat behaviours. We attend lesson support requests, respond to emails from parents and meet with students. Spontaneity is key to this role as well as multi-tasking - good communication skills, empathy and a good sense of humour.

Mental health and wellbeing affects some of our students and supporting them through their school day is a major and rewarding part of the role. We meet formally fortnightly with Achievement Leaders to discuss our allocated year group, although we catch up informally more regularly. We attend parental meetings and signpost students to other services such as mentors/school nurse/counsellors. We are a key part of the wider safeguarding team.

We are on hand to investigate any incidents that happen. This includes collecting student accounts, feeding back to parents and carers and providing necessary information to the Guidance Team to support decisions with next steps.

Break and lunch times are a particularly busy time in the house - students wanting to check in - have five minutes peace or reassurance to get them through their day.

At the end of the day the Pastoral Support Assistants are on a rota to support with the supervision of After School detentions. We also catch up with phone calls, record outcomes of any meetings and importantly attend a team debrief with the Inclusion Manager so that we can have the opportunity to discuss any students, share strategies and advice and importantly check in with and provide support for each other.

This is an exciting time to join King Edward VI School. Our recent Ofsted report stated, *"This is a school of many pupils where the focus is the individual child. Staff get to know the pupils well and all are welcome and included."*