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## **Meet Your Peer Mentors**

2017/2018



bradfordgrammar.com

#### A message from our Counsellor Jo Rutter

I am thrilled to be the School's first full-time School Counsellor. It is an exciting time for me. It is a challenge that I feel privileged to be given and a responsibility I will not take lightly. I am very impressed at the quality of pastoral care at BGS and so happy to join the team.

My role at BGS includes running the Sixth Form Mentor Scheme. This year they have been trained by Restorative Justice 4 Schools and their training included "listening and signposting" skills and "conflict resolution". They are now trained to help pupils with friendship problems who may have had a fall out or disagreement.

#### The mentors:

- Provide a drop-in service Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in the Library from 12.30pm until 1.30pm
- They welcome pupils to call in for a hot chocolate, biscuit and a chat to find out more about what they do (You don't have to have a problem to call in)
- They can help pupils with any minor problems or difficulties in school, e.g. homework issues, time management and exam preparation
- They have also been trained in resolving low level conflict, and can help pupils sort out friendship problems and fall outs by conducting a "restorative chat"
- They can be "paired" with younger pupils who feel they would like to meet regularly with an older role model to help and support them in school during break or lunchtime.

\*We are also exploring the possibility of linking mentors with each of the forms in Year 7.

Pupils can self refer via the "drop in" or can contact the counsellor direct if they wish to be linked with a mentor. Parents and teachers are also welcome to refer any pupils that might want to be paired.

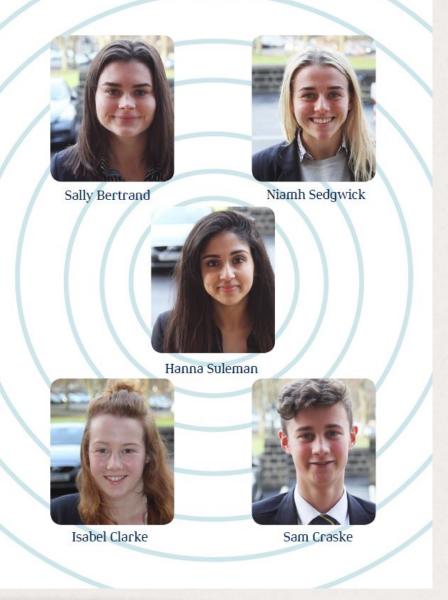
By overseeing the programme I will be available to support the mentors with any difficulties they may encounter. Their training covered

confidentiality and safeguarding and they are aware that if a pupil is in danger then information must be shared with pastoral staff immediately.

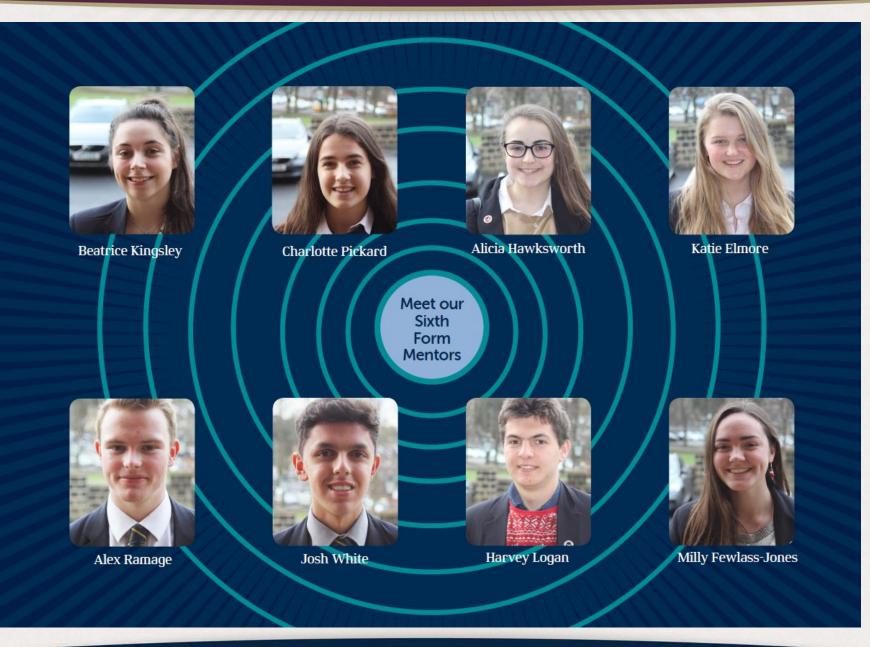
If you want to know more about the Peer Mentor Programme or my counselling role in school please do not hesitate to get in touch. Jo Rutter 07976 985591 or <u>Jrutter@bradfordgrammar.com</u>.

I also have a letterbox underneath my notice board outside the nurses room.









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### What is our role in School?

• We provide a drop in service Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in the Library from 12.30pm until 1.30 pm

• We welcome pupils to call in for a hot chocolate, biscuit and a chat to find out more about what we do

• You don't have to have a problem to drop in, you may just want some company and to talk

• We can assist pupils with any minor problems or difficulties in school, eg. Homework issues, time management and exam preparation



### What is our role in School?

- We can advise you where to get help with anything more serious
- We have also been trained in resolving low level conflict and can help pupils sort out friendship problems and fall outs by conducting a restorative chat.
- We can be paired with younger pupils who feel they would like to meet regularly with an older role model to help and support them in school during break or lunch time.
- We are also exploring the possibility of being linked with all the forms in Year 7



#### What is a restorative chat?

- Bringing people together to resolve conflict
- What happened?
- How were you thinking and feeling?
- Who has been harmed?
- What needs to happen to put things right?
- Plan how to move forwards in a positive way



# Confidentiality

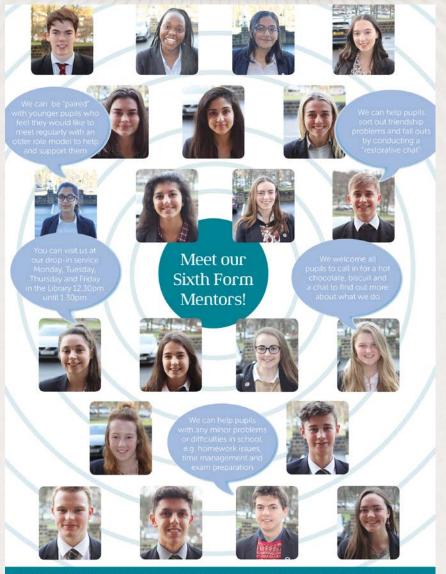
- You can talk to us in confidence with certain exceptions.
- We can't keep bad secrets, and would have to tell a member of staff if you were in danger or at risk of harm.



#### How to refer in

- Pupils can refer themselves via the drop in
- Pupils can contact the counsellor first if they wish to be paired with a mentor
- Parents and teachers can also refer via the counsellor on your behalf
- You may wish to become a peer mentor yourself in the future

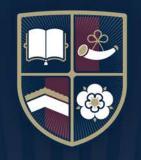




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#### Our ethos At ease We make it theirs with excellence