

Moving up to Angmering - Issue 6

Friendships and Fallouts

One of the key areas of concern for parents is friendships and fallouts. In this newsletter, we have included some additional information about how we encourage new friendships, and some information on restorative justice from Mr Whatford, Deputy Head on how we support students when they have difficulties.



Encouraging new friendships

Although we know that some friendships start in primary school and progress into secondary, we also know that many people find their life long friends at secondary school. This is often due to shared interests and activities as there tends to be more freedom to explore and express individuality as students grow and develop over their time here. The first way we encourage new friendships is through our tutor groups. Each tutor group has a minimum of 7 feeder schools linked into it and this encourages people to talk to new people with the support of their tutor.

We also have a huge variety of lunchtime and after school clubs that we offer to all year groups. We encourage all students to try as many clubs as they can as each one will include new students that they can meet. We are also aware that some students find making friendships more difficult. In these circumstances, Miss Pegden will look to bring together students at different points in the week to support and encourage positive social experiences. If you have any concerns about friendships, we suggest that you contact your child's form tutor in the first instance and then Miss Pegden who can support your child further.

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An overview of restorative justice at The Angmering School - Mr Gooding

As a school, we believe in restorative justice. This is a central part of our behaviour policy because we feel that all young people need the opportunity to accept responsibility, learn from their mistakes and work alongside key staff in order to repair any harm in order to restore relationships. A key person in this process is Ms McCabe who, as our lead Student Support Officer, coordinates all restorative justice interventions and meetings. She works with students, staff and families to complete the restorative circle and enable our students to have closure and move on where there is any conflict or damage to relationships.

We have also trained a wider group of staff within the pastoral and teaching teams to facilitate these meetings. The restorative process is used for anything from minor arguments to more significant incidents, where it is used alongside other consequences in the behaviour system. We also work closely with our Youth Officer for the area, PC Sibun, and he sometimes joins these meetings to build closer ties with our students so that we are all working collaboratively and with the same goal - to help our students to be empathic and to accept responsibility and learn from their experiences so that any further harm or damage to relationships can be avoided.



Mr Gooding
Behaviour Lead



Ms McCabe
Lead Student Support Officer



What can you expect from the restorative justice process?

Sometimes our friendships breakdown, we fall out with someone or maybe do things that in the future we may regret. At the Angmering School we understand that things don't always go as planned, which is why we have a strong focus on Restorative Justice. This process looks at how our actions affect other people and how we can learn from our mistakes.

We may ask you how you are feeling, and talk about emotions, which is really important as it helps other people understand the impact of their actions. We will also speak to the other people involved as it is really important for everyone to feel listened to and this will help restore the friendship moving forward. After we have spoken to everyone, we will sit down together and discuss what has happened, and share how we feel with each other. In the future, we may need to change how we act or the words we use towards one another. We will then work together to find a solution, and make sure we learn from the experience.