



All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy

The Aquinas Catholic Academy Trust

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Vertical Tutoring to Horizontal Tutoring – Academic Year 2018-19

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I am writing to inform you about a change to the structure of pastoral system at All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy for the upcoming year. The school currently has a Vertical Tutoring system, where students from Year 7 to 11 are housed together within an individual tutor group. Next year the school will be introducing a Horizontal Tutoring system, where students are in a tutor group with students solely from their own year group. We feel as a school that this change will enable students to have better quality, differentiated support within tutor time and the change in structure will allow students to have provision that better meets their personal, social, spiritual, emotional and academic needs. On the school website there is an overview of the reasons why All Saints' has chosen to adapt the pastoral tutoring structure and an outline of what the changes will mean on a day-to-day basis for our students. It is important to note that Sixth Form students in Years 12 and 13 will not be affected by the change in pastoral system and their tutor provision will remain unchanged.

The changes outlined in the school website communication have been very carefully considered and stem from a desire to improve our already strong pastoral provision that was highly commended only last calendar year by OFSTED inspectors. Horizontal tutoring will mean a restructuring of how tutors, pastoral leaders, the Senior Leadership Team and support staff are utilised during tutor time to enhance the quality and relevance of provision for students in the modern school environment.

Vertical tutoring has worked well for All Saints' in recent years but a range of reasons have resulted in a need for the school to review the current pastoral provision and investigate ways in which we can give our students the best possible deal in keeping with the ethos of providing the best education and care we can for all members of our Living Faith community. I hope that after having read the information on the school website, you will see how the changes, starting next academic year, will improve the quality of support your child receives even further. I must stress that the current House system will still be an important part of the new Horizontal Tutoring system, which will work alongside the organisation of our students into year based tutor groups.

If you have any questions regarding the changes to a Horizontal Tutoring system, which are not addressed by the information on the school website, then please feel free to contact your child's tutor, Head of House or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. May I express my gratitude in advance for your reading of this information and your continued support for the school, which helps make All Saints' a fantastic learning community.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Hutchinson

Assistant Head Teacher (Care, Guidance and Support)

*"The **outstanding** curriculum provides a **memorable** and **varied** learning experience for students of **all** ages and abilities "*

OFSTED March 2012

Vertical Tutoring to Horizontal Tutoring – Academic Year 2018-19

This document will address frequently asked questions regarding the shift from Vertical to Horizontal tutoring and the rationale behind the structural changes. This information relates to the letter sent via Insight to all parents on June 29th 2018 in relation to the Horizontal pastoral system being utilised at All Saints’ for the 2017-18 academic year.

<p>What is Horizontal Tutoring?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is where all tutor groups will be made up of students from the same year group. • This differs from the current structure where each tutor group consists of a number of students from each year group. • The Sixth Form will continue to use tutor groups organised with a subject themed focus.
<p>Why have All Saints’ changed to Horizontal Tutoring?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will benefit from sharing experiences with children of their own age. There will be numerous opportunities for students to continue their social mixing with other year groups and build on the experiences that the house system and Vertical Tutoring provided. • There will be more ‘year’ focused tutor time which is invaluable at key points during the year. Messages, activities and sessions will be directed to meet the needs of one-year group and not five within one form. • It is easier to provide differentiated and targeted support to meet the needs of different year groups with a horizontal system as students are with others who have a similar focus within school. • The Vertical Tutoring system does not currently support progress effectively enough, particularly for Key Stage 3 students as tutor groups lack an assistant tutor who can help differentiate resources for younger students. This is due to budget and staffing cuts that All Saints’, along with the majority of local schools, have faced in recent years. • It will be much easier for a Year Progress Leader (YPL) to monitor and evaluate progress and provide targeted student support across one-year group compared to five currently. • Similar to the monitoring of progress, YPL’s and pastoral teams will be able to ensure greater consistency in the monitoring of rewards and sanctions. • All Saints’ is expecting another year with maximum Year 7 intake and over the next few years, entry intake will be increasing nationally, so we need a system which avoids staff and student saturation in the long term. • A horizontal system will reduce disruption to tutor groups, from a logistical, day to day point of view. Tutors are currently trying to keep track of students in different year groups including Key Stage 4 students, who often experience disruption to the continuity of their pastoral care due to additional academic interventions. • A horizontal system would support Year 7 students’ transition and provide a greater network of students that the pupils can meet and feel comfortable with, reducing the number of student and parent concerns raised. • Tutors will be able to focus their efforts towards one-year group; this will aid communication across the school and supports the tutor’s delivery of sessions. For example, Year 7 will not have to listen to Year 11 revision announcements and

	<p>examinations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive peer influences are facilitated through weekly times for peer mentoring and participation in whole school groups. • Academic mentoring can be done in a timelier fashion.
<p>How will Horizontal Tutoring work next academic year?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of Houses will now be known as Year Progress Leaders (YPL). • There will be a YPL for each year group from 7-11. • Apart from Year 7, the proposal is for the YPL and tutors to move through school with each year group to maintain working relationships with students and create consistency. • The proposal is for five year groups with seven forms in each (compared with six in the previous system) with one form tutor assigned to each form. • The house system would be maintained with a mix of all 4 houses in a form. This would be useful for events like sports day and to keep targeted house assemblies to discuss cross-year issues e.g. Student council agenda • YPL's will be responsible for maintaining consistent standards of pastoral care, conduct, attendance across the year group. • Each year group will have an Assistant Year Progress Leader (AYPL). This role was previously known as a House Achievement Co-ordinator. • The chief roles for AYPL's are the organisation of year and house events and competitions, promotion and monitoring of rewards, co-ordinating roles such as the Year captains and supporting the work of the YPL's. • Each year group will have a Senior Leadership Team member attached to it. The SLT member will support with the quality assurance of pastoral activities, mentor students and act as a champion for the needs and provision for the year group to which they are attached.
<p>How would a tutor time week look in the Horizontal Tutoring system?</p>	<p>The pastoral week will continue to consist of -:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly assembly. This will be delivered in year groups primarily and will allow assembly time to be tailored to the specific issues affecting each year group. This will include house assemblies on whole-school themes e.g. charity work, student council, school captains along with house competitions focusing on a range of subject-based and pastoral themes. • Collective Worship will occur on a weekly basis. • Friday Mass will be protected as a key aspect in the life of the school. • Weekly focus on expectations and celebrating student successes (e.g. rewarding students for excellent achievement, behaviour, attendance, following the All Saints' Way and representing the school positively). • PSHE activities to cover the essential aspects of the National Curriculum and issues relevant to our school context (e.g. British values, cyber safety). The activities will be delivered in blocks throughout the year with specified programmes for each year group. <p>The pastoral week will also have time allocated throughout the year (with the flexibility to change as needed) dedicated to -:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging students to support those in other year groups through activities such as peer mentoring, literacy and numeracy one-to-one support and whole school leadership groups e.g. student council, chaplaincy team. • Tailored skills and activities linked to the needs of each year group e.g. 'Getting All Saints'

	<p>ready' in Year 7, preparing for options choices in Year 8, work experience in Year 10 and exam preparation in Year 11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted subject based activities (e.g. development of revision skills and subject exam skills) used to support students at pertinent times in the school year. • Activities will be developed to enhance transferable skills that will set our students up for life beyond All Saints' including resilience, communication, independent learning and leadership. The PiXL Edge programme will be used to help nurture these key skills in tutor time.
What about the students who like Vertical Tutoring?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to adopt the qualities and positives of the Vertical Tutoring system. For example, older mentors can be assigned to tutor groups to support with reading schemes. • We will keep the Houses, particularly as such a strong identity has been created. We will be able to utilise this for competitions, PSHE days and key events.
Will my child get to choose their tutor group?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. The Pastoral Team and Senior Leadership Team will give careful consideration to the placing of students in Horizontal Tutor groups, taking into account a wide variety of factors.
My child's tutor knows them well and now that experience will be lost. What is the school doing to provide continuity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective transition to the new system is crucial to its success and we will ensure that there is a system to share information about every student. • There will be a thorough induction for all tutor groups and we are confident it will not take long for students to settle into their new form. • Students, in many cases, will be with peers from teaching groups, which will ensure that they can interact and quickly build upon existing friendships.
How will tutor time be organised?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutor time will continue to run between 11.10 and 11.30am. • Each year group will have a differentiated programme to meet their needs. • Tutors will keep a close track of the progress of each student, helping to ensure that all students achieve their very best. • Monitoring of attitudes to learning and other aspects of performance (including attendance) will take place during tutor time. • Opportunities for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development will be created. • Being a Catholic school, the delivering of worship activities will continue during tutor time.
What about the House identity that you have created?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocare, Caritas, Fortitudo and Industria will remain. All students will be assigned to a House. • House competitions will take place throughout the year and, in some cases, will allow for learning with other students across all year groups. • We will be developing our school council and students will be leading a range of House events.
Will this impact my child's friendship groups?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The move to the new system will allow each pupil to share experiences with students of the same age, whilst supporting and guiding each other. We feel this will encourage more positive interaction.
How will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the current school week, we have created opportunities for both house and year

<p>assemblies now work?</p>	<p>group assemblies. Students are familiar with both set ups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House assemblies will not be as frequent and will only take place at key points, when necessary, during the year. • There will be regular year group assemblies scheduled and they will have a specific focus on achievement and progress. • There will also be opportunities to address current issues and for regular spiritual assemblies to take place.
<p>My child is nervous about the change. How will you address their concerns?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Student Council will work with Pastoral Leaders to ensure that the thoughts and any concerns students have are addressed. • Assemblies will take place to ease the worries of students. • Tutors will work through the key information and will address questions.