

Enquiries from the Sixth Form Parental Questionnaire (January 2022)

We have summarised the parental questionnaire responses and these are published on the school website. In addition, where a number of parents/carers asked about a similar issue or topic we have shared some information below. We hope that this is useful. Please note it has not been possible to respond to individual parent / carer concerns, as the questionnaire was anonymous. If you have further questions or would like to discuss any matter further, please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form office (sixthform@crgs.org.uk).

Question	Further information and links
Could Y12 students have visits to universities?	Universities are just beginning to offer face-to-face Open Days again. We are planning to take all our Year 12 students to either the University of Liverpool or another local university on 17 th June. We also arranged for all Year 12 students to attend the UCAS Convention in Manchester on 1 st March.
How can students access careers advice?	Our Careers Co-ordinator (Mrs Howard) and Careers Leader (Mrs Nester) are always available in the Careers Office. Students can either pop in or make an appointment by emailing v.howard@crgs.org.uk . Alternatively, a student can speak to their Senior Tutor for help and advice.
How can parents and carers get information about Careers Advice, Information and Guidance, especially applying to university?	<p>We have lots of information on our Sixth Form Careers and Guidance web pages. This includes a series of CRGS <i>Futures</i> videos, our CRGS Predicted Grades Statement and our UCAS Apply Guide. We also highly recommend the UCAS information for parents and carers and the discoveruni website.</p> <p>On the evening of 24th May we will be holding a <i>Futures</i> webinar for parents and carers, which will cover applying to university, alternatives to university and student finance.</p>

<p>How can parents and carers pass on pastoral or wellbeing concerns about their child?</p>	<p>We know how worrying it can be for parents and carers who are concerned about their child. Parents and carers can either email y12pastoral@crgs.org.uk / y13pastoral@crgs.org.uk or phone the Sixth Form. Our Sixth Form Team will respond as quickly as possible to have a chat via phone or a face to face meeting.</p>
<p>I am concerned that my child may have unidentified additional learning needs. What should I do?</p>	<p>You can either contact your child's Senior Tutor (as detailed above) or directly contact our SENDCO (Mrs Jones) via sendco@crgs.org.uk.</p> <p>Further details about our SEND provision can be found here.</p>
<p>We understand that some staff have been absent for unavoidable reasons. What are your arrangements for covering staff absence?</p> <p>Could students be notified in advance of teacher absences to allow them to set off later in the morning?</p>	<p>In common with other schools, we have experienced disruption due to Covid. In addition, we have experienced the usual staff illness and bereavement. Due to the pandemic, there is a national and local shortage of supply teachers, therefore it has been particularly challenging to find subject-specific staff at short notice and we have been fortunate to secure those we have employed.</p> <p>If there is a planned absence for a member of staff (e.g. attending training), students will be told in advance and set appropriate independent work. However, the majority of absence is unplanned (e.g. illness) and in that event students will be emailed as soon as possible, usually before 8.30am. We do recognise that this is after the majority of students have begun their journeys, but it is not possible to communicate with students before this.</p> <p>Students can always undertake their independent study at Sixth Form as we are fortunate to have plenty of study space.</p> <p>If a member of staff is absent for more than 3 days, a cover teacher will be provided.</p>

<p>How are the different student grades formulated and what do they mean? How do these relate to target grades?</p>	<p>We use ALPS (A Level Performance System) which sets targets based on GCSE results. The national results database is used to calculate these target grades, with the same target grade issued for all A Level subjects studied by a student. It is only a guideline and students often do better than their ALPS targets.</p> <p>Teacher Predicted Grades (TPGs) represent the grade that a student, with their current progress, would go on to achieve in their final examination. Current Working Grades (CWGs) indicate the level that the student is working at based on recent assessments. This was covered during our Supporting Success Webinar for Year 12 Parents in September. Both the recording and the presentation were emailed to parents and carers.</p>
<p>What are the opportunities to get feedback on my child's progress?</p>	<p>Students and parents / carers receive Interim Grades three times per year. In addition, there is one Parents Evening in Year 12 and two Parents Evenings in Year 13. If at any time, parents or carers have any concerns, they are very welcome to contact their child's Senior Tutor (via sixthform@crgs.org.uk).</p> <p>If we are concerned about a student's progress we will hold a Review Meeting to discuss an Action Plan. Parents / carers will be invited to join this meeting, either remotely or in person.</p>
<p>My child has had counselling but this was limited to 6 sessions. Could this be extended?</p>	<p>We commission counselling services from CANW who recommend 6 sessions as the standard for most students. If a student requires further support, the counsellor will signpost alternatives. Students should speak to their GP if they need further support, may be referred to ELCAS or as they are over 16 they can self-refer to MindsMatter. We can also refer students to other specialist support, depending on their needs.</p>

<p>Why did CRGS re-introduce the wearing of face masks during the Autumn Term?</p>	<p>We followed national guidelines from the DfE (Department for Education) Coronavirus Guidelines at all times.</p>
<p>What extra help is being provided for Year 13 as they have yet to sit external exams? For example, advice on revision, exam practice.</p>	<p>We have focused on revision strategies as part of our Guidance programme. Students can access general revision help and support from Miss Pulman in the Library. We are holding a second set of examinations in March to give students a third opportunity to undertake assessment under examination conditions.</p> <p>We considered the Advance Information when establishing revision lists and setting the March examinations. We communicated this information to students, parents and carers before half term. The Advance Information is intended to inform and guide revision.</p> <p>Each subject is also focusing on retrieval and revision practice, as well as examination technique.</p>
<p>Could the school improve its communications with parents/carers?</p>	<p>Feedback has been that some parents/carers have found our newsletters during the pandemic very informative and useful and others have found them too detailed.</p> <p>We are aiming now for communications to be more concise and targeted. The new EduLink communications software should aid this process.</p> <p>We also use the school Facebook page, school website and student email to share important messages and updates. We know how important effective communication is to everyone involved and we are always working to improve in this area.</p>

Where can I get updates on wider aspects of school life and news?	We update the News section of the website on a weekly basis. In addition, we share news and updates on the school Facebook Page (CRGS Sixth Form).
Where can I find answers to other questions?	The Sixth Form section of our website contains lots of useful information. We also have a Supporting Success guide for parents and carers (shared via email in September of Year 12) which contains lots of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions).
I feel that many of the questions are not relevant or I don't have the information to answer. Could the option to say "I don't know" or "I have no experience of this" be added?	We do use the standard Ofsted questionnaire, but will consider adding an extra option next time we send the questionnaire.