

WORRIED AT WOODBRIDGE?

As a boarder in School House it is important that you know that there are a number of people that you can see for help in any way.

If you are anxious, concerned, unhappy ... you will soon find that Woodbridge is a School where anybody: other pupils, teachers, secretarial staff and others, will be ready to help you.

The lesson that you must learn very quickly is that no problem is too trivial for anyone to help you with. There are a number of people who might perhaps provide faster and more efficient help than others but, in general, you ought to feel free to approach anybody at any time.

The first person to speak to should almost certainly be either your **Form Tutor** or your **Houseparents Mr & Mrs Lubbock or one of the assistant houseparents**. You will find them very easily, either in the Houserooms or in the Common Room at break time or lunch time. If you cannot find either of those people, then you can speak to the **Deputy Head Mr Streat**, the **Senior Master, Dr. Broaderwick** or **Mistress, Mrs Richardson**, or, of course, at any time to **the Headmaster, Mr Cole**. We hope all pupils will always feel very welcome to come to see any of us. Another useful and sympathetic person to speak to is the **Chaplain, Reverend Wilson**. He is best found by asking at the Common Room or you can find him in his classroom (T11) and in the Chaplaincy Rooms (next to the House Rooms).

Sometimes the problems or worries that you have are ones that you would rather not discuss with a teacher. Whom should you ask? Probably you ought to start with your **Head of House** or School House prefects. Almost all of them will have been at School for many years and may know just how you feel; you will find them very sympathetic. If they cannot give you an immediate solution, they will certainly tell you the best person to go to. Or there is a specialised **Pupil Listening Group**. Details are posted around the School. Another very useful source of help will be the secretarial staff. Most of them have children of their own, and some of those have been to Woodbridge, so they too will be well aware of the type of difficulty that you might have. You will find them in the room next to the Headmaster's Study. Again, just knock and go in. Lastly the **School Matron, Ms Thompson** or the **School Doctor Dr Lynch** can sometimes give advice, particularly if you feel that there is a medical problem. To arrange a confidential consultation Dr Lynch can be contacted at Framfield House surgery (01394 615500).

We hope very much that if you do have any worries you will go straight to any of the above people and that your problems will be quickly dealt with. **However, the most important people to talk to, of course, are your parents**. It is reassuring for them to know that you are being properly looked after at the School.

If you feel though that you have been unfairly treated; perhaps you are being bullied, perhaps somebody is mistreating your property, perhaps you feel you are being picked on by another pupil or even a teacher, then you must speak to somebody very quickly. Your **parents** are obviously the best people to tell initially, but your **Houseparents** or **Form Tutor**, the **Deputy Head** or **Headmaster**, will also be very willing to listen to you. None of us want this kind of behaviour at Woodbridge and we will treat everything you say with sensitivity. We hope you realize after being here for a few weeks that everybody associated with the School considers the welfare of all the pupils to be of the utmost importance. However, we are a community of over 900 boys and girls and obviously occasionally things do go wrong: the sooner difficulties are spoken about, the sooner they can be sorted out.

If you have a complaint regarding your welfare and do not feel that you can talk to anyone at school about it, you can contact the School Governor with responsibility for welfare: Dr Jane Wright. Please contact her at jeaw@essex.ac.uk or on 01473 333336.

Alternatively you are free to contact Ofsted direct via the Complaints tel. 08456 40 40 40; enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk; or in writing to
Complaints Manager
Ofsted National Business Unit
Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester M2 7LA

Finally, the Children's Rights Director for England (CRD) Roger Morgan spends lots of time listening to what children and young people who live away from home, or who are receiving social care support, have to say about how they are looked after. If you would like to contact Roger, or any other member of his team, you can use the website <https://www.rights4me.org/home/contact-us.aspx>, phone (freephone 0800 528 0731), or write:
Office of the Children's Rights Director
Ofsted
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6SE.

S H Cole, Headmaster. January 2012