

Dear Parents/Carers

We are pleased to share with you news of the partnership between John Smeaton Academy and the charity Connecting Crossgates.

Over the last 8 years, we have pioneered a unique project together, recruiting and training volunteers to work with students who struggle with their reading. Our Volunteer Readers programme has been very successful right across the Academy and has led to hundreds of students improving their skills and their enjoyment of reading.

Connecting Crossgates is looking to support families during Covid and we have put together some resources to help both parents and students.

Support for Students

1 to 1 is a new pilot project to provide mentors for children in year 6 who are due to move to John Smeaton Academy in September.

- Pupils are paired with a trained volunteer who gives weekly encouragement via a 1 to 1 telephone call.
- They can talk about concerns they may have about moving schools or anything else that's bothering them. It's a safe place to chat with a caring adult.
- We anticipate that the relationship will continue into Year 7 and possibly beyond providing a positive role model.
- Places on the scheme are currently limited, but if you think your child might benefit, please get in touch via connectingcrossgates@johnsmeaton.org.uk to discuss.

Financial & Practical Help

The Leeds City Council site <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus> has a range of options, including:

- A helpline if you need shopping or prescriptions collecting or need advice about other Covid related issues. Call **0113 378 1877**
- If you are struggling financially and need food or gas/electricity, contact **0113 376 0330**. A free food hamper can be delivered in 1-3 days.

More links can be found here www.ConnectingCrossgates.com/covid-19-information/

Emotional Help & Support

Many parents have found the last few months particularly stressful. Time to Talk is another volunteer based organisation which has been running in East Leeds for 5 years.

- This friendly and confidential service is for anyone who needs a listening ear.
- Give them a call on **07840 200576** and a local trained DBS checked volunteer will arrange a time to talk.

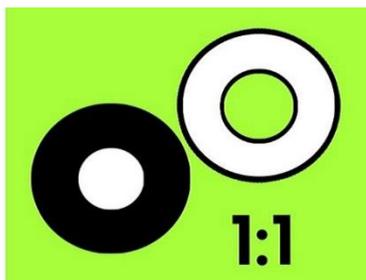
We hope that you find these resources helpful.

If you have any questions or difficulty accessing any of the services please do contact **Kären Gray**. She works part time usually on Tuesdays/Wednesdays. Email her with your contact details at connectingcrossgates@johnsmeaton.org.uk and she'll get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Claire Bailey
Assistant Head of School

Kären Gray
Manager, Connecting Crossgates.



Problems at home?

Someone to understand?

Need a listening ear?

Someone who won't judge you?



Whatever's troubling you,
you can talk it over with one
of our Time to Talk volunteers.

We won't judge you. We won't tell you what to do.
And we won't talk about you to others.

Call us on 07840 200576

to arrange a time to talk