



St Augustine's Catholic College

Wingfield Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 9EN • 01225 350001

Headteacher Mr Aidan Dowle, MA, NPQH

Our ref: AFD/LJP/NJC

2nd February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 11 can be a challenging time for students with GCSE exams approaching. Students can sometimes find themselves feeling overwhelmed or simply need a little extra help with study. Nationally there is growing concern about children's mental health and wellbeing. To help support our year 11 students through this time we have signed up with askOLA. Students will have received login details to their school email account.

OLAs (Online Learning Assistants) are qualified teachers and tutors who are available to answer unlimited questions about English, maths and science, plus essay writing feedback. They can also offer wellbeing tips and advice, or if necessary, signpost students to the Kooth community to provide mental wellbeing support. OLAs have access to Kooth wellbeing articles and activities that they can share, offering tips and advice on a variety of different concerns. However, if a student needs more support they may be signposted to a Kooth counsellor.

Established in 2001, Kooth is the longest established digital mental health provider in the UK. Kooth.com is commissioned by the NHS, Local Authorities, charities and businesses to provide anonymous and personalised support for children and young people.

We have considered this programme very carefully and would welcome your feedback as well as the views of all Year 11 students as the usefulness of this new app may be something we open out to other students in College.

The service itself is connected to our Safeguarding system so that if needed we can include additional support should a safeguarding concern arise. We hope that by providing any additional support we can work with Year 11 students to give them the confidence to face the challenges ahead and achieve the success they deserve.

We look forward to your support in evaluating this new app. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Parsons.

Yours sincerely

Aidan Dowle
Headteacher