



10 January 2017

SGr/SB

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you about the new Peer Listening programme which will be beginning at Tupton Hall later this month. The aim of this programme is to promote a culture of positive mental health which is essential to the social and emotional development of young people and will in turn help to improve their academic achievement and general well-being in school.

Peer Listening is about pupils helping each other, so it will be run by pupils, for pupils, to help them to address the difficult issues they may encounter at some point in their school life, for example friendship problems or worries about their lessons. A small team of Year 9 pupils have received training in empathetic, non-judgmental listening skills from Relate Derbyshire, so that they can offer support to their peers with confidence. The team will run regular lunchtime drop-in sessions where Year 7 and Year 8 pupils can come to talk about anything that is bothering them. The Year 9s will support them in reaching a solution to whatever is worrying them, and where necessary will signpost them to other sources of help. The Peer Listening team will be assisted by a member of staff who can provide advice and make referrals for further support for any pupils who would benefit from this.

The Peer Listening sessions will be from 1.30 - 2.00 pm in the POD on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We would appreciate it if you would discuss the Peer Listening scheme with your child, and if you feel that they would benefit from talking to one of the team, please encourage them to come along. The Peer Listening team will be introducing themselves in the Year 7 and Year 8 assemblies, and each member of the team is attached to a particular Year 7 form and spends one registration a week with them, so the younger pupils will be familiar with them.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the Peer Listening programme.

Yours faithfully

Miss S Green  
Deputy Head of Year 9