

Churches Together in Gosport 13th June 2019

Gosport School Pastors

Gosport School Pastors are coming towards the end of our 5th Year patrolling in Brune Park School. During that time we have been privileged to have had many conversations with students and staff about all sorts of things, including our beliefs: as well as being able to support some of them through difficult times. Some we have got to know quite well, others are still unsure about who we are or why we are there, but we have always found students to be polite and respectful towards us.

In order to develop our work we undertook a recruitment drive during the summer of 2018. Praying for and seeking opportunities to go to into local churches to explain who we are , what we do and encourage volunteers to get involved. At the same time Geoff Wood and members of Family Church responded to God's call to establish a regular prayer meeting , between 7.30 and 8 am on a Wednesday morning at Brune Park.

God's hand was clearly upon us as a number of volunteers came forward so that after completing the application process and required training, 5 new School ,Pastors were commissioned in November 2018.

This last year has seen changes in Brune Park School as it has become part of the Gosport and Fareham Multi Academy Trust which manages Bay House School. This has meant changes in the leadership structure and a closer working between the two schools.

Most significantly for us; the GFmat Leadership team appreciating the good work that is done by Gosport School pastors and recognising the value of having teams of volunteers in the school, invited us to extend our patrols to include Bay House School.

Since January 2019 patrols have taken place every Monday from 12.20-2.30pm in Bay House School and on Friday afternoons from 1.30-3.15pm at Brune Park, during term time.

It has been an exciting year!

We have seen new recruits gain in confidence as they discover the simple joys of listening to young people, and young people who tell us that they look forward to our visits and value our time with them.

What difference have we made ? It is impossible to say but I speak for all Gosport School Pastors when I say that it is a huge privilege to serve our Lord in this way.

We are working closely with Chris Willis , a member of the GFmat Senior leadership team, who joined the staff in January. Chris is a Christian who has many ideas for developing our role within the schools.

The opportunities for School Pastors are increasing. We would love to be able to visit your churches to tell your congregations how God is using us, and to encourage others to be part of this exciting initiative.

So how about it? Can you spare 10 minutes in one of your regular services to allow us to encourage your church to get involved, to make a difference to our community by praying, giving financially or volunteering to become a School Pastor?

Karen Tweed Coordinator Gosport School Pastors

gosport@schoolpastors.org