

## Christian Youth Work at The Marsh Academy

### James Smith



James is an experienced Youth Worker with over 10 years volunteering experience, 6 years as a Youth Pastor at Cheriton Baptist Church and also experiences as a Secondary School teacher and Social Worker with Kent County Council.

James was appointed as our Christian Youth Worker for The Marsh in April and began his role on the 5th June.

### Marsh Projects

- 1-1 Mentoring
- Group Motivation
- Christian Union KS3
- Christian Union KS4
- Staff Chaplaincy
- Young Carers Club

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'...not to be served but to serve ...'  
Matthew 20:28

It's been a great couple months here on The Marsh since Christmas. I've had an increase in the amount of students that i am seeing for 1-1 mentoring, and an increase in staff who are in need of pastoral support.

The school have recently gone through a senior staff restructure as the Vice Principal left for a headship at another school. It has been a bit uncertain for the school and for myself as the Vice Principal was my line manager within the school.

Christian Union has still yet to start, no students have come forward to outwardly say they are a Christian, however, we are having discussions about spirituality on the Christian Union days, with any student that comes into the office.

I am planning a trip to London for my Young Carers, we have limited funding, if you feel that you would like to donate to wards this trip please do get in touch with me. Young Carers are so 'bogged' down with responsibility that they rarely have time to themselves, this trip will help their confidence and give a chance for them to relax.

Here is a quote from a Student in 6th Form who has just left the school, i worked with her 1-1. It is an email i received from her.

*"Hello I just wanted to email to just say thank you for all that you have done for me, and to let you know I've finally found the job that I've wanted for a long time, and I start my very first shift tomorrow, and to say goodbye really because you have helped me realise that it's okay to open up about how I'm feeling to people and that it's a good thing to ask about things if your unsure. So thank you so much"*

Thank you for your support , James

### PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the staff during the re-structure
- Pray for funding to come forward for the young carers.



Written by James Smith



## Christian Youth Work at Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre

### Richard Dowling



Richard is an experienced Youth worker who has been working with Young People for over 25 years. He was appointed to the role at Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre in January 2017.

### Homewood Projects

- Take up the Challenge
- Young Carers
- Mentoring
- Assemblies
- Christian Union
- Staff Prayer Time
- Primary School Visits
- School Trips
- Inclusion Meetings
- Religious Education Lessons
- PSHRE Lessons
- Well-Being Centre
- Special Events

### HOMEWOOD UPDATE

#### EASTER SERVICE

We are very busy at Homewood as always. Since our last newsletter we have had a service of light and Many Christmas services. We have run 2 Take up the challenge programs and had over 120 mentoring sessions for many students.

Just before Easter we had 400 students and staff gather in St Mildred's Church for our Easter Service. We had this amazing opportunity to tell the Easter story to so many students. What a privilege. There were 2 performances, and many got involved in helping us to tell the story of Jesus.

#### Young Carers

Here at Homewood we run a young carers group. There are over 80 registered and around 20 come to the young carers club. On the last day before the Easter break we organised an Easter Hunt, Lunch and a magician came to do close up magic with young carers. We had a lot of fun.

#### Prayer Points

- Please pray for our GCSE student as the start to sit their exams, first exam is 24th April.
- Please pray for our young Carers, they do so much to look after family members.
- Please pray for all the Staff at Homewood, as this time of year can be very stressful with it being exam season.

#### Richard Dowling

*'..not to be served but to serve ...' Matthew 20:28*

