

Pastoral Support at EGA

At EGA we believe that pastoral systems and form tutoring play a vital role in supporting our students' personal development and academic progress. Form tutoring complements, but is distinct from, the academic curriculum and enrichment opportunities. Through form tutoring, students will enjoy developing a sense of individual and group identity. They will forge a meaningful connection with a member of staff who will pick up on specific concerns, provide targeted pastoral and academic guidance, and support students to review their own progress. Students will have the opportunity to discuss topical and often challenging issues in a safe environment and practise learning habits, for example resilience and organisational skills.

Houses

All students at EGA are part of one of four houses – Aquila, Cygnus, Orion, or Pegasus – which have their own unique character, whilst promoting our whole-school ethos of 'Without Limits'. Each house is led by a Head of House and dedicated, non-teaching, Pastoral Manager, who are responsible for leading the overall strategic direction of the house and providing personalised support for students within their house. Many enrichment and student leadership activities are offered through the house structure, as well as opportunities for healthy competition!

Vertical tutoring

In addition to academic subjects, students at EGA also benefit from four 20-minute tutor periods per week. Tutoring at EGA takes place in 'vertical groups' where students of different ages are mixed together. 'Key Stage 3' tutor groups are a mix of year 7 and year 8 students; in year 9, students graduate to 'Key Stage 4' tutor groups, which are a mix of year 9, 10, and 11 students. Tutor groups are made up of approximately 18 students. This is much smaller than in most schools, allowing us to build stronger connections between students and their tutor.

Benefits

There are many benefits to vertical tutoring and our house structure, these include:

- Smaller tutor groups mean more individual attention for each student and stronger bonds between tutor and tutee;
- Closer collaboration between students and sharing of experiences across year groups;
- Creates more opportunities for student leadership for all;
- Enhanced sense of community and positive identity beyond year groups;
- Opportunities for ethos-building competitions and enrichment between houses. All siblings are in the same house, reducing the number of different points of contact for parents and carers.