



Team Photo Autumn 2018, Nick, Andy, Hannah, Paul, Cathy

## Paul – Team Leader

I have been thinking a lot recently about what it means to really listen to children and young people I regularly encounter school staff who have a real heart for the wellbeing of children and are frustrated and disappointed that they are just not able to give them the time they need, as there are so many other pressures and demands on their time.

This is where our work is vital. Thanks to your donations our team are able to be available to support and listen to the children and young people we meet in school. This work has an impact that is difficult to measure but we know it is making a really positive difference.

I was really encouraged recently when one student I have been listening to regularly for a number of weeks, said how grateful they were for my support and how much it had helped, but more importantly that they now felt they were in a place where they no longer needed it.

What a privilege to be there - sometimes just for a brief moment - to give a young person the time they need. Sometimes it can be a long process and sometimes you may just be the valve that allows a young person to vent; but every time you are a witness to the God who cares, the God who has time, the God who listens.

Please pray for our Prayer Space in the Hammond School 12<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> March and for the Reflection Day at Bishop's High School on 16th March. Thank you for your continued support.

## Andy - Primary School

So far this term has been really encouraging with 'Open the Book' resuming in two schools after a short break; new team members and some new lessons in Blacon.

The team at Newton School, led by Joy Lancaster, had stopped for a while due to a shortage of team members but were able to restart in January. Initially this is on a monthly basis but they hope to be back more regularly by September. Cyd Phillips has come back onto the OTB team after a break and has restarted the work in The Firs School. Lynsey Green has also been able to restart Bible Explorer in Blacon - a series of lessons for Year 5 pupils looking at the Old Testament in a fun and interactive way.

Let's give thanks for all these things starting again, meaning more children are hearing the good news about Jesus.

## Nick – High Schools

This term we have started 'Hallmarked' (our self-esteem and well-being workshop) with 15 teenagers in a school we haven't offered it to before. It's great to be involved in more schools and ultimately reaching new young people with the message that they are amazing; have great potential and can have hope for their future.

With our lunch time groups we have been covering a wide array of topics. Last term, in one group, we followed The Prayer Course and delved into some of the areas we can find challenging about prayer and looked at how we could build it into the everyday rhythm of life. This term we are continuing this, exploring different ways of engaging with God in prayer. In one of our other groups we are looking at our emotional literacy and how we cope when things get overwhelming, and what to do when our anxiety gets the better of us.

Please pray for the young people doing the Hallmarked course this term and also for those that come to our lunchtime groups.

## Darren – Christleton High School

The Year 9 Lunch Club on Thursdays is currently around 20 young people (mainly girls). It is very informal and a safe place for discussing big life questions amidst lots of fun and relaxing. We have been using the #whatif resource to develop emotional language and we have been looking at the pros and cons of anxiety.

Mentoring on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon covers a variety of ages and issues but with a common theme; to listen, to encourage and instill hope. I also give practical help where possible alongside the excellent support staff.

Please pray for me and for the young people involved in these different sessions.

## Hannah – Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)

So far this term I have delivered sessions in Hammond, Abbey Gate and Christleton and have dates to go to Bishops and Upton. The schools are very welcoming and pupils are participating well in the lessons

There has been lots of positive feedback this term;

A teacher at Abbey Gate College said "I love it when you come in, your lessons are always so engaging and I feel like I learn things along with the pupils!"

In Christleton High School a class of year 9 pupils all cheered when they saw that CSCW were delivering another session to them!

It's so important in today's society for young people to know their worth and value, and what that looks like in a relationship. Below are a couple of learning points that pupils have shared this term;

"How to recognise what a healthy relationship should look like"

"How to protect myself in a relationship"

"The dangers of Sexting, and that I don't need to send pictures for someone to like me. They should like me for who I am"

Please pray for us as we seek to inspire hope and generate a sense of self worth and well-being in the young people we are working with.