

Chaplaincy News



Phone:
Miles Primary
46280333
Miles High
46285111

Chaplaincy began this year with a lot of excitement as I reconnected with students and staff at the two schools in Miles. It was great to see familiar faces again and to catch up with what they'd been doing over the holidays. Many had been to the coast, some overseas and some remained in Miles. But my focus on the first day was on checking up on those who were new. Some staff and students had recently moved into Miles. The year seven students were new to high school and the pre-primary students were completely new to the school environment.

My aim was to bring them a sense of security amidst change. Some needed my help more than most.

Drillham

Underlying my excitement however, was a sense of loss. Firstly as I noticed staff and students who hadn't come back, and secondly, when I got to Wednesday.

Wednesday was the day that I visited Drillham, but no longer am able to do so.

Despite a huge input of funds at the end of last year from faithful supporters, we realised that we would not be able to maintain the finances required to continue chaplaincy at Drillham. Drillham to me, is not just a school. It is a group of people that I connected with and grew to highly value.

Craft Groups

I can't believe that after eight years, the children at Miles Primary still get excited about beading! But they do. So each week I have about twenty children in my room quietly putting tiny beads onto a template for me to iron when they leave.

I also facilitate jewellery-making for the older students at Miles Primary and during another break, board games.

At the high school I also have craft groups but not much craft is accomplished as the students

prefer to 'hang out' and chat.

Fundraising

The government funds chaplaincy for two-and-a-half days. I work for three, so we need to raise funds. I am so grateful to those who donate so that the burden to fundraise is not great.

At the beginning of the year I had a chat with our fundraising guru from Scripture Union and came back with some useful ideas.

One of those ideas was to ask the P and C if we could have a burger stall at their next event. This idea was favourably received and we were set to go at the Miles Primary Meet and Greet. Food was ordered, and helpers and equipment were organised.

And then we began the first wave of this pandemic. Unfortunately, we had to cancel.

In this last week of term, chaplaincy has changed. At the high school we don't have any students, and at the primary school there are only a few.

Chaplaincy in a Pandemic

My role this week has been to continue to connect with students and staff, and to help them

make sense of our surreal circumstances.

As you know, this pandemic has affected people in many different ways, and people need to talk through the confusion. So I'm here, listening, and caring, and going through my own stresses whilst standing alongside others. In this strange environment I find myself feeling cared for as I care for others.

Moving Forward

We don't know what the future holds for our school-life. Will we have any students at school next term? Will we have some students here, some students working online from home, and some receiving booklets to take home?

We just don't know.

What I do know, is that if there is anyone at school (including staff) then I'll be here for them. And for those who are not at school, I will be offering phone chats and online well-being forums.

Chaplaincy will go on.

Chat with Chappy?



Chappy would love to hear what you've been up to.
Ring the school and I will get back to you