

Education & Social Responsibility Lead : Report to PCM 17-11-25

Visits to Educational Establishments

Robertsbridge Community College

I visited Robertsbridge Community College in September and had a meeting with the head teacher Mr James Pratt. Mr Pratt spoke about the challenges the school faced, following its last low rating Ofsted inspection, and how he and the new trust 'Aquina' are implementing a range of improvements to address the areas of concern raised in the report. He described the trusts vision for the school of one which is built on respect and discipline and described how this was being achieved with a new robust behaviour policy.

Mr Pratt acknowledged their year 7 intake was down, likely because of the poor Ofsted report/publicity and as now the school has trust status this will not be reviewed for a least 2 years. He said it was therefore important the school continues to promote the positive changes to the local community and prospective parents, this they are doing with open evenings/events, Social Media posts and visits to local primary schools. In terms of how the PC can support the school and help raise its profile within our parish, it was suggested the school could represent itself in future PC events where outside agencies are able to have stalls to promote and provide information to our residents. Mr Pratt also said he was interested in forging links further, by creating a voluntary scheme, whereby pupils provide a community service, e.g. litter picking or assisting local business/voluntary groups in some sort of capacity. I said I would raise this and get thoughts and suggestions from counsellors at our next meeting on knowledge of any local groups, business's or organisations that might benefit and be suitable prospective placements, and feedback to him.

Finally, just to add from our meeting, Mr Pratt was very personable and was keen to engage with the PC and the local community to ensure the college continues to improve and succeed and provide quality secondary school education for its current and future students.

Robertsbridge Children's Services

In September, I also visited Robertsbridge Childrens's Services and had a meeting with the manager (Tracy). This is a registered charity, in a lovely purpose-built nursery, providing a wrap around early years setting, taking children from 0 to 5 years. Robertsbridge Children's Services has an outstanding Ofsted rating and as a result had no problem filling its spaces. In terms of how the PC can support this provision, Tracy explained they have not needed to promote their services and could not identify anything specific we might be able to assist them with presently. Tracy

did say periodically, the nurse used the adjoining Youth Centre land for nature lessons and that at times the grass was very long, however she acknowledged when this becomes a problem, she is able to report it to Karen Ripley (Parish Clerk) who then arranges for this to be cut. At the end of our meeting, I advised Tracy should Robertsbridge Children's Service's need our advice or help in the future, then they can contact me at the PC.

Others

Our local primary School, Salehurst C of E and another newly open early years provision 'Puddle ducks' in Salehurst, unfortunately I have been unable to arrange a visit with, despite leaving phone messages and speaking with staff at both locations, who said they would get back to me. I will after half term, make renewed contact with them to see if a meeting can be arranged in the future.

Louise Britten

Lead Member

Education & Social Responsibility

8 November 2025