

THE TUTOR SYSTEM AT BROCKWOOD PARK

What Is the Tutor System?

It stems from our approach to education and is the main feature of our pastoral care policy. Every student has a Tutor and each Tutor has a group of, usually, 3-4 students to look after. Tutors meet with their Tutees on a regular basis to talk with them and find out how they are. Contact may range from going out for a meal to discussing Krishnamurti's teachings. The Tutor can meet with individual students or with the whole group. At times two or more Tutor groups can meet together too. Sometimes students find it easier to confide in another staff member or older student, in which case the Tutor can work closely with that person, but continues to take overall responsibility for the student. The 'system' as such is meant to provide the necessary support for the student's overall development and well-being. It creates a forum where students can speak their minds and is a way for staff to get feedback. It recognises the importance of having regular contact between educators and students and provides a constant reference point for the new and old students. Staff and students engage in this important process of education in order to learn together about the art of living.

Allocation of Tutees

Usually two senior staff are given the role of working together to allocate the Tutees while attempting to take into consideration several sometimes contradictory factors: matching of individuals, groups, personalities, and needs; student and staff preferences; details such as age, nationality or culture, ESL proficiency, gender, ease of contact during normal school functioning, and length of time at Brockwood may also be taken into account. If a Tutor or Tutee feels the relationship is very unlikely to 'work' or is not working, then they can ask for their grouping to be reconsidered or for help with renegotiating the relationship.

Contact with Parents

If tutors are not able to meet personally with parents at the beginning of the school year in September, then they will write a letter or e-mail of introduction, or call them for a conversation, as early as possible during the first term. Contact between tutors and parents is encouraged and may become essential for particular issues concerning the tutee, e.g. when the student breaks certain school agreements (e.g. smoking, evidence of alcohol or drug abuse), or is clearly unhappy.

Tutors have an opportunity to speak directly and at length with those parents who come to visit, pick up or drop off their children at weekends, or who come for the Parents' Weekend (just before the Easter break) and to different functions during the year. Tutor Reports are sent to parents with Academic Reports at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms.

The Overview

A Tutor has special responsibility for the pastoral care and overall educational well-being of the student. Put simply, the Tutor keeps an eye on every aspect of the student's life in the School, which includes:

- Order in daily life
- Health, diet and exercise
- Academic studies
- Relationships with others
- Relationship with the Intentions of Brockwood