



TERM ONE 2016 REPORT

Term 1 has been a busy and productive term at Avonside. As the youth workers, we have enjoyed getting involved in school life and in particular getting to know girls on our mentoring lists.

Goals for Term 1 2016:

- As a team, decide on our 2016 goals for the school, in consultation with staff and students
- Quickly become connected with the Year 9 students, ensuring they are familiar with who we are and what we do
- Have our individual lists of students for mentoring and have begun mentoring sessions with them (either self-referred or referred by staff)
- Run some beginning of year lunchtime events to raise the awareness of who we are and our roles in school, but also to provide fun connections for the students



As a youth worker team, we had a beginning of year meeting to discuss areas to focus on for the term. We felt the key areas to focus on were one on one mentoring and connecting with the Year 9s. The feedback from staff was that they felt these were the areas that needed the most focus. We aimed to connect with the new Year 9 classes as early as possible. In the first week of school, we were able to go and introduce ourselves to each Year 9 form class. This was also a good chance for the Year 9 form teachers to connect with us.

Staff were really efficient at getting lists of girls to us that needed mentoring. We really appreciated this as it meant we could get started early in the term, connecting and supporting the girls. The setting up of the online mentoring lists as a shared document between staff and youth workers has been a great initiative this term. It is still in its early stages but means we can communicate about how mentoring is going and work out if students need extra support or whether they don't really need mentoring anymore.



Gemma took Ruby and Chelsea through a mentoring training session in which she covered ideas, activities and resources to use for mentoring, especially in those initial stages of mentoring when it is so vital to build strong relationships and trust. The youth workers are enjoying the mentoring and feel like they are making progress with students. Most of the Year 9s receiving mentoring seem to be integrating well into high school, although there are several that are still struggling and need additional support.

Early in the term we ran a lunchtime activity where we gave out ice blocks to the Year 9s. The catch was they had to introduce themselves to us and tell us what their form class was. This meant we were able to get to know more Year 9s and for them to start to get to know us. Both Ruby and Chelsea volunteer at youth groups in the North East of Christchurch. Both youth groups have a number of Avonside students and it is a fantastic way of connecting and supporting students outside of school.

Both Ruby and Chelsea were volunteer youth leaders at the Southern Easter Camp, which is an event run for youth groups from around the South Island. Many Avonside Girls were present at Easter Camp and it was a great way to connect informally with the girls. On the Sunday of camp there was a 'school's lunch' and the Avonside students from the different youth groups were able to meet and have lunch together. A great way to foster school spirit!



Goals for Term 2 2016:

- Continuing to foster strong mentoring relationships with students and ensuring good communication is kept between youth workers and staff.
- Becoming more involved in the wider school, such as sports coaching, field trips, school leadership support and school events. We want to continue to make mentoring with Year 9s a priority but it would also be valuable to be connected in other aspects of school life.
- Getting to know staff more and letting them know what we do and how we can support them. One way to achieve this would be speaking briefly at a staff meeting.

