



## **CAST – Churches And Schools Together**

CAST was set up in 2004 at the request of Church Leaders in Maidstone. Thirteen years on, CAST's ministry has grown and developed as the needs and environment in the school communities have changed. However the desire is still the same to see the local churches involved in the life of and serving the schools. The goal for CAST is to encourage churches to take ownership of the relationships developed with the secondary schools and see this as part of the churches 'mission field'.

The continued development for CAST's ministry over the next three years has been broken down into three areas:

### **1. Developed Delivery of Provision**

#### Prayer Spaces

CAST will continue to facilitate Prayer Spaces in schools and work to create follow up lessons where questions can be explored and further learning encouraged out of the experiences had by students because of the Prayer Space. CAST will also deliver Prayer Space taster & training days to inspire and encourage volunteers to get involved and commit to hosting sessions in school, having heard more about and experienced a Prayer Space first hand.

#### Mentoring

CAST aspire to have Mentoring Provision in each of the secondary schools in Maidstone, as well as developing the Transition Mentoring to support more students to bridge the gap between primary and secondary school. In order to deliver these two objectives CAST will continue to invest in training and support for mentors.

#### SAFEspace

CAST will seek and develop stronger links between the Mentoring Program and SAFEspace projects in schools, to be able to facilitate more SAFEspace projects off the back of successful mentoring provision. SAFEspaces will be resourced by volunteers from the local churches, whilst being supported by CAST through a 'starter pack', resources and on-going training sessions.

#### Extra Curriculum

CAST will produce and share an 'Opportunities Menu' for schools to raise awareness of the services CAST offer and areas CAST can support in. However CAST will not deliver assemblies in schools, but they will support churches to deliver these to promote strong independent relationships between local church and school. CAST will also support Student-Led Christian groups, as required along with other church leaders.

### **2. Improved relationship & communication with Schools and Churches**

CAST will develop beneficial relationships with individuals in Churches and Schools to encourage partnership work.

CAST will seek regular invitations to talk during services and other church groups to share this vision and encourage volunteers and churches to get involved in serving secondary schools.

CAST will engage with Prayer for Schools fortnight annually to support and build positive relations with the school staff across the town.

### **3. Ensuring a sustainable future of the work of CAST by Volunteers**

The nature of the partnership work CAST facilitates, means the majority of those working with CAST are volunteers from churches, and without them the depth and effectiveness of the CAST ministry would not be the same. Therefore CAST must ensure this group of people feel valued and appreciated and are supported, encouraged and enthused as necessary.

CAST will form a plan that will encourage more volunteers to become involved in the future work of CAST, as well as offering them the required training and support sessions.

CAST will support the churches to serve the school communities and to take more ownership of the work whilst still offering training and input where needed.