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# Harlow College Chaplains

## Listening & Support Service

Last Report - March 2021

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Since we started serving Harlow College as chaplains in 2016, one of our top priorities was to provide healthy pastoral care to both students and staff.

Mental health issues have always been a growing concern and so has the list of young people waiting to receive government-funded counselling. With the help of the Safe Guarding Team in the college, and making use of an online appointment platform, we began to advertise our service around the campus. Shortly after that, we started to experience a significant increase in the number of students looking to have a one-to-one with us and had the privilege to make good progress with several of them and whenever we felt God was giving us an opening we would happily break protocol and give them hugs, let them know how much God loved them and pray for them.

Lockdown has proven to be an even more difficult time for students battling mental health and although we were unable to be physically present in the college, the service continued with over-the-phone appointments and a few students made good use of it.

We are very grateful for the support we have received during our time in the college but we believe it is time to draw this chapter to a close. We are now entering a new season as we are about to step up as senior leaders in

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our local church and want to focus our time and strength in steering the congregation towards the vision God has planted in our hearts.

We have offered to continue the work in the college as volunteers until a new chaplain is appointed and we are waiting to hear what they have to say about that.

Our prayer is that God will raise a new chaplain to build upon what we have started since the door to pastoral care is wide open and the work done so far has been highly praised by the college.

We thank God for your prayers and have no doubt that many of the positive experiences we had were because of the Church in Harlow praying behind the scenes.

Love & blessings,

Mauricio & Sibebe Colussi.