

THE ANXIETY OF INFLUENCE AND THE INFLUENCE OF ANXIETY

IBSC CONFERENCE, 11TH JULY 2011

WHICH DAVID?



Which six pack?



WHAT ARE PEOPLE AFRAID OF?

- Why are so many teachers, student, parents worried?
- And about what?
- Why so much fear of failure?
- Living in uncertain times
- Stress and pressure
- The times they are a changin'

BUILDING SOME DEFENCES

Be on top of cultural studies

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

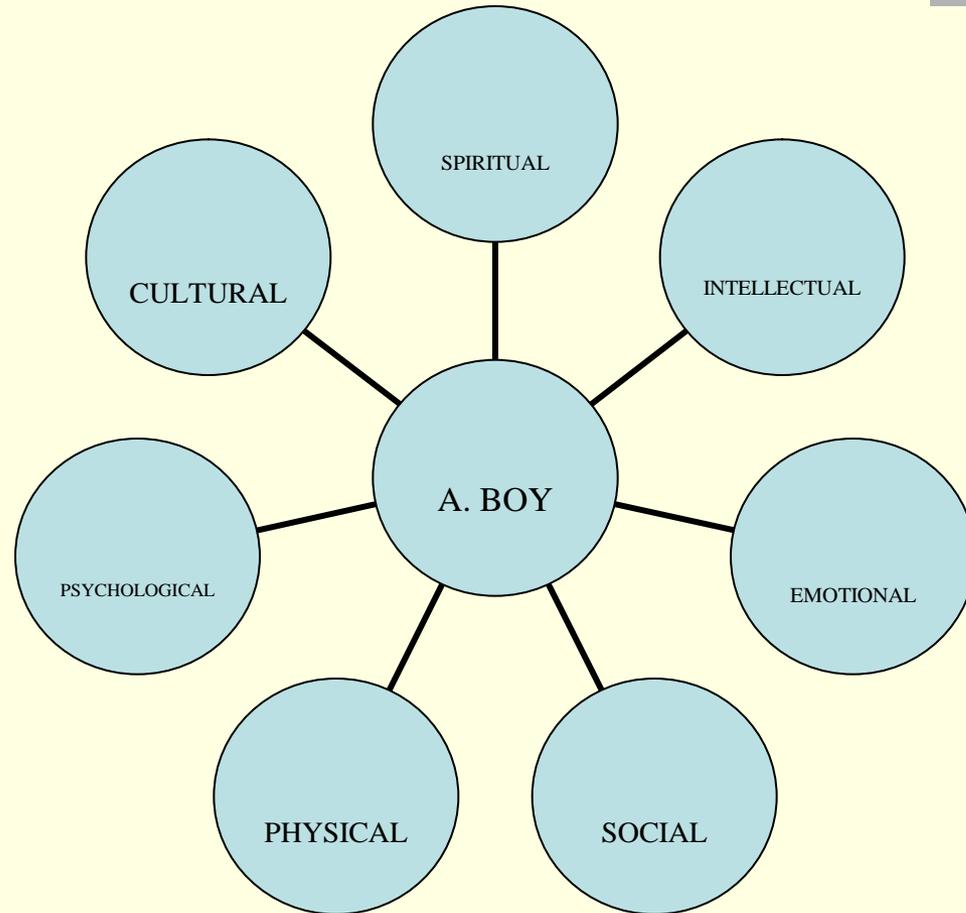
PART ONE

- Post-modern uncertainty
- Infantilisation- a loss of faith in adulthood and childhood
- Media intrusion
- ID
- Global and local economic downturn
- War on terror
- Anti-intellectualism

BUILDING SOME DEFENCES

ALL ABOUT A. BOY

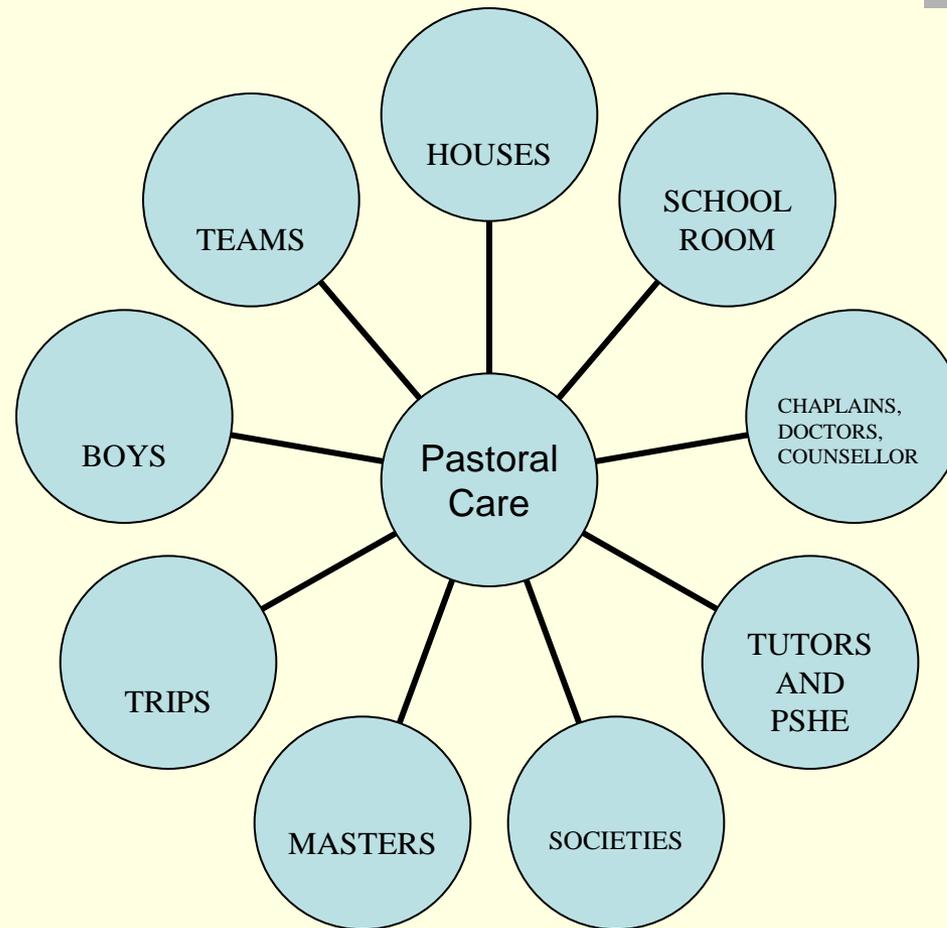
FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL



BUILDING SOME DEFENCES

Joined up education

MAKE SURE THE EDUCATION YOU OFFER JOINS UP



BUILDING SOME DEFENCES

USE YOUR MISSION STATEMENT AS A
FIREWALL

USE YOUR MISSION STATEMENT

- **Eton is a full boarding school committed to:**
 - promoting the best habits of independent thought and learning in the pursuit of excellence;
- providing a broadly-based education designed to enable all boys to discover their strengths, and to make the most of their talents within Eton and beyond;
- engendering respect for individuality, difference, the importance of teamwork and the contribution that each boy makes to the life of the school and the community;
- supporting pastoral care that nurtures physical health, emotional maturity and spiritual richness;
- fostering self-confidence, enthusiasm, perseverance, tolerance and integrity.

SPORT AT ETON- POSITIVE

- promoting the best habits of independent thought and learning in the pursuit of excellence;
- *Boys think for themselves while playing. They strive to get promoted to higher teams by practising and performing to the best of their ability.*
- providing a broadly-based education designed to enable all boys to discover their strengths, and to make the most of their talents within Eton and beyond;
- *Boys allowed freedom of choice in terms of which sport(s) they pursue. Boys encouraged to play sports in which they have an obvious talent.*
- engendering respect for individuality, difference, the importance of teamwork and the contribution that each boy makes to the life of the school and the community;
- *Boys taught the importance of sportsmanship. Teamwork evident in much of what we do. Encouragement, praise, leadership, ability to constructively criticise are nurtured through games. The importance of good behaviour before, during and after all matches is stressed.*
- supporting pastoral care that nurtures physical health, emotional maturity and spiritual richness;
- *Lots of exercise! Boys learn to cope with winning, losing, working with others, authority, not being the best, being the best, disappointment, aggression and respect for others.*
- fostering self-confidence, enthusiasm, perseverance, tolerance and integrity.
- *Boys learn to understand the importance of preparation. Boys learn to be gracious losers and winners. Self-confidence grows out of positive performance. Enthusiasm is maintained through good coaching and carefully compiled fixtures.*

SPORT AT ETON- NEGATIVES

- promoting the best habits of independent thought and learning in the pursuit of excellence;
- *Many boys not coached regularly. Boys choose easy rather than challenging options. Some boys over-coached.*
- providing a broadly-based education designed to enable all boys to discover their strengths, and to make the most of their talents within Eton and beyond;
- *Relatively few boys represent Counties and beyond even though many are of the required standard. Clash between specialisation and broad-based goal.*
- engendering respect for individuality, difference, the importance of teamwork and the contribution that each boy makes to the life of the school and the community;
- *Do we set out to do this? Is this merely a consequence of what we do rather than a specific goal?*
- supporting pastoral care that nurtures physical health, emotional maturity and spiritual richness;
- *Possible for a boy to do very little games. Poor behaviour often tolerated. Boys uncomfortable about engaging with opposition off the field.*
- fostering self-confidence, enthusiasm, perseverance, tolerance and integrity.
- *Boys can be dropped, can be negative, can argue amongst themselves, can blame each other, can give up.*

BUILDING SOME DEFENCES

REVIEW MOTIVATION

Motivation

- What motivates your students? Internal vs external
- What did their education allow them to be before they came to your school?
- What motivation should take them through your school and beyond?

External motivation: the negatives

- The Masterplan: building not living a CV
- Keeping adults happy
- Cheating and lying to win
- Playing the game vs taking risks
- The grade trap
- Death by coursework/summative assessment
- Media pressure

Negative external motivation: consequences

- A dangerous cocktail when coupled with authoritarian or permissive parenting/pastoral care
- Lack of self determination
- Lack of self control
- Lack of self esteem
- Poor understanding of the consequences of actions
- Failure as a purely negative concept

SELF-ANALYSIS

- Are your systems of reward fair in principle but sometimes not in practice? Who wins the prizes and why?
- What publicly are you rewarding at prize givings?
- What do your school reports/newsletters/websites say about your values?

BUILDING DEFENCES

Virtue ethics/Positive Psychology

POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY: VIRTUES [Seligman and Peterson]

WISDOM

- Curiosity
- Love of learning
- Judgment
- Ingenuity
- Emotional intelligence
- Perspective

COURAGE

- Valour
- Perseverance
- Integrity

HUMANITY

- Kindness
- Loving

JUSTICE

- Citizenship
- Fairness
- Leadership

TEMPERANCE

- Self-control
- Prudence
- Humility

TRANSCENDENCE

- Appreciation of beauty and excellence
- Gratitude
- Hope
- Spirituality
- Forgiveness
- Humour
- Love of life

Where does your school support these virtues? Where do you need to improve your support of these virtues for boys?



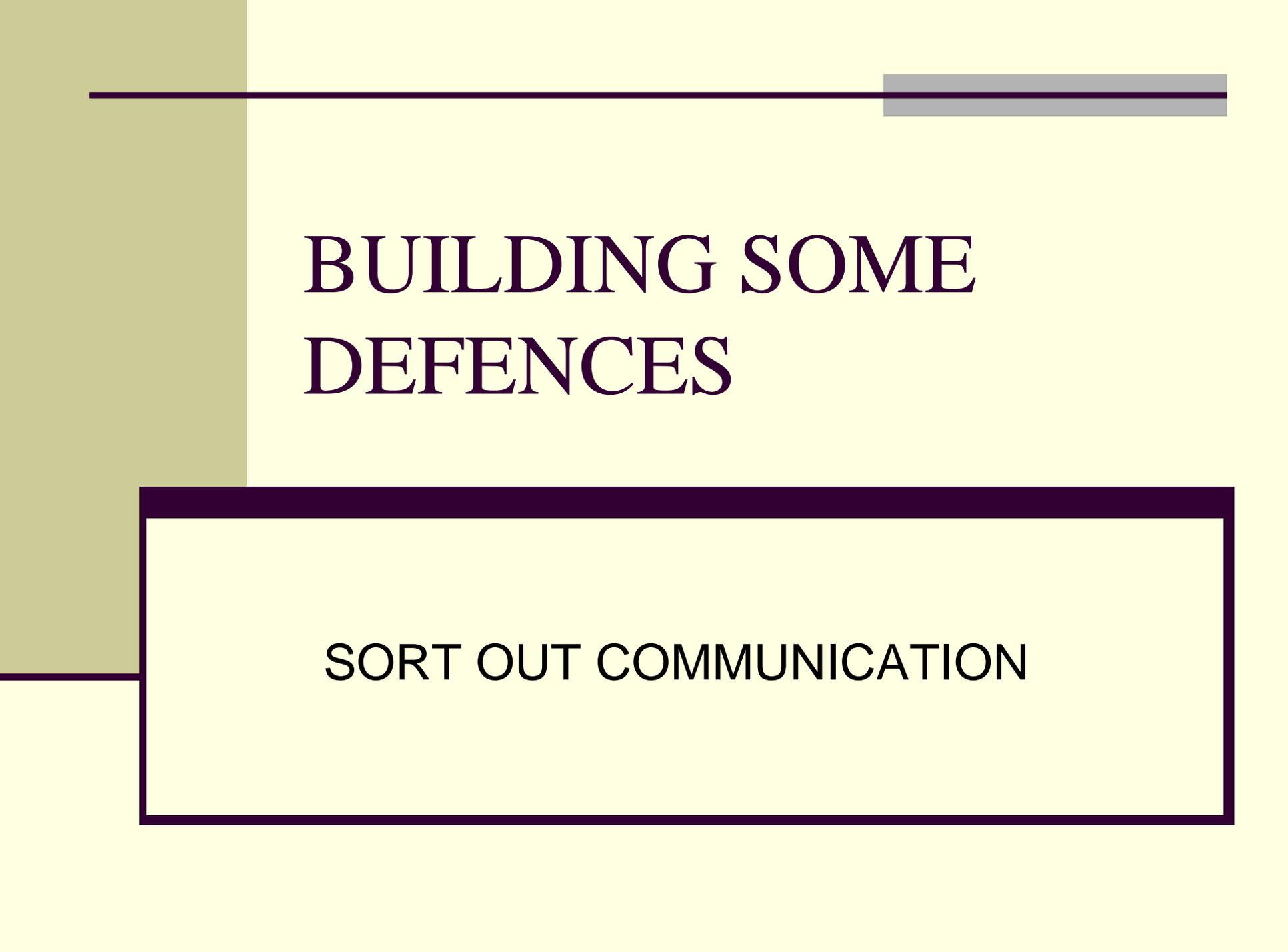
BUILDING DEFENCES



HARNESSING I.T.

Using IT

- Make sure it fits your school's mission
- Keep your staff and parents as up to speed as possible
- Educate your boys: debate and discuss
- 'Parent' it well: negotiate, compromise, seek common ground



BUILDING SOME DEFENCES

SORT OUT COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

- Mark out your territory early
- Communicate your vision and values
- Learn when to share
- Be professional: they're amateurs
- Get to know them well
- Remember that no-one wants things to go wrong
- Don't be afraid to teach parents