Doctoral College Guidance on Pastoral Support for PGRs

PGRs! Did you know you are entitled to pastoral support in addition to your supervisor? 
(See paragraph d: Management of Research Students (warwick.ac.uk) )

What pastoral support should my department provide for me?

- Your department should allocate you a member of academic staff other than your supervisor(s).
- Depending on your department, they will be allocated differently and may be given different titles (‘personal tutor’, ‘advisor’, ‘mentor’, ‘non-academic supervisor’, etc.). They will be either your Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or another named member of academic staff within your department.
- If you are unsure who is responsible for your pastoral support, you should contact your DGS.

When should I utilise this pastoral support?

- You should try to meet with your allocated member of staff once a year, even if you have no specific concerns or issues to discuss.
- Other examples of when to reach out to them include, but are not limited to:
  - If a dispute or issue arises between you and your supervisor(s) and you need to discuss it with somebody
  - If you need advice or guidance about the non-research side of PhD life, e.g. teaching, professional development, extra-curricular activities
  - If you experience personal issues and are unsure where to seek advice or guidance

What other support can I access?

There are lots of situations in which you may feel like you need support. Many different support structures exist across the university which you are entitled to access when needed.

- Formal support:
  - Wellbeing Support Services
  - Disability Services
  - University Careers Service
  - Nightline
- Informal support:
  - Researcher Development Online – professional development and skills training for PGRs
  - The Library networking events – PG Tips (Tuesday, 15.00-16.00), Research Refresh (Thursday, 10.30-12.00), PGR(Tea)chers (first Wednesday of each month)
- Financial support:
  - Covid-19 extensions
  - Hardship Fund

If you don’t know how to access the support you need, contact the Doctoral College: 

doctoralcollege@warwick.ac.uk