

25 May 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to you to inform you of changes to our pastoral and House system that will take place from September. Students in years 7-10 were informed of the changes in assemblies today. As part of ongoing reviews of the schools effectiveness it is clear our pastoral team are a key element underpinning the success and student focussed ethos of the school. However we feel they would be utilised more effectively if their roles were aligned with year groups rather than Houses. This would enable them to support students as they do now but also support classes within a year group. Year groups have specific issues at different times for example transition from primary school, options or GCSE exams. Having pastoral staff focussed on a year group will enable them to support these specific issues more coherently.

We currently have four Heads of House who will become Heads of Year in the new structure. A Head of Year 7, 8 or 9 stays with their year group until the end of year 9 when they become the new head of an incoming Year 7. The Head of Year 10/11 (Pastoral) stays permanently in this role and will be working alongside an Academic Head of Year 10 and an Academic Head of Year 11, who will be teaching staff with a responsibility for supporting students with issues in their studies rather than pastoral issues. From September:

Head of Year 7	Mrs V Ryan	Head of Year 10/11 (Pastoral)	Miss E Martin
Head of Year 8	Mr S Roney	Head of Year 10 (Academic)	To be recruited
Head of Year 9	Mrs T Hooper	Head of Year 11 (Academic)	Mrs E Waterman

We recognise this will be a difficult transition for some of our students and we will endeavour to support them through these changes. Students will remain in their current tutor groups in their current houses.

Our House system is well established and we wish to retain it and develop it further. From September the PE staff will take on a dual role of teaching but also becoming House leaders. Mrs Middlemast, our Director of Sport, will lead this House team and look to widen its impact on developing our school ethos and House identity. The House leaders will not have pastoral responsibilities, these lie with the Heads of Year.



ITE Partner



THE SOMERSET STANDARD



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	House Leader Darwin	House Leader Einstein Mrs Middlemast	House Leader Franklin Miss Marmont	House Leader Galileo Mr Snowball	Heads of Year	September 2018
7					Head of year 7	Mrs Ryan
8					Head of Year 8	Mr Roney
9					Head of Year 9	Mrs Hooper
10					Head of Year 10/11 Pastoral Miss Martin	Head of Year 10 Academic To be recruited
11						Head of Year 11 Academic Mrs Waterman

These changes align our pastoral system with the way in which the school operates in year groups but also adds more capacity, bringing in a new Academic Head of Year 10 and adding the PE staff to the House system.

If you require further clarification, I will be delivering a presentation for parents on these changes on Wednesday 6 June from 6:00-6.30pm. Please can you contact Reception if you wish to attend this presentation so that we can select an appropriate venue for the numbers attending.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Dallimore
Vice Principal