



The House System

HISTORY

- The House System was founded in 1914, with the names originally relating to the neighbourhoods that the boys lived within: Catford, Bellingham, Ladywell, Lewisham, Forest Hill, Hither Green, Sydenham and Brockley.
- The system was founded in order to provide a range of academic, cultural and sporting activities, thereby nurturing team spirit, loyalty and pride. In 1919, following the Great War, the Houses were renamed after eight former pupils who died in the conflict: Bennett, Thomas, Griffiths, Johnson VC, Goosey, Wilson, Lane and Ross.
- In 1988, to improve the level of competition, the number was reduced to four and the Houses were named after the first four Headmasters of the College: Forder (incorporating Bennett & Thomas), Hecker (incorporating Griffiths & Johnson), Stuart (incorporating Goosey & Wilson) and Usherwood (incorporating Lane & Ross).
- In 2023, members of the leadership team undertook extensive consultation with all members of the College community, before making the decision to implement further changes. These were made to ensure the House System reflected the diversity of the College community, whilst continuing to fulfil its aims in a rapidly expanding school. The Junior and Senior School both adopted their own House Systems independent of each other, whilst increasing the number of Houses from four to six. Junior School Houses were named after six trees found on the College's main site: Oak, Elm, Sycamore, Rowan, Willow and Birch. Senior School Houses were named after places of significance in the life of St Dunstan: Canterbury, Ghent, Glastonbury, Mendip, Stepney, and Worcester.

AIMS

- The House System promotes team spirit and a sense of belonging to the school.
- The House System creates a sense of community that extends beyond year group boundaries. Pupils from different year groups have the chance to work together in pursuit of shared goals.
- The House System promotes student leadership, as senior pupils have the opportunity to lead and mentor younger pupils.
- The House System gives all pupils experience of competition across a diverse range of activities.

ORGANISATION (Junior School)

- On joining the Junior School, pupils are allotted to one of the six Junior School Houses.
- All members of teaching staff are allotted to one of the six Houses.

Reviewed: Michaelmas 2023

Next review: Michaelmas 2024

- Each House is led by a staff member Head of House, who is accountable to the Junior School Deputy Head Pastoral.
- House events are organised on a termly calendar and build on the school College Values. Every effort is made to bring pupils of different year groups together with others in their House.
- Houses hold regular meetings to organise events, celebrate successes and future plan.

CAPTAINS (Junior School)

- Two Year 6 House Captains are selected to lead each House. Pupils in Year 6 can nominate themselves to be a captain at the start of the year, and the first House meeting includes presentations by these nominees. House Captains are selected by a democratic vote by the pupils within that House.
- House Captains meet regularly both with their Head of House, and also with their fellow House Captains, to plan and review House events across the year.
- The Head of House is responsible for ensuring that their House Captains are fulfilling their roles in an efficient and effective manner.

ORGANISATION (Senior School)

- In the Senior School, each form group takes on the name of one of the Houses.
- On joining the College, pupils are allotted to one of these House groups.
- All members of teaching staff are allotted to one of the six Houses. For tutors, this will always be based on their tutor group.
- In the Senior School, each House is led by a Head of House. The work of Heads of House is overseen by the House Activities Co-ordinator. The House Activities Co-ordinator is accountable to the Assistant Head Co-Curricular.
- The House Activities Co-ordinator is responsible for working closely with Heads of Department to ensure there are a broad and diverse range of competitions available.
- Heads of House are responsible for ensuring staff and students attached to their House engage fully with this programme of competition.

CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS (Senior School)

- Each year, there will be a prefect with overall responsibility for the House System. This prefect will meet regularly with the House Activities Co-ordinator to plan for the effective delivery of the programme.
- House Captains are selected in all year groups. They will work closely with Heads of House, whilst being responsible for supporting tutors with selection of teams for competition.
- The Head of House is responsible for ensuring that their House Captains are fulfilling their roles in an efficient and effective manner.

MARKETING

- Information is publicised widely using all available means to raise the profile of all House activities in the College. This can include screens, noticeboards, displays, the Weekly Update, year group newsletters, the website and College social media feeds.