

Pastoral Support at The Bourne Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our House system is central for effective pastoral care at The Bourne Academy. Knowing that someone cares and “is there for you” lies at the heart of the Academy and Canford School’s (our sponsor) vision for students, parents/carers and staff.

Each student (and by association their parents/carers/families), and all staff, are members of a House; within that group they work and develop as members of a close community structure. The aim is that they stay with the same House throughout their time at the Academy, giving continuity and a sense of belonging. This sense of belonging is encouraged by regular opportunities for competition and recreation as a House which allows students of all abilities the opportunity to be involved in representative sport, music, debating and other activities.

The Academy currently has House sizes of 108 to 111 students. This allows the House staff to know the students well, with mixed age arrangements encouraging social interaction between year groups. The House system also enables older students to experience the skills of organisation, co-operation and leadership.

However, despite small Houses being at the core of the original Vision, (and clearly this has proved to be very effective) we are now facing some challenges centred around budgets and recruitment to these key positions. Regardless of our Vision and the moral ideal we all hold dear, we are driven by the market – as a result we have been unable to recruit fully to the Head of House roles.

Our new proposal aims to keep House sizes small but also to create increased opportunities during tutor time and beyond for our Year 11 cohorts. Year 11 are facing increased pressures over their final year of GCSEs and they are rarely in their vertical tutor groups now. This is largely because of tutor time being used for year-specific activities such as revision technique sessions, English, maths and science interventions, careers discussions and motivational assemblies. It has been a really difficult decision to identify which two of our Houses will cease to exist. However, the recent turnover of the Heads of Eddystone and Sovereign has identified these two Houses as those to be dissolved.

Therefore, our proposal is to remove Year 11 from the House system (160 students – rising to 180 students) and reduce our number of Houses to six (120 students per house). We will then have one Head of Year 11 and six Heads of House. As a result, Heads of House will only have marginally more students in their House and we will be able to focus our Pastoral Programme for Year 11 to support any additional advice and guidance required as well as targeting intervention in Tutor Group time. Ultimately, our goal is to raise outcomes.

In order to ensure House identities are maintained and enhanced we are introducing a House tie (please see below). Year 11 should still wear their plain pink tie. Students who wish to wear a pink blouse will be required to display their House pin badge on their blazer. Please see below your Head of House and Pastoral support team from September 2019. The team will be led Mrs K Franklin, Director of Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Avoth
(Principal)

Heads of House

Anvil	– Miss L Orchard
Calshot	– Miss A Lewis
Hurst	– Miss J Brown
Kingswear	– Miss E Farrell
Portland	– Mrs K Twigg
Trinity	– Mrs H Betteridge

Head of Year 11 – Mr T Peacock

Anvil



Calshot



Hurst



Kingswear



Portland



Trinity



Tie colours may differ slightly from the above artist impressions