



June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Pastoral Support Structure 2018-2019

I am writing to make you aware of some changes we are making to the way our pastoral structure supports both student progress and their welfare needs.

For the past few years, most of our students have been part of a tutor group which includes those of other ages. These tutor groups have been organised into our Houses and pastoral leadership has come from a Head of House. This structure has worked well, and our Heads of House have responded well to the challenge of supporting students from all five year groups.

During the past year, students in Year 11 have been supported by tutors in only their year group with Mr Goodwin acting as their 'Head of Year'. It is widely agreed that this approach has had a significant impact on our ability to support students' progress and tailor our pastoral support specifically for the needs of those students.

Because of this, and an opportunity to reflect on our current structure, we have made the decision that the predominate pastoral structure from September 2018 should be one in which students, for the majority of the time, are supported in tutor groups consisting of students only in their Year group. Our current Heads of House will become our Heads of Year and will follow that group of students from when they arrive in Year 7 until they go into Year 11, at which time Mr Goodwin will provide support as they enter their exam year.

We believe that this will allow for all students to receive very specific support for their stage of education, and that Heads of Year will be able to have increased capacity to focus on those needs and support. For example, a Head of Year 9 and his/her tutor team will be able to spend more time supporting students as they prepare for the options process.

However, we greatly value the additional benefits that our House system offers to students in terms of identity and competition. Our current House structure will continue, and each will be led by a Head of House who will have a key role in ensuring the ongoing identity of the Houses. We are planning to carry on with frequent House assemblies and events.

With these changes in mind, we can confirm that the Heads of Year from September 2018 will be:

New Year 7 – Miss Woudberg
New Year 8 – Mr Bright
New Year 9 – Mrs Wherry
New Year 10 – Mr Farrer
New Year 11 – Mr Goodwin

Tutors will be made known to students during the latter part of this term.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we look to provide even greater provision for students as they progress through the school. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Richards, Assistant Headteacher, should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Edmonds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Mr A Edmonds
Headteacher