

21<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

### **Upper School Day House Allocation**

As you may already be aware, as part of your son's progression to the Upper School next year, he will be placed into one of our six day houses, each of which is twinned with its own boarding house, as shown in the table below. The boys in the twinned houses wear a common tie and compete together in house competitions. There is considerable (and healthy!) rivalry between the houses.

<b>Day House</b>	<b>Boarding House</b>
Ashburnham	Sanderson's
Bromham	Burnaby
Crescent	Pemberley
Paulo Pontine	Redburn
St Cuthbert's	Phillpotts
St Peter's	Talbot's

Each day house provides a base for the boys with changing areas for sports/games as well as recreational facilities. Housemasters and their tutorial team aim to provide a consistently high standard of pastoral care for the boys.

When they join the Upper School, boys will also be placed into our vertical tutor group system, where boys from each year group will be present. The vertical nature of these groups most definitely contributes to the strong sense of community that awaits your son. There will still be plenty of opportunity within the school day for boys to socialise with boys who are allocated into different houses.

The Upper School house allocation procedure will include input from Prep School tutors and will aim to balance out peer group issues whilst ensuring an even distribution of talents (academic, drama, music, sporting etc.) across all of the houses.

I would be grateful if you could contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns. We will obviously be liaising with the Prep School throughout.

We are aware that many parents do consider boarding on entry to the Upper School, but often decide to defer to a later stage in their son's school career. By far the best time to enter boarding is either at Fourth Form (Yr 9) or on the transfer into our Sixth Form (Yr 12); both of these entry points have a significantly higher number of beds available. We have very limited availability in all other year groups.

There are many clear benefits to boarding:

- Reduced travel time at either end of the day which can be used much more productively for both academic and extra-curricular opportunity.
- Supervised and highly structured prep time.
- The best of both worlds – spending the week making the most of the many varied opportunities available in the company of friends and then spending far more quality time together as a family at the weekend (within the weekly boarding option, boys are able to return to the House on either Sunday evening or the Monday morning).
- The development of greater independence and confidence.

If you feel that the transfer to the Upper School would be a good time to start boarding, please contact me to arrange a meeting along with a tour of some of our Houses.

If relevant, please let us know if there is a family connection to a specific house. This family connection will be upheld as a priority when considering the house allocation. It may be the case that you would prefer your son to be in a separate house from a brother or one of his peers and I would invite you to indicate this, in confidence, by email to me also.

I would be grateful if you could inform us of all relevant information (as indicated above) by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March; it may not be possible to take information received after this date into consideration. You will then receive a letter confirming your son's House allocation in the week preceding the summer half term break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Midgley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Richard Midgley**

Registrar

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