



12th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carers of sixth form students

Quick read

- We are re-introducing a House System in school
- Sixth form students all have the opportunity to apply for the role of House Captain
- We would like as many students as possible to apply
- The students will be working with a team of staff to make the House System work and to shape what it looks like
- Job descriptions and application forms are linked into this letter below.
- The deadline for applications is Friday 21st September.

Longer read

I hope that you had a great summer. I am really excited to be heading-up the re-introduction of a House System in school this year, which - in short - will mean that *all* students in Y7-13 are working towards the ultimate goal of winning the House Cup each year.

Our rationale for bringing a House System back into school is simple: we want there to be more fun, joy, competition and community spirit in our building. Our House System will be developed and shaped around 6 key missions:

- to foster a sense of community;
- to celebrate the successes of our students, in whatever guise they come;
- to provide opportunities for students to learn and develop leadership skills;
- to encourage healthy competition;
- to strengthen the link between the lower school and the sixth form;
- to allow for more opportunities for fun through a diverse range of activities.

It's for this reason that, in the first instance, I am reaching out to you as the parents/carers of our sixth form students because I need *your* help in getting them to apply for the roles of House Captain and Senior House Captain. Now, we appointed 7 Senior House Captains at the end of last year during the recruitment process for Head Girl and Head Boy and they have already made a fantastic start working alongside Mrs Darbyshire, but I need a bigger group of students to help me get this off the ground.

I spoke to the Sixth Form on Friday in assembly and explained what these roles would entail. In short, they will be the ideas, the enthusiasm, the inspiration and the get-up-and-go alongside me to make sure that things happen. They'll help with assemblies, with communications, with noticeboards, with corralling younger students,

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with creating and judging competitions and with establishing a motto, mascot and song for each house so that it develops its identity. They have the opportunity - in this inaugural year - to shape the role into whatever they want it to be. It's exciting!

I also spoke to the students about *why* taking on these roles would stand them in good stead in what is an incredibly competitive world of work. Not only will they be learning a whole host of new skills in what I promise will be a safe and supportive environment, but they'll also be able to write it on their CV or personal statement to help them with their next steps.

I am asking you, as the people closest to these students, to talk to them - if you are able - about what this role would mean for them. I know they're sixth formers, but they're still young people who need help in making big decisions, and sometimes just need a gentle prod in the right direction and the reassurance that we've got their backs. I want every student to feel that they can apply, and to be able to use their strengths to make the House System a better thing for us all.

Click on the links below to access the application form and job description. Students will need to make copies of these and then, once they are filled in, to email them to me at efox@stk.arete.uk. The deadline for applications is **Friday 21st September**.

[Job description](#)
[Application form](#)

I am ridiculously excited about the potential that this has for all of our students (and staff!), and can't wait to start working with a group of sixth formers to get it off the ground.

Thank you in advance for your support with this

Kind regards

Mrs Lizzi Fox
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