

King George Avenue
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 5HS

0115 9303724

SL/LYA

12th July 2023

Dear Families

RE: CHANGES TO HOUSE SYSTEM AND FORM GROUPS

I'd like to start by saying what a pleasure it has been to host the recent Principal Information Evenings and outline our exciting plans for September.

As our most important partner, it is vital that we build relationships and explain what we are doing and why we are doing it, as by doing so, you are better able to understand and support the school on its journey to be the best it can be.

There are a number of key changes for September 2023 but the one that I'm most excited about is the re-brand and re-launch of our house and wider pastoral system.

As a values driven organisation, we demonstrate CARE values. CARE stands for **C**ourage, **A**mbition, **R**espect and **E**xcellence.

These CARE values are very important to us because they define who we are, what we do and how we behave. They help to set the culture we want to establish, but to have meaning, we need to make them central to everything we do. Therefore, the names of our school houses will be changed to reflect our CARE values from September.

Courage

Courage is the ability to face the unknown with bravery and determination. It takes courage to try new things, take risks, and to pursue our dreams. Courageous people inspire others and set an example for what is possible. *OIEA students are Courageous.*

Ambition

Ambition is the drive and motivation to achieve great things. It is the desire to constantly improve and challenge us to be the best that we can be. Ambitious people are not content with mediocrity, they strive for excellence. *OIEA students are Ambitious.*

Respect

Respect is the foundation of all healthy relationships. It involves treating others with kindness, empathy, and understanding, regardless of differences in opinions, beliefs, or backgrounds. When we show respect for others, we create an environment of trust and mutual appreciation. *OIEA students are Respectful.*

Excellence

Excellence is the pursuit of the highest standards of quality and performance in everything we do. It means striving for perfection and adopting a mindset of continuous improvement. Excellence requires dedication, hard work, and a desire to learn. *OIEA students are Excellent.*

Your child has today been informed which house, tutor group and form tutor they will have next year.

Heads of Year will change roles and become House Leaders:

Mrs Clarke will be the House Leader for Courage

Miss Hawkins will be the House Leader for Ambition

Mr Taylor will be the House Leader for Respect

Mrs Mangan will be the House Leader for Excellence

Students will be issued a free house tie in September meaning they do not have to wear a tie on their first day. Their new tie will reflect their house colour and serve to promote their house identify.

Siblings have been placed into the same house where possible. This is to ensure a single point of contact for those families with multiple children at OIEA, which will help us to form closer relationships with our families.

There will be 8 tutor groups across each year group that collectively spell I L K E S T O N as we seek to instill a sense of belonging and pride.

Why are these changes being made?

We are more popular now than we ever have been with our new Year 7 intake being the largest on record. We also had a record number of applicants and still have students on a waiting list. This is set to continue for future year groups and whilst an increase in student numbers is positive, it also presents some challenges, the main one is being able to feed everyone at lunchtime in a timely manner. To ensure we can, we are increasing the number of lunchtimes from two to four.

This will ensure students can be served, eat and have a suitable amount of downtime within the allotted time available. This does however place limitations on the school timetable which is why form group, house and form tutor changes are unavoidable.

Students will attend lunch time in their house groups rather than in their year groups but breaktime will remain unchanged.

We appreciate that humans are creatures of habit and that sometimes change is difficult to deal with. We also know, however, that our students are remarkably resilient and will cope with whatever change comes their way.

Students will not be taught primarily in tutor groups as they have been in previous years. They will be grouped or set depending on their different subjects. As such, students will only spend a small proportion of their day in their tutor groups which limits the impact of such changes.

We should also consider that school is a place of education and whilst the social aspect cannot be ignored, students are primarily here to learn - not always being with their friends will have a net positive impact on their learning. Making these changes also helps to improve the school climate and reduce some of the inappropriate behavior sometimes observed, when large numbers of the same year group are together.

Whilst we fully appreciate that changes to form groups, houses and lunchtimes may not be universally popular, we are convinced that it's the correct thing to do. The configuration of houses and form groups has been carefully considered with a wide range of input from the pastoral, safeguarding and SEND team.

Despite this input, we may have missed things or placed students together that perhaps shouldn't be. If you believe this to be the case, please use the following link to record your concerns and we will consider them accordingly.

<https://forms.office.com/e/QgDPZRfRmH>

Please note that whilst all requests will be considered, the threshold for changes to be made will be exceptionally high due to limited capacity for movement. With classes already full, moving one student would mean moving another which isn't fair to do if they haven't also asked for a change.

Changes will only be made if there is significant cause to do so, wishing to move and be with a friend would not qualify for such a move as we fully expect students to adapt to their new normal after being immersed within it for a few days in September.

The pastoral team will meet to discuss changes by next Tuesday (18th July) meaning any concerns need to be raised as soon as possible and before this date. This allows us to complete group lists ahead of September.

Further communication will be shared next week regarding changes and information for the start of the new academic year, but I thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

I know that together, we will create the school our young people deserve.

Yours sincerely



Mr Simon Leach
Principal
Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy