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The House System

at Wath Academy



**Wath
Academy**



Welcome

The House System at Wath Academy

Every student at Wath Academy is a member of a school house. The six houses – Athens, Carthage, Rome, Sparta, Thebes and Troy – are named after ancient cities. Each house has its own badge, colour and set of values.

All six houses contain students from Years 7 to 13, uniquely enabling different year groups to come together. Members of staff are also placed in a house (usually the same one as their tutor group), embodying the house spirit fully in the school's ethos.

Under the guidance of a head of house, each house takes part in assemblies and extracurricular events across the academic year (see pages 4–5).

The overall aim of the house system is to build students' teamwork, confidence and community through friendly competition.



Mrs Schofield Senior House Link

The house system at Wath Academy is thriving, but dates right back to our humble beginnings in 1923.

Every week students can look forward to taking part in house competitions. We have mass participation events every Friday lunchtime, where hundreds of students get involved and represent their house and earn points for doing so. Alongside these events, we run 'box entry' competitions such as winter poetry. Students post their competition entry in their house box as they enter reception, again they receive house points for taking part. At the end of the year, the prestigious House Participation Trophy is awarded.

There is no wonder that students at Wath Academy develop an enormous sense of pride, belonging and loyalty to their house, whilst creating a friendly competitive spirit.

Established 1923

History of the House System

The house system is as old as the school. When the first 77 pupils enrolled at the new Wath Secondary School (as it was then known) in September 1923, they were organised not into forms but into the first two school houses, Rome and Sparta. As the school grew, more houses were added: Athens and Carthage in 1925 and Thebes and Troy in 1927.

Watched over by a housemaster and housemistress, each house competed for the likes of the Work Cup and Games Cup. Competitions similar to these continue to the present day.

There have been challenges to the house system. Thebes was disbanded in 1942 due to low student numbers. However, like other aspects of the house system, it survived and was re-founded in 1958.

Today, the house system has been modernised for the 21st century, but is still built on the same sense of community envisaged by the school's founders.



Above: Part of the school's war memorial, which includes the badges of all six houses



Below left: Athens girls in 1927



Below right: Sparta boys, also in 1927

House Events

House Competitions

Friday lunchtime is when house competitions are held. All students in the school are invited to participate in a fun mass activity. Past events include a conga challenge, paper aeroplane competition and treasure hunt. Points are awarded not just for winning, but also for participation.

A 'box task' is held every fortnight. A paper-based challenge, often linked to events like World Book Day or Careers Week, is set. Students post their submissions into boxes in the school reception. Points are awarded to the best entries.



The entry point for the 'box entry' competitions near reception

Assemblies and Guest Speakers

House assemblies are held once a half term. With all the house's students from across the school in attendance, the head of house leads a lively and informative assembly, usually based around the house's values.

These assemblies provide a beneficial opportunity for students to reflect and embed their house values into their personality.

Guest speakers are often invited to speak at these assemblies, often about a house value.



The 'sorting hat' used to allocate students to houses in their first assembly



House Representation

Many students aspire to represent their house and can achieve this through a wide variety of competitions, such as being selected for their house football team.

Sports Day is run on a house basis, with each house competing to be crowned the Wath champions.

House captains are elected from Year 12 students. They help organise house events and gain valuable leadership experience for their UCAS applications or CVs.



House badges are part of the school uniform



Members of Thebes about to take part in a house football match



A Rome player watches over his teammates on the football field

Athens



ASPIRATION | COMPETITIVENESS | LOYALTY | RESPONSIBILITY | WISDOM



Mrs Cunningham Head of Athens

I feel very proud, as Athens leader, to be part of a fantastic set of students and staff who are committed and dedicated to ensuring that we are successful as a house. As a keen sportswoman and a former PE teacher my competitive spirit aims to drive Athens members to participate in all house activities – to enjoy and to excel as individuals and as a house. My aim is also to help develop stronger morale and social skills to help aid students to reach their full potential.

Athens has five key values – aspiration, competitiveness, loyalty, responsibility and wisdom – that are presented through various competitions. I uphold these values each day and encourage my students to carry them also. One of my favourite attributes is aspiration. My aspiration for Athens house is that staff and students alike, to aspire to what they want to be and what makes them happy. I also believe that loyalty to Athens house is one of the reasons that Athens is successful each year. I want the students and staff to be proud to be part of Athens house where everyone one is valued and individual and team successes are celebrated.

I firmly believe that teamwork helps promote confidence and develop good attributes in our students. My aim is to get every student within our house to compete in at least two box entries and two Friday competitions every half term.

The City of Athens in Greece

Athens was the largest and most influential of the Greek city-states. It had many fine buildings and was named after Athena, the goddess of wisdom and warfare. The Athenians invented the concept of democracy ('demos' = 'the people', 'kratia' = 'the power of rule') to describe their system of government, where every citizen could vote on important issues, such as whether or not to declare war.

In the classical period, Athens was a centre for arts, learning and philosophy, home of Plato's Academia and Aristotle's Lyceum, Athens was also the birthplace of Socrates, Plato, Pericles, Aristophanes, Sophocles and many other prominent philosophers, writers and politicians of the ancient world.

Athens is widely referred to as the cradle of western civilization.





Carthage

CANDIDNESS | HONESTY | KINDNESS | PERSEVERANCE | STRENGTH



The City of Carthage in Tunisia

According to legend, colonists from modern-day Lebanon, led Queen Elissa, founded Carthage c. 814 BC. The Carthaginian Empire extended over much of the coast of north west Africa as well as encompassing substantial parts of coastal Iberia and the islands of the western Mediterranean Sea.

Carthage settlers were a seafaring people known as the Phoenicians. The ancient city of Carthage, located in modern-day Tunisia, was a major centre of trade and influence in the western Mediterranean. Carthaginians were a formidable warring nation. They fought a series of wars against Rome, which were known as the Punic Wars. Hannibal Barca was a general and statesman from ancient Carthage who is widely considered one of the greatest military commanders in history.



Mr Marriott Head of Carthage



We have a great team of staff and students in Carthage, and I am proud to be leading an extraordinary group of people.

Our key values have been the key to our successes so far, and will drive us forward to become even more successful. A candid approach to performances, accepting that we can improve no matter how well we have done so far, alongside the honesty to review performances and accept feedback even when things have not gone as planned are essential in reaching our goals. Perseverance, kindness and strength go hand in and if we are to reach our goals and never give up in our pursuit of success.

In Carthage we show the determination to keep going, the strength to act on feedback and the kindness to encourage each other – in short we work hard for each other not just ourselves, a true team.

My goal for Carthage is not just to excellent successful, but for the house badge and all that wear it to be recognised as hard working, supportive and honest. With these values any challenges that may be faced can be overcome, we can chase perfection and definitely catch excellence on the way.

Rome



CONFIDENCE | CREDIBILITY | FAITHFULNESS | RELIABILITY | TRUST



Mr Slack
Head of Rome

As we begin the new academic year, I am truly excited to start working with my fellow Romans to ensure another successful year for my house. Rome's values are something that I am fully aligned with and I am passionate about ensuring that every member of my house lives up to these values both during their time at Wath Academy, as well as in their lives beyond academic life.

After seeing the success that our empire was able to achieve last year, I cannot wait to build upon these past achievements and ensure that our status as a successful house is elevated even further. Rome's students are a loyal group who will relish the opportunity of going on to become this year's house champions.

Through becoming a member of Rome, and by partaking in various house events, our students will become better people as a whole, instilling crucial characteristics such as confidence, trustworthiness, faithfulness and reliability within them. Moreover, by committing to such a community, pupils will be able to create bonds that will last for years to come, as well as creating an array of positive school memories that they can cherish.

I look forward to wearing my house badge with pride and working with all of the fantastic staff and students who are dedicated to further embellishing the history of our great house, just as the Romans of old were set upon bettering their empire.

The City of Rome in Italy

The civilization began as an Italic settlement in the Italian Peninsula, that grew into the city of Rome and which subsequently gave its name to the empire over which it ruled and to the widespread civilisation the empire developed. The Roman Empire expanded to become one of the largest empires in the world.

Ancient Roman civilisation has contributed to modern language, religion, society, technology, law, politics, government, warfare, art, literature, architecture and engineering. Rome professionalised and expanded its military and created a system of government called 'Res Publica', the inspiration for modern republics such as the United States and France. It achieved impressive technological and architectural feats, such as the construction of an extensive system of aqueducts and roads, as well as the construction of large monuments, palaces and public facilities.





Sparta

CONSIDERATION | COURAGE | ENDURANCE | TEAMWORK | VISION



The City of Sparta in Greece

Sparta was a prominent city-state in ancient Greece. Around 650 BC it rose to become a dominant military land-power. It was unique for its social system and constitution, which configured its entire society to maximise military proficiency at all costs, focusing all social institutions on military training and physical development. Spartans underwent the rigorous 'agoge' training and education regimen, This started at the age of 7 and lasted for 11 years.

Spartan women also enjoyed considerably more rights and equality with men than elsewhere in classical society. Spartan phalanx brigades were widely considered to be among the best in battle. The movie '300' is based on the Battle of Thermopylae, where 300 Spartans held off 100,000 to 150,000 Persians. It is a true story about the victory of a few brave Spartans holding their ground against a larger adversary.



Miss Ashton Head of Sparta



I have been leader of Sparta for many years and every year I am incredibly proud of the students and staff contributions. They never cease to amaze me with their originality and determination.

I think our key values are very important, not just at school, but in everyday of our lives. These have become ever more necessary over recent times where I have tried to be considerate towards the elderly and vulnerable in my community, helping where ever I can and home schooling six children from 5 to 16 years old has definitely taken endurance!

We've all had to find some vision to try and see what the future will be and how we will adapt to it. It's taken courage for us all to deal with distancing and face masks and we've all worked as a team both within our families and within our socially distanced lessons.

I look forward to our future as Spartans where we will use our key values to handle whatever the future brings for us and excel in everything we do.

Thebes



AMBITION | DETERMINATION | ENTHUSIASM | FOCUS | OPTIMISM



Mrs King Head of Thebes

I am so privileged to be the Head of House for Thebes. My current role in school allows me to support many young people and covers a wide variety of issues. This has helped me to become familiar with lots of young people across all year groups, and I feel that this role can only enhance that contact and support.

I have worked at Wath Academy for 10 years and have seen the House System progress in to the fun and inclusive programme that we have now. I am a huge believer in our Key Driver 'Everyone is valued' and the House System encourages and supports this allowing everyone of differing abilities or interests to take part in some aspect of House competition.

Thebes are natural rivals of Athens according to history, but also based on last years final rankings this is still the case, where Thebes came in a close 2nd. This year our AMBITION is to flip this script and come out on top. This can only happen with increased DETERMINATION from all Thebean's to want to do better. In order to move forward and succeed ENTHUSIASIM is needed by everyone from Year 7 through to Year 13 including all staff. To try and make this happen I will make this one of my main FOCUS and I encourage House Success to be one of yours. I know all of this is a big ask but if we all think OPTIMISTICALLY and work together the impossible becomes possible. Let's go Thebes!

The City of Thebes in Greece

Thebes was a city in Boeotia, central Greece. It played an important role in Greek myths, as the site of the stories of Cadmus, Oedipus, Dionysus and Heracles. Thebes was the largest city of the ancient region of Boeotia and was the leader of the Boeotian confederacy. It was a major rival of ancient Athens, and sided with the Persians during the 480 BC invasion under Xerxes.

Thebes was a major force in Greek history, and was the most dominant city-state at the time of the Macedonian conquest of Greece. During the Byzantine period, the city was famous for its silks. The Sphinx, which features on the house badge, is a mythical creature with the body of a lion, the head of a human and the wings of a bird. It is often associated with Egypt, but the sphinx also plays a part in Greek traditions and is said to have guarded the entrance to the Greek city of Thebes.





Troy

CURIOSITY | DEDICATION | INGENUITY | PRUDENCE | TOLERANCE



The City of Troy in Turkey

Troy was a city in the far northwest of the region known in late classical antiquity as Asia Minor, now known as Anatolia in modern Turkey. It was the setting of the famous Trojan war. During the war, the city of Troy was besieged for ten years. After the deaths of many heroes, including the Achaeans Achilles and Ajax, and the Trojans Hector and Paris, the city fell to the ruse of the Trojan Horse. Legend states that the Greeks pretended to sail away whilst leaving a large wooden horse as a gift.

The horse was dragged into the city by the Trojans, but inside were hidden Greek soldiers. These soldiers let the rest of the army into the city and then the city of Troy fell.

A famous Trojan is Helen of Troy. In Greek legend, she was often described as the most beautiful woman of Greece and the indirect cause of the Trojan War. She was daughter of the god Zeus.



Mr Woodward Head of Troy



Last year was an exciting year, seeing us move up and down on the house leader board. Building on this year's success and of course welcoming some new Year 7s to the house, I am hoping to see Troy climb further up the leader board next year.

As a Geography teacher, I believe in the power of community and that individuals with passion and commitment for any cause can have a huge impact on the world around them. This marries perfectly with Troy's house values of curiosity, dedication, prudence, ingenuity and tolerance.

I have seen dedication from the Trojans in our Friday lunch competitions, ingenuity in the various box entries competitions, and tolerance to take some of our losses on the chin this year!

A huge football fan, I am hoping we can embody some the underdog spirit shown by Sheffield United over the last few seasons to give us a top half finish next year. For us to do this, every single Troy student and teacher will need to be dedicated to seeing the house succeed. We need weekly entries to increase, Friday lunch victories to keep coming in, and of course every single Trojan wanting to win as much as the other. As a team, and as a house we can do this!

There's no other house I'd rather be head of.



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