



BURSCOUGH PRIORY ACADEMY

Burscough Priory Academy,
Trevor Road,
Burscough,
Lancashire L40 7RZ

Telephone: 01704 893259

Email: enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org

Website: www.burscoughprioryacademy.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

Ref: 1878 LGW

Dear Parents,

16th July 2019

Vertical Tutoring and New Houses

You may recall that we wrote to you in May to advise you about the vertical tutoring system that we are implementing at Burscough Priory Academy from September 2019.

Essentially, vertical tutor groups have a small number of students from each year group all mixed together, as opposed to a full group of students from the same year.

The move towards vertical tutoring has been prompted by recent evidence and research which has indicated some particularly positive advantages. We have clearly seen these in place in our two sister schools and have been advised closely by their processes for transition and implementation. These advantages include improved relationships across the school as students get to know each other in different year groups, and the fostering of a close family feeling and looking after each other. It also aids more focused academic mentoring, monitoring and tracking. Because the data for each year group is staggered through the year it means that tutors only need to interpret the data for a small group at a time, which provides much more personalised and appropriate challenge. It also supports transition, options counselling and Post 16 planning - again because tutors are only focusing on a small number of new students at a time. The sense of pride in the tutor group and the House is also really evident.

Since the communication in May we have carried out a comprehensive programme of discussions within the school community. As always, our students are at the forefront of each and every decision we make and we wanted to continue to ensure that they feel safe, nurtured and listened to. This has included:

- Informing students about the latest research and the benefits of vertical tutoring and the process of changing to a vertical system. This took place through assemblies and discussions within tutor groups.
- Meetings with the student leadership council to address student views and answer any concerns. Representatives from the School Council completed a visit to a partner school who had recently been through the process. They were able to ask questions on behalf of other students and feedback about their experiences.
- Discussions and planning with staff in our school and in our partner schools to ensure the process will be effective as possible.

During this process each student has had the opportunity to identify which of their friends they wish to be in a tutor group with as we know that the biggest fear factor within this change is about students worrying about losing their friendship groups and feeling exposed and vulnerable. We have also spoken individually with the students who we are aware may struggle with change and informed parents of what we discussed.

Students have been an instrumental within the naming of the houses and taking part in a democratic vote. If you haven't already, do please see the photographs on our Facebook page.



Sponsored by Endeavour Learning Trust
Registered in England
Company Registration Number 7848372
VAT Registration Number 125718416

E PLURIBUS UNUM



BURSCOUGH PRIORY ACADEMY

Burscough Priory Academy,
Trevor Road,
Burscough,
Lancashire L40 7RZ

Telephone: 01704 893259

Email: enquiries@burscoughprioryacademy.org

Website: www.burscoughprioryacademy.org

Executive Headteacher: Mrs L. A. Gwinnett

House Names

We are pleased to announce our final selection of House names. Our House names have been chosen to represent historical and modern day pioneers. These pioneers challenged the norms of society in which they lived leading to significant change. Their actions, thoughts and principles are inspirational to others who believe that

'Working together we can create a better world for all'.

Sir David Attenborough (**Attenborough House**). Sir David has devoted his life to celebrating and preserving wildlife and protecting the planet. He, more than any other person, has helped millions of us understand and appreciate the wonders of the world around us and how we as humans have the powers to protect it. He is the most influential voice in our battle for our planet and its preservation.

Malala Yousafzai (**Yousafzai House**). Malala is a young activist who was shot in the head by the Taliban whilst campaigning for her rights and the rights of others, particularly girls, to be educated. She refused to be silenced and her fearless efforts have made her a Noble Peace Prize winner. Her commitment to education for all still drives her work, despite the ongoing threats she receives.

Alan Turing (**Turing House**). Alan was an English mathematician and pioneer of theoretical computer science and early artificial intelligence. During World War 2, he was instrumental in breaking the German Enigma code, leading to Allied victory over Nazi Germany. Despite these accomplishments, he was never fully recognised in his home country during his lifetime, due to his homosexuality, which was a crime in the UK at the time. Alan never hid who he was despite the persecution he suffered.

Anne Frank (**Frank House**). Anne was a Jewish teenager who was forced into hiding from the Nazi's during World War II. The diary she wrote has become one of the most famous records of life during the Holocaust. Her diary helped document the suffering of the Nazi occupation and helped give a human story behind the dreadful Holocaust statistics. Her positivity and desire to help others have been both a poignant and inspirational.

Miss Holcroft will be the House Progress Leader of Attenborough House, Mrs Livesley will be the House Progress Leader of Yousafzai House, Mr Collins will be the House Progress Leader of Turing House and Miss Patton will be the House Progress Leader of Frank House.

Today we are informing the rest of the school, beyond those individual students we have already spoken to, which House and tutor group they will be in at the start of term in September. Many are excited about this, but we also know that for others change can be scary and make students anxious. If that is the case, please don't hesitate to contact us so that we can have further reassuring conversations. We do not want any of our students distressed by this process, particularly those students who already went through a tutor group restructuring this time last year.

Thank you in advance for your support in this.



Sponsored by Endeavour Learning Trust
Registered in England
Company Registration Number 7848372
VAT Registration Number 125718416

E PLURIBUS UNUM