



6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we launched the new House System at Axe Valley Academy with students, ready for September, and I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you some information about how the House system will work and the reasons behind the launch.

Every student, staff member and Governor has become a member of one of our three new Houses. Each house is named after an important local historical figure and has its own House colour, taken from our school colours. I have included a brief information sheet about each person who lends their name to our Houses. The three Houses we have chosen, their colours and their senior staff leads are:

- Thomas Coram (Gold) - Mr Scott
- Mary Anning (Blue) - Mr Cumming
- Lady Mary Chudleigh (Black) - Mr Wilson

Your child will have found out on Monday which House their tutor group is in and which staff are also in their House. We have launched this today as we have the wonderful opportunity of making this year's sports day our launch event. Students will be competing for the glory of winning the first House Sports Cup!

Every child will be able to identify which House they are in by the colour of their tie. We will be, in September, gifting their new House ties and badges to them in tutor time on their very first morning. You can see some beautiful pictures of the new ties being modelled below.



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All students will still be awarded positive points for their achievements; however, these will now be called House Points. Students will still strive to achieve their bronze, silver, gold and platinum badges but their points will also contribute toward their Houses' success. In essence, the harder they work the more points they will be accumulating for their House! In addition to this, there will also be a range of competitions that students can participate in including the Curriculum Cup, Reading Cup, Sports Cup and Community Cup throughout the year. All of these individual House Points and points won for participating in House competitions will add up to contribute to the overall House Championship trophy awarded at the end of each year. We know all of our students at Axe Valley are the best but each year one House will be able to claim the title of House Champions and will therefore be the best of the best!

We will no longer have a Student Leadership Team which consists of Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl and instead move to two House Captains per House selected from Year 11. Parents of current Year 10 students will already have received a parent mail explaining how their children can apply to become a House Captain. Next week all of the student body will watch the House Captain video applications and vote for their own student leaders.

Across the next two weeks, students also have the opportunity with their tutors to read more about the three historical figures that we have selected and to give their ideas about how the House System can develop and grow. We are also encouraging them to get prepared for Sports Day where we will be encouraging our first exciting House competition. For the first year ever students will be competing for their House as opposed to their tutor group alone and the House Championship trophy will be awarded, adorned with the winning colour ribbons, in the final assembly of the academic year.

I am incredibly proud of this school. I am incredibly proud of the staff at this school and I could not be more proud of the students at this school. The House system allows us to really build on our sense of community and make sure that everyone who is a part of this community feels like they belong to something bigger. Now students will have a House identity to complement their existing year group identity.

Axe Valley Academy may be small but we are mighty and we are so excited to launch our House System and build on our community ethos even further.

As always if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Jenkins".

Laura Jenkins  
Headteacher