

Court Fields School: Year Group Proposal

Context:

Since September 2009 Court Fields School has run a tutorial system based on vertical tutor groups. For 30 minutes each morning Year 7 – 11 mixed aged tutor groups work with their Tutor on a range of Pastoral and House business. Students in each Tutor group are in the same House. The rationale for introducing this system was to improve behaviour in the school.

Proposal:

From September 2018 Court Fields School Tutor Groups will be organised in Year Groups. All students within a Tutor Group will be the same year group working with their Tutor each morning in tutorial time. The students in a Tutor group will be in the same House.

Rationale:

Changing the organisation of Tutor Groups into Year Groups will improve and benefit student academic and pastoral achievement, student sense of belonging and their participation in the full life of Court Fields School. Students spend a significant amount of time each week in their Tutor Group (1.5 hrs per week). The Tutor has such an important impact on children, the role is vital to their wellbeing, sense of belonging, attendance, behaviour etc. The tutor role has grown so much over the years so honing our structure to focus on one year group will benefit staff and enable us to really tailor what we do and pass this on from year to year. HOH converting to HOY will significantly see the impact of this dealing with only 6 year groups as opposed to 7 tutor groups.

Some of the key benefits:

1. Year 7 will benefit from a HOY dedicated to Cross Phase Transition responsible for each student's Pastoral and Academic needs, specialising in providing outstanding support and care throughout transition to Court Fields School. This role and person would remain the same year on year.
2. Year 8-11 will benefit from the same HOY who would move up through the school with their students. The HOY will be able to focus and target age appropriate key messages/issues/activities and assemblies
3. HOY will work with only 6 Tutor Groups to communicate key information/ deliver the year group programme.
4. At lunchtimes Year Groups will have a base in their Tutor Group where they will feel a sense of personal responsibility to the group, the tutor environment and are more likely to socialise effectively, so reducing inappropriate behaviour at lunchtimes.
5. Students benefit from consistent high expectations from the Tutor and HOY and are not exposed to any negative attitudes or behaviours from older students.
6. Year 7 students are used to being in Year Groups in Primary school and used to being responsible with duties to perform for the Tutor. Year 7 students will benefit from continuing to take student leadership positions within the Tutor and Year group to enhance their sense of belonging and participation straight away. We need students to 'buy in' to the Court Fields vision, values and ethos from day 1. With a new student leadership structure all students irrespective of age will have opportunity to engage with leadership posts.
7. Students will benefit from mixing with their peer group first thing each morning in preparation for the school day. Lesson 1 will reap the benefits of improved learning attitude as 'talk time' with friends has already happened.

- Our House system can be re invigorated with competitions appropriate to age which would be led by the AHT Pastoral improving participation and excitement. Not only will students enjoy striving to win the House cup but the Tutor Cup also.

Potential Issue:

- Ensuring that there is an equitable number of students in each House (6 Tutor groups in each Year and 4 Houses)

Proposed Structure and Organisation:

- The AHT Pastoral will lead and manage the House system which will be strong
- The DHT Achievement will line manage the HOY
- HOY will be responsible for the Achievement of their Year Group (Progress, Behaviour and Attendance).
- There would be a HOY for each Year Group. Current HOH would transfer to HOY negotiating their Year Group preference with HT. There will be an additional post advertised to expand the current team of 4 HOH to a team of 5 HOY.
- The HOY 7 will be the same person year on year to allow that individual to specialise and become our school expert in the transition process from Primary to Secondary school
- Each Year Group will have one assembly a week delivered by SLT and/or HOY. There will therefore be 3 mornings a week for the Year Groups tutorial programme delivered by Tutors
- Wednesday tutor time will continue to be Personal Development (PHSE /SMSC) taught in the tutor group
- Each tutor and their tutees will belong to a House.
- Each half term the AHT will deliver a House Assembly (Yr 7-11) to inspire and motivate inter-house and inter-tutor competitions and events.
- Each tutor group with have approx. 25-30 students

Note:

- Staff will be asked for Year group preferences
- Students will be asked to name students they would want to be in a tutor group with (up to 5 names)

Timeline

Date	Action	Stakeholders	Deadline
Fri 20 th April	Proposal published in staff bulletin and alerted in briefing	staff	10 th May
Monday 23 rd April	House Meeting: staff feedback per House. Individuals to RB	staff	10 th May
Monday 30 th April	Year Assemblies 8.30: Yr 10 8.50: Yr 9 9.10: Yr 8 9.30: Yr 7	Students (box in library for feedback)	10 th May feedback through suggestion box and Peer Parliament
Monday 30 th April	Proposal on website	Parents	Friday 18 th May
Monday 30 th April	Proposal in Parent Bulletin	Parents	Friday 18 th May
Thursday 3 rd May	Peer Parliament meeting – RB Q & A discussion. Initial response.	students	3 rd May

Thursday 10th May	Peer Parliament – RB – feedback to RB with issues arising	students	10 th May
Friday 18th May	Staff briefing/ bulletin – feedback provided	Staff informed	Fri 18 th May
w/b Mon 21st May	Tutors inform students in tutorial – feedback (RB prepare Powerpoint to show) SLT assembly to inform students with all feedback Update website Parent bulletin - feedback	Students informed Parents informed	25 th May
19th June	LGB – Governors feedback	Governors	19 th June
June - July	RB to recruit an additional HOY (include new staff in Sept for opportunity) HOH to be designated to HOY by negotiation SW to complete Primary Transition Process. RB/SW/DW to allocate Tutors to Year Groups through consultation. HOY to allocate students to new Year Tutor Groups - inform students and their parents – letter home	HOY Tutors Students Parents	3 rd July (Welcome Day 1)
July	Yr 6 Parents Evening Welcome Days – Year Group tutor groups RB end of year letter home – remind new Year groups Newsletter Summer 2 – article about new Year groups	New Parents New Students Parents	4 th July