

Parliament of Houses

Updates from Houses and Committees.

Brook's

Brook's: Our focus is on the Intellectual and Learning in the College. Each form class has had a Pupil Voice Meeting focusing on Learning whose minutes have been forwarded to the VP. In our Charity stand, the AHOH met with the Head of Brooks in the Prep and as an all school House we have collected just shy of £1,500 for our Charity and under the spiritual stand we are organising our Chapel service for this term. Our Gladstone Scholars have taken the lead in Assemblies, provided supervision of the campus, helped with Chapel services and taken many Circle Time sessions under the Restorative Thinking Initiative.

Butlers

Our focus is improving the physical environment of the school. Each form has been assigned a house space to improve and we are in the process of decorating those house spaces with artwork and displays. Whilst we have not had our turn to raise money for charity, we are supporting ActionAid to raise money for education for women around the world. This was suggested as it is very much in the spirit of Josephine Butler.

Our Gladstone Scholars, led by Eve W, have been excellent in supporting their forms every week and attending chapels and whole school assemblies with them. They have also been brilliant in performing their duties every Tuesday and are a credit to the house.

Howard's

Our focus is Mental Health and we are exploring ways we can develop our own resilience when dealing with stress and anxiety. Our HOH has launched our House action in assembly. We are going to start with raising awareness of protective factors that can support our own mental health. Already our relationships circle time work helped us think about our own personal role models and we have created a display about this in the MV building.

We are following on with the theme of anxiety. To begin with we will be creating our own House display of the issues and solutions for dealing with anxiety this half term. We want to thank the PTA for those lovely display boards which we are looking forward to putting to good use. Our HOH is looking into the benefits of mindfulness as a strategy to support our mental health. Next term we will begin to develop these techniques during form time.

In our Charity stand we are interested in raising money for Young Minds as this supports our House action. Our AHOH will be making plans for fundraising opportunities this term. Our spiritual commitment is strong and we reflect with purpose about putting our faith into action in ABYLA sessions with our HOH and by developing our Chapel service for next term with our form teacher. Our Gladstone scholars take their leadership responsibilities seriously. They act as positive role models around our site, reminding us about rules and social behaviour. In Chapel they sit amongst us and set the tone for Chapel as a quiet calm and reflective space. Next term they will be leading some of the Mindfulness activities in forms to help us become more reflective learners.

Howson's

Our focus is on Environment. Last term we explored Deforestation in Wednesday LC form sessions. Year 8 pupils conducted a bake sale that raised £200 for our house charity the Mersey Forest Trust. The charity got in contact with the school and will be rewarding Howson's House with a certificate to recognise the house's generous donation. Year 7 pupils have been litter picking and have been collecting bottles. They will also be donating money raised from collecting bottles to the Mersey Forest Trust. Year 11 pupils are conducting a reverse advent calendar to donate to the less fortunate at Christmas time.

In our local school environment, using funds from the parent's society we have planted the Steve Doran garden along with other areas around the college with spring bulbs and plants. As the weather gets colder we also look forward to seeing the birds arriving at the feeding station

This term we will be exploring Plastic Pollution in Wednesday LC form sessions. This term pupils are being encouraged to create a campaign on reducing Plastic Pollution. The winning effort will be rewarded with two tickets to Chester Zoo to see our newly adopted lion, called Howson, as a result of winning last year's overall House League Table. Additionally, so far Years 11, 12 and 13, including our Gladstone Scholars, have delivered assemblies on themes surrounding Ecology. Our prefects have been an active part in our chapel and LC sessions, particularly during Circle Time.

Selwyn's

Our focus was on the theme of 'Challenge'. Each form was set the task of engineering and implementing a challenge that would stretch them personally and make a positive impact on the wider community. Many of the challenges therefore had a specific outreach and encouraged pupils to go out of their comfort zones to bring positivity to others. Some challenges were simple, such as holding doors for the rest of the class every lesson, while others were far wider reaching, like 10 Selwyn's creating and distributing care packages to the homeless.

For example, 9 Selwyns decided to challenge themselves to face their fears. Mia P and Lili L created a challenge form and a sponsorship form which were issued to all members of the group. On the challenge form, every pupil wrote down something they were afraid of and committed to a challenge which would help them face that fear. Challenges included: public speaking; overcoming a fear of spiders; tackling a fear of dogs; and singing in front of the whole school. Pupils asked friends and families to sponsor them to complete this challenge with funds raised going towards helping the homeless.

7 Selwyn's also used their challenge to raise money for our house charity through a Staff Cake Bake - 10 students including our Prefect baked cakes for the staff in the whole college (Pre-Prep School, Prep School, Middle School, Upper School, Office - Non - Teaching and Teaching, Catering, Cleaning & Maintenance staff). Those who did not bake, helped by designing posters to advertise the event. £100 was raised which will go directly towards 10 Selwyn's who are purchasing food Parcels for the homeless. In the coming weeks, forms will take it in turn to run a challenge for the entire house. Again, these will be focused on personal development and bringing positivity to the College and our wider community.

School

Our focus is Cultural and Artistic. Each form has been working on a 'revised' motto for the House as well as preparing the different music theme each week to tie in with the theme of 'Love'. This half term our focus is 'School Alumni' and 'The History of the School'. This will lead to displays across the School. We continue to prepare the music for the bells with the theme of 'Joy'.

School House provided the support in Chapel for the first Half Term providing four chapel wardens who were present for every service. Year 9 presented to the Whole School a session on 'Love'. It is the School House charity half term and we will be raising money for 'Vitality Housing' in Wavertree. A community based charity that works with adults who have been given a second chance after misuse of drugs and alcohol.

The School House Gladstone Scholars provide support across the Campus at lunchtime and have key roles during Chapel. We will develop their role further this half term with work with Year 7.

Committees

The Environmental Committee

The Eco-Committee held their first meeting on 9th October and are due to meet again next week. We have outlined a strategy for bringing the school to "Eco-School" status. This is expected to take approximately one year and will involve achieving the Bronze Award, followed by the Silver and, finally, the "Green Flag" gold award upon completion.

In our first meeting, we looked at conducting an eco-audit of the school, to act as a baseline from which we will be able to assess our impact at the end of the year. Our eco-ambassadors are in the process of conducting research, surveys, interviews with staff and students to gain a full picture of our current eco-status. Once our findings have been collated, we will select 3 main topics to focus on. Two key areas that already stand out as being areas that could see significant, feasible improvement are 1. Waste (paper and plastic recycling) and 2. Energy usage (lights, laptops, smartboards, heating).

1. Waste focus: The committee have agreed that the introduction of a college reusable water bottle for the new Year 7s in September, as part of the school uniform, will help to more deeply embed a sustainable ethos among students. This will then feed through to subsequent year groups. The committee plans to fundraise to enable the cost to be subsidised. The logo design will be decided on through House Competition across all year groups. In addition, the committee will consider the potential of using Howson's and Butler's reps to act as Recycling Monitors, which would tie in nicely to their respective House Actions.

2. Energy focus: During winter, we will be running "Switch Off Fortnight"; an initiative that focuses on saving energy over a 2-week period, to highlight easy and effective energy-saving techniques. Our ambassadors will be presenting in assemblies and advertising through posters and the screens. Watch this space!

Finally, January will see the launch of the Eco-Club in the Activities programme. This will present an excellent opportunity for committee members and other eco-warriors to come together to implement projects around the school.