**Vertical Tutoring to Horizontal Tutoring – Academic Year 2015-16**

This document will address frequently asked questions and provide information to support the change.

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| **What is Horizontal Tutoring?** | * This is where all tutor groups will be made up of students from the same year group.
* This is a move from the current structure where each tutor group consists of a number of students from each year group.
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| **What are the benefits?** | * We feel that students will benefit from sharing experiences with children of their own age. We will also be creating a system and opportunities for students to continue their social mixing with other year groups and building on the experiences that the house system and Vertical Tutoring provided.
* There will be more ‘year’ focused tutor time which is invaluable at key points during the year. Messages, activities and sessions will be directed to meet the needs of one year group and not five within one form. We feel that this is a more effective use of time and will benefit all students.
* There will be opportunities for clearer and more differentiated tutor programmes. For example, CV writing for Year 10 students.
* Tutors will be able to focus their efforts towards one year group; this will aid communication across the school and supports the tutor’s delivery of sessions. For example, Year 7 will not have to listen to Year 11 revision announcements and examinations.
* Tutors will move through the years with their tutor group, watching them grow up and progress together. Strong relationships can be formed between students and tutors, but also parents and tutors.
* We will be moving from ‘Head of House’ to ‘Progress Leaders’. This will support tracking, monitoring and evaluation as the Progress Leader can apply their efforts to the whole year group. We will be able to improve consistency across the year group as the Progress Leader will have the full overview of the year group, rather than having 4 Heads of House working with all year groups.
* We will be moving from Assistant Heads House to ‘Pastoral Leaders’. A Pastoral Leader does not have teaching commitments and will support students with all aspects of pastoral care.
* Similar to the monitoring of progress, Progress Leaders and pastoral teams will be able to ensure greater consistency in the monitoring of rewards and sanctions.
* There will be increased opportunities to create a year group identity and competition across tutor groups. There will be the further sense of belonging for students.
* Should a Head of Department wish to share the successes of students within a class, or indeed concerns, they will only need to communicate with one Progress Leader as opposed to four Heads of House.
* Year 7 students in academic year 2015-16 will start their journey at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School together.
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| **What about the students who like Vertical Tutoring?** | * We will continue to adopt the qualities and positives of the Vertical Tutoring system. For example, older mentors can be assigned to tutor groups to support with reading schemes.
* We will keep the Houses, particularly as such a strong identity has been created. We will be able to utilise this for competitions, PSHE days and key events.
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| **Will my child get to choose their tutor group?** | * Not necessarily. The Pastoral Team and Senior Leadership Team will give careful consideration to the placing of students in Horizontal Tutor groups, taking into account a wide variety of factors.
* In some cases, students can state a preference for being placed in a tutor group with a friend; however, it cannot be guaranteed that this request will be met.
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| **My child’s tutor knows them well and now that experience will be lost. What is the school doing to provide continuity?** | * Effective transition to the new system is crucial to its success and we will ensure that there is a system to share information about every student.
* In some cases, where there are particularly strong tutor-student relationships, we will be able to strategically place students.
* There will be a thorough induction for all tutor groups and we are confident it will not take long for students to settle into their new form.
* Students, in many cases, will be with peers from teaching groups, which will ensure that they can interact and quickly build upon existing friendships.
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| **How will tutor time be organised?** | * Tutor time will move to the start of the school day, **8.40am (warning bell) – 9.05am.**
* Each year group will have a differentiated programme to meet their needs.
* Tutors will keep a close track of the progress of each student, helping to ensure that all students achieve their very best.
* Monitoring of attitudes to learning and other aspects of performance (including attendance) will take place during tutor time.
* Opportunities for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development will be created.
* Being a Church of England school, the delivering of worship activities will continue during tutor time.
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| **How will my child be supported?** | * Your child will have a tutor who will join them on their journey through the school, rotating with the students. Tutors take pride in this role and should be the first contact for a child with a concern.
* There will be a Year 7 Progress Leader, Year 8 & 9 Progress Leader and Year 10 & 11 Progress Leader. They will have an overview of the year groups and will strategically lead their team. Student progress will be the centre of everything that they do.
* The Assistant Heads of House will become ‘Pastoral Leaders’. There will be a Year 7 Pastoral Leader, Year 8 & 9 Pastoral Leader and Year 10 & 11 Pastoral Leader. These members of staff are non-teachers and will continue to provide the pastoral care required for our students.
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| **What about the House identity that you have created?** | * Warburton, Tyldesley, Priestley and Ireland will remain. All students will be assigned to a House.
* House competitions will take place throughout the year and, in some cases, will allow for learning with other students across all year groups.
* We will be developing our school council and students will be leading a range of House events.
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| **Will this impact my child’s friendship groups?** | * In some cases younger students have struggled to build strong friendships with the older students. The move to the new system will allow them to share experiences with students of the same age, whilst supporting and guiding each other. We feel this will encourage more positive interaction.
* Some classes will be taught in form groups which will help cement relationships.
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| **Will the same Progress Leader follow my student through the school?** | * No. The Year 7 Progress Leader, Year 8 & 9 Progress Leader and Year 10 & 11 Progress Leader will all be fixed and will not move with the year group.
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| **How many forms will there be in each year group?** | * This is very much dependent on the school roll and the numbers in each year group
* There will be a 5 form entry at Year 7, 5 forms in Year 8, 6 forms in Year 9, 6 forms in Year 10 and 6 or 7 forms in Year 11 (to be confirmed).
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| **How will assemblies now work?** | * During the current school week we have created opportunities for both house and year group assemblies. Students are familiar with both set ups.
* House assemblies will not be as frequent and will only take place at key points, when necessary, during the year.
* There will be regular year group assemblies scheduled and they will have a specific focus on achievement and progress.
* There will also be opportunities to address current issues and for regular spiritual assemblies to take place.
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| **Is this change a result of the Ofsted inspection?** | * No. This is something that the Senior Leadership Team has been considering for a period of time. It is about what is best for all of our students. We would not make such a big decision if we did not believe it was in the best interest of the students and that it would help them achieve their full potential.
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| **Why are you confident that it will succeed?**  | * A great deal of thought has gone into this decision and we will be working hard to ensure it is a success. We will, of course, be reviewing and monitoring the new approach. There may well be some teething problems but we will be working with all stakeholders to make this work and deliver the benefits to help us on our journey to achieving the highest possible standards.
* Other structural changes, such as tutor time being moved to the start of the day and the move to one lunch, will complement this system.
* It has been acknowledged that the Senior Leadership Team are aware of the areas for development and have the strategies to ensure we move in the right direction as a school; this is one change that will contribute towards us moving out of special measures.
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| **My child is nervous about the change. How will you address their concerns?** | * A worry box will be made available for students to share their concerns.
* Assemblies will take place to ease the worries of students.
* Tutors will work through the key information and will address questions.
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| **Where can I find more information?** | * Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Leonard at Jleonard@boteler.org.uk
* There is an information evening Wednesday 3rd June 2015, 6.00pm – 6.30pm in the Drama Studio. There will be the opportunity to speak to members of the Pastoral Team and the Senior Leadership Team.
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**Key Summary:**

* Students will be in a tutor group with students of their own age group
* Heads of House to become Progress Leaders
* Assistant Heads of House to become Pastoral Leaders
* Tutors will remain with the tutor group throughout their time at the school
* Tutor time will be from 8.40am (early warning bell) to 9.05am

