



Wembley High Technology College

Newsletter

Summer 1- 2025

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION TO WHTC HOUSE SYSTEM



This year, Wembley High Technology College is proud to introduce a House System that will bring our school community even closer together. The House System has been developed to celebrate our values, build student leadership, increase participation and, above all, promote unity through healthy competition and shared success.

As part of this initiative, every student and member of staff will be allocated to one of seven Houses. These Houses are inspired by extraordinary individuals who have made outstanding contributions to humanity in the fields of science, the arts, social justice and intellectual thought: **Hypatia of Alexandria, Al-Khwarizmi, Leonardo Da Vinci, Maya Angelou, Boudicca, Aryabhata and Confucius** have all left an impact on the world and our House System will honour their significant contributions.

This initiative is deeply rooted in our school's newly developed mission statement, which has been co-created by staff and students. It captures the essence of our community and reflects our ambition for every learner. Our mission is: *To deliver 'Achievement for All', one child at a time. We do this by creating a dynamic and inclusive learning environment where every student is empowered to achieve the grades that unlock the doors of opportunity. Driven by our core values of hard work, ambition, resilience, empowerment, diversity, and helping others, we believe that academic excellence is the golden ticket to success. We are committed to equipping our students with the skills, knowledge, and love of learning that they need to excel, ensuring they have the confidence and capability to shape a better world. Through perseverance and collaboration, our students will not only achieve their personal goals but also become compassionate leaders who inspire positive change.* I have every faith that the House System will allow students to shine and develop the soft skills which are so important in our interconnected world.

We look forward to seeing the House System take root in the life of the school and flourish in the years to come. Significant work has already taken place to set up the WHTC House System and I look forward to this shaping our culture over the coming year.

Tom Best
Headteacher

Meet the Heads of House

Each House will be led by a dedicated Head of House. These are key members of staff who will support and guide students, celebrate successes, and foster the ethos of their respective Houses.

House of Hypatia



Head of House: Dr C. Clayton

With a BA and MA in Modern History from the University of Warwick and a PhD in History from Queen Mary, University of London, I have dedicated my academic life to exploring the intersections of religion, emotion, and belief systems in the modern world. My research centred on alternative religious movements, a subject that continues to fascinate me.

I transitioned into secondary education to inspire a new generation of historians at a pivotal moment in their learning journey.

I am thrilled to be part of WHTC's House System, which mirrors the one that shaped my own school experience - fostering healthy competition and building a strong sense of belonging.

About House Hypatia

Hypatia of Alexandria was a philosopher, astronomer and mathematician who lived in Egypt in the 4th Century CE. A renowned educator and thinker, she became known for her intellectual brilliance and tolerance across religious divides.

Her reputation extended across the Mediterranean, and one of her students once wrote that she was "... a person so renowned, her reputation seemed literally incredible."

Hypatia is now recognised as a symbol of feminist thought and intellectual integrity. Her legacy reflects WHTC's core values: Integrity, Respect, Diversity, Achievement, Teamwork and Success.



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House of Al-Khwarizmi

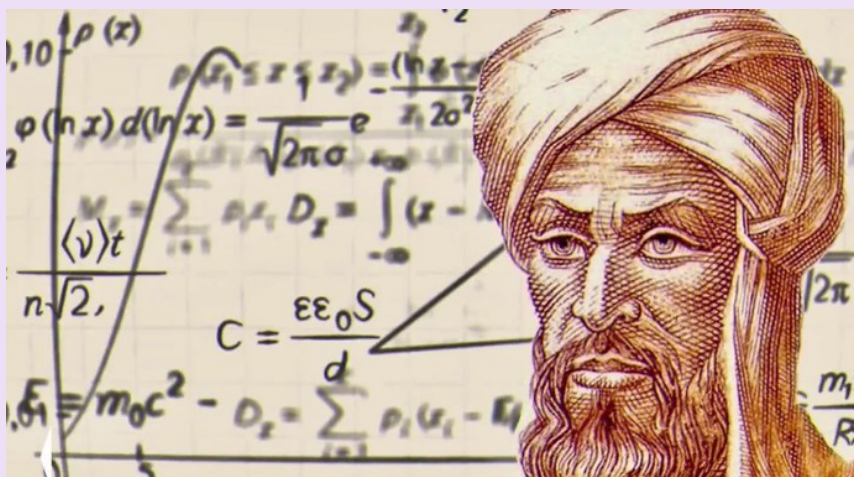
Head of House: Ms S. Rabendran

First and foremost, I am a proud WHTC alumnus. I hold a BSc in Biomedical Science from St George's, University of London, and an MSc in Cancer and Molecular and Cellular Biology from Queen Mary, University of London. My scientific background drives my passion for inquiry, critical thinking, and innovation in the classroom. As a science teacher, I strive to empower students to take ownership of their learning and support one another in achieving excellence.

I am honoured to lead House Al-Khwarizmi and excited to cultivate a community grounded in curiosity, growth, and mutual encouragement.



About House Al-Khwarizmi



Al-Khwarizmi was a Persian mathematician, astronomer, and geographer whose works laid the foundations for algebra and introduced the Hindu-Arabic numeral system to Europe. His legacy of innovation and logical reasoning continues to influence mathematics and science globally.

Al-Khwarizmi exemplifies intellectual bravery and lifelong learning, aligning with WHTC's values of Hard Work, Resilience and Achievement.

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House of Leonardo



Head of House: Mr D. Rajshankar

Originally from Ontario, Canada, I studied Kinesiology with a specialisation in Athletic Performance and Injury Management at Wilfrid Laurier University.

I completed my Bachelor of Education in Physical Education and Science at Ontario Tech University. I am passionate about sport—especially basketball and volleyball - and love working with students to help them find joy in physical activity.

As a Head of House, I am eager to help build a positive and inclusive community, and I look forward to bringing energy and creativity to our House events throughout the year.

About House Leonardo



Leonardo da Vinci, born in 1452, was a true Renaissance polymath whose contributions to science, art, and engineering remain unmatched. In addition to painting masterpieces such as the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper, da Vinci envisioned flying machines, designed advanced anatomy diagrams, and revolutionised multiple disciplines through his curiosity and intellect.

House Leonardo da Vinci champions exploration, imagination, and interdisciplinary achievement - core to the values of Ambition, Empowerment, and Success at WHTC.

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House of Angelou



Head of House: Ms S. Prabakaran

With a degree in Chemical Engineering from UCL, I have always valued critical thinking, perseverance, and teamwork. These principles guide me as an educator and now as a Head of House.

I am committed to building a culture of resilience, confidence, and expression within House Maya Angelou.

Our house is a space where students are empowered to discover their voice and strive for excellence through collaboration and courage.



About House Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou was a celebrated American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist whose work illuminated the experiences of Black women and promoted social justice globally.

Her memoir, 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings', broke new ground in literature and her activism placed her alongside civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

House Maya Angelou reflects the values of Empowerment, Courage, and Expression - encouraging students to face challenges with integrity and use their voices to lead positive change.



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House of Boudicca



Head of House: Mr O. Lowthian

I studied Italian and Spanish at the University of York before completing my PGCE at King's College London. I have a strong interest in sport - particularly cricket and rugby - and I run both the cricket and French clubs at WHTC.

As Head of House, I look forward to helping students engage with school life through vibrant extra-curricular opportunities.

I was particularly inspired to lead House Boudicca because of her lasting legacy as a fierce and courageous symbol of resistance.

About House Boudicca

Boudicca was the warrior queen of the Iceni tribe who led a bold uprising against Roman rule in 60 AD. Her rebellion left a mark on British history and continues to be remembered as a powerful act of defiance. Though ultimately defeated, her leadership and determination earned her a place as a national hero, commemorated today with a statue at Westminster.

House Boudicca stands for Resilience, Leadership and Bravery - core values we foster in every student who wears our colours with pride.



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House of Aryabhata



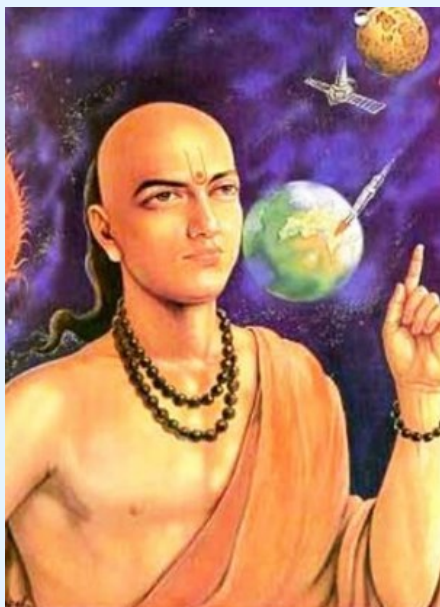
Head of House: Mr T. Towle

I studied Geology at Northumbria University before completing my PGCE at UCL. I have a strong passion for hiking, fitness, and exploring new places. Much of my adult life has been spent moving from city to city - both nationally and internationally - seeking out new experiences. These journeys often inspire and enrich the lessons I teach, allowing me to bring real-world connections into the classroom.

To me, being Head of House is about fostering a genuine sense of school spirit - a spirit rooted in belonging, shared values, and mutual respect. It's not just about wearing house colours or cheering at sporting events (as not everyone connects with sport in the same way); rather, it's about creating an inclusive environment where every student feels valued, accepted, and engaged. This sense of community contributes to a more positive and unified school culture.



About House Aryabhata



Aryabhata was born in Kusumapura (modern day Bihar) in 476 CE and was a prominent mathematician and astronomer. Aryabhata came up with several key mathematical ideas that we use to this day, such as the concept of zero, the place value system and refined Pi (π). His astronomical work included that the earth's rotation is tilted on an axis, and he calculated the exact length of the solar year. He is also thought to have influenced many Indian and Islamic scholars, and is honoured today with India's first space satellite being named after him.

Aryabhata showed deep respect for knowledge, ancient traditions, and scientific inquiry. His work built upon earlier Indian mathematics while also challenging myths with rational explanations, showing respect for truth and progress over superstition. He demonstrated intellectual honesty by providing logical, evidence-based explanations for natural phenomena like eclipses and planetary motion. Aryabhata stood by his scientific ideas - such as Earth's rotation - even when they went against popular beliefs of the time. His work was a blend of mathematics, astronomy, and philosophy, reflecting an openness to diverse fields of knowledge. His influence spread beyond India to the wider world, showing how science can cross cultural and geographic boundaries.

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House of Confucius



Head of House: Ms T. Robinson

I am excited to be Head of Confucius House this year! With degrees in Theology from the University of Edinburgh and Buddhist Philosophy from the University of Oxford, I've developed a deep appreciation for learning, leadership, and the spirit of community - all principles that resonate with the teachings of Confucius. Outside the classroom, I'm a competitive and energetic individual who enjoys running, swimming, and cycling. I'm also a qualified yoga instructor, a pursuit that helps me stay grounded and inspired.

Serving as Head of House is a role I take great pride in, as it allows me to support and motivate every member of our House to strive for excellence, demonstrate respect, and contribute positively to school life. I'm especially looking forward to strengthening connections across year groups, championing House events, and cultivating a culture of kindness, resilience and ambition in the year ahead.

About House Confucius



Confucius was a renowned Chinese philosopher and teacher who lived over 2,500 years ago. His teachings, which focused on morality, respect, responsibility, and the importance of education, have influenced millions of people around the world. He believed that a strong society begins with individuals who act with integrity, show kindness to others, and strive for personal growth. In our house, we embrace these timeless values - respect for one another, a commitment to learning, and the courage to always do what is right.

As members of Confucius House, we aim to lead by example, support each other as a community, and become thoughtful, inspired individuals ready to make a positive impact on the world.

How Will My Child Benefit from Being in a House System at School?

We know our students appreciate everything the school provides for them, from additional resources to support with revision, or detailed feedback on their work so they know where to make improvements, to the wealth of extracurricular activities that we offer students in all year groups that enhance their academic experience.

For us, the House System will benefit our students further as it will mean they **interact and learn from students outside their friendship groups and Form Groups**. This prepares them socially for similar future experiences, such as when they go to university and meet students from all walks of life. This also helps students to step out of their comfort zones, developing in them confidence and social skills.

Being part of a House adds an additional dimension to school life that isn't about subject and academic success – **it offers all students an opportunity to shine**, share their talents and be recognised for them. If your child has a skill already, we'd love to hear about it so we can showcase it, such as gymnastics, playing an instrument or acting. We want to give all students the opportunity to celebrate their unique skills as well as develop these to win points for their Houses.

As one of our Heads of House, Dr Clayton, acknowledges – being part of a House made his time at school very special. We know our new House system will mean **your child will look forward to school even more**, making memories from each of the events. To benefit most, please encourage your child to participate.

'Ask not what your school can do for you, but what you can do for your school' – this adage helps students to understand that participation in House events means that they take an even more active part in school life, beyond their studies and clubs.

Linden Cooke
Deputy Headteacher

What is School Spirit?

School spirit is the collective sense of pride, loyalty, and enthusiasm that students, staff, and our wider community show towards our school.

This sentiment is expressed through:

- ◆ Active support for House activities such as Sports Day, theatrical productions, and fundraising initiatives.
- ◆ Wearing House colour badges to visually demonstrate affiliation and pride. Each student and member of staff will receive a badge with their house colour on. This should be worn proudly on blazers.
- ◆ Participation in school traditions, such as rewards celebrations and Culture Day, which foster unity and community.
- ◆ Promoting a positive image of the school within and beyond the institution.
- ◆ Demonstrating solidarity and a sense of community, especially during collective events or shared challenges.

We believe that the House System will further enhance our school spirit by:

- ◆ Hosting regular competitive events such as inter-house tournaments and creative competitions.
- ◆ Running regular charity fundraisers for local and international causes.
- ◆ Encouraging students to wear their House badges and colours with pride.
- ◆ Fostering inter-year group relationships and mentorship, with Sixth Formers guiding and supporting younger peers.

School spirit is essential to a cohesive and engaged school culture. The House System will become a vital element of the continuing success and wellbeing of our community.

House	Colour
Hypatia	Gold
Al-Khwarizmi	Purple
Leonardo	Coral
Angelou	Turquoise
Boudicca	Red
Aryabhata	Royal Blue
Confucius	Green

Programme of Events

The House System will offer a wide range of events designed to promote creativity, physical activity, collaboration, and friendly competition amongst our student body. Older students will lead these events and younger students will participate.

Parents and Carers will be invited to a selection of these events to celebrate their child's achievements. Highlights include:

- ◆ **House Art/Photography/DT:** October 2025
- ◆ **House Music:** December 2025
- ◆ **House Drama:** February 2026
- ◆ **Sports Day:** July 2025 and July 2026

There will also be a programme of Year Group sectional events, where students compete in Year Groups or Key Stages to earn points for their House.

The final calendar of events will be finalised in September.

Half Term 2025-2026	Event
Autumn 1	Girls' House Football Boys' House Football Inter-House Chess Tournament
Autumn 2	KS3-5 University Challenge Table Tennis
Spring 1	Spelling Bee Maths Challenge KS4 Public Speaking KS5 Debating Competition STEM Challenge
Spring 2	Bench Ball Creative Writing Competition
Summer 2	Quick Cricket

Each of these events will allow students to earn points for their Houses. The winning House will receive the House Cup at the end of the year.

The House that has best embodied school spirit through charity work and mentoring will receive the School Spirit Cup at the end of the year.



House Allocation

Students have completed a questionnaire about their interests inside and outside the classroom.

Based on their responses, they will be placed into one of the seven Houses, ensuring a balance across all Houses.

This thoughtful allocation process aims to ensure a diverse and vibrant House experience for every student.

House Mentoring

Older students, particularly in the Sixth Form, will work with younger students to provide support, encouragement, and guidance.

This will strengthen relationships across Year Groups and foster a caring and inclusive community within each House.

This will be particularly impactful for our incoming Year 7 students.

House Captain Elections and House Assemblies

Each House will elect a House Captain and Deputy House Captain from the Sixth Form.

These are substantial leadership roles where students will guide their Houses in competitions, lead assemblies, and be positive role models for their peers.

In addition, each House will have a selection of additional leadership positions including:

- ◆ Year 7 Transition Captain
- ◆ House Mentoring Captain
- ◆ House Charity Captain
- ◆ House Arts Captain
- ◆ House Sports Captain
- ◆ House Drama Captain
- ◆ House Music Captain

House Assemblies will take place every half term, providing a platform for celebration, updates, and motivation. Students will be able to track their House's position on the leaderboard and share successes.

Welcome Communications



Parents and students will receive an email welcoming them to their allocated House on **Friday 4th July**.

This will be followed by House Assemblies and Sports Day before the end of term.

