



The Henry Cort Community College

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Our ref: CDC/LCD

26 February 2024

Dear Parents/carers

Transition to Year Tutor Groups in September 2024

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of a significant change to the college's community that will be shared with Year 7 to 10 students in assemblies this week. Effective from September 2024, we will be moving from our current vertical tutor group system to a horizontal year tutor group system.

The change will mean that all tutor led activities will be done in tutor groups consisting of students of the same academic year group, rather than the current mixed year grouping. The pastoral staffing structure will mean that there will be 8 tutor groups in each year group. In addition, each year group will be led by one of five Heads of Year, which replaces the current system of four House Progress Leaders. The Head of Year will remain the same throughout the five years your child is with us at the college.

The decision to make this change has been the outcome of an evaluation of our current pastoral programme and its effectiveness in allowing us to support all students through the tutor programme. I believe that through this change the most significant benefits are:

- We will be able to offer a more bespoke tutor programme for each academic year tailored to age related needs. Additionally, we will be able to increase the support and sharing of information needed for specific events unique to each year group, for example Year 7 transition, Year 9 options and Year 11 exam preparations.
- It will enable us to create a more positive year group culture. By organising students into year tutor groups, we aim to foster a stronger sense of camaraderie and community among peers within each year group, creating an environment conducive to more positive social interactions and mutual support.
- It will provide more opportunities for student leadership in all year groups. With year tutor groups, students will have increased opportunities to lead focused activities and assemblies tailored to their specific year group, encouraging leadership development and student engagement.
- It will increase the opportunity and flexibility for targeted tutoring and interventions in response to year group data, ensuring that students receive the support they need to thrive academically and personally.

As part of the discussion for the change to a horizontal year tutor system, it was clear that as a college, we would still like to retain the House system to increase the sense of belonging, allowing for increased inter-year group interactions and promoting healthy competition. From September, students will remain assigned to their houses and the newly appointed House Activity Co-ordinator will have the focus of developing inter-house activities across the whole college. They will be supported by a team of House Student Leaders who will help to organise teams and encourage participation in house events. It is very much hoped that these students will model and drive student leadership moving forward, and it will allow them to have a real impact on college improvement.

I believe that this transition will have a positive impact on the overall well-being, academic success and sense of community in our students. If you would like more details, I have organised for a virtual parents' information evening to be held on **Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 5:30pm**. Please respond via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/TtTX1kGf3D> if you would like to attend, or if you are unable to attend but

PRINCIPAL: Ms C Cabbage BSc (Hons), Dip Ed, MBA, CMgr FCMl

SENIOR LEADERSHIP: Mrs K Kent BA (Hons) * Mr N Carroll BSc (Hons) * Mr R Walker BSc (Hons) * Dr J Evans BSc (Hons) * Ms C Gudgeon BA (Hons) * Mrs J Coffin, ADSBM

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have a question you would like us to respond to. Please note the form will close on Monday 4 March at 12:00pm.

I would also like to be clear that at this point no decision has been made regarding which staff will be the Head of Year for each group, or what tutor groups students will be in, you can expect further communication from me on this in the summer term.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation as we strive to enhance the educational experience for all students at Henry Cort.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Cabbage', written in a cursive style.

Ms C Cabbage
Principal