

8th June 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: St Modan's HS Introduction of a House System - August 2016

As you will be aware, at present we support our young people in a horizontal Pupil Support and Development structure. This means that there is a Principal Teacher PSD with responsibility for each year group and this PT moves through school with his/her year group. From August 2016, we are moving to a vertical House system in order to support our young people. Details of the new system and our progress towards implementation are detailed below.

From August 2016, we will have three PSD Houses at St Modan's. Each House will have 11 or 12 PSD classes from across the year groups. A House will be made up of two S1 classes, two or three S2 classes, two S3 classes, two S4 classes and three Senior classes (S5/6). Each House will be led by a Head of House (formerly known as a PT PSD). All other staff will be allocated to a House and work to support the personal, social, emotional and spiritual development of the House group. In addition, to the PSD Teachers within that House, each House will have an allocated Additional Support Needs Teacher, two Faculty PTs, other teaching staff and a number of Support for Learning assistants. The aim of the system, as with our current system, would be for the PSD Teacher and Head of House to move through the school with your child. We will also endeavour to place families in the same House group so that contact with home can be linked to one House group and ultimately one Head of House.

Although our House system will fundamentally be focused on how we support our young people and strive to do all that we can to meet their needs whether pastoral, curricular or vocational, we also hope to incorporate many of the other advantages of a House system into our school community. Staff and pupil groups are already planning how we can foster House identity and embed a sense of belonging through subject areas, the broader curriculum (including extracurricular activities), charity and fun activities. We are aware that House structures are common in many primary and secondary schools and we want to develop a truly inclusive and successful system that will support all of our young people to be all that they can be.

We are aware that this change to our Pupil Support and Development structure may leave parents/carers with a number of questions. Probably the first one being: what does this mean for my child?

The main changes for pupils in the new S2 to S6 are as follows:

- Some pupils may change PSD class (but this is just for the 10 minutes of PSD in the morning)
- Some pupils may change PSD Teacher
- Some pupils may change PT PSD/ Head of House

These changes have already been communicated to senior pupils through the Senior School Conference Days and a series of assemblies take place this week for S2 to S6pupils. All pupils will know their PSD class, PSD room and PSD Teacher before we break for the summer holidays. We will also post regular updates on the school website and alerts through Twitter when changes are happening or further information becomes available.

Our next important task is currently underway. We need new House names and this is causing considerable excitement among staff and pupils. We are about to open our consultation on this important detail and will publicise the new names when they are agreed. Watch this space!

As stated above, further detail of the new system will be made available over the next few weeks and will be in place for August 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Shandley

Depute Head Teacher