

ROEDEAN

Houses and Teams 2010-2011

I am very excited to announce a change to the House and Team structure from September 2010.

This has been put in place for a number of reasons:

1. To encourage more of the older girls to take positions of responsibility within their Houses so that they can develop their leadership skills and support the running of the Houses.
2. To support the Houses as the heart of the lives of day and boarding pupils.
3. To combine the huge enthusiasm girls have for their Teams with the great loyalty they have for their Houses.
4. To help our new students to integrate with current students – especially girls who join the school in Six One.

In order to respond to these needs we are going to do two things from September:

1. The four main school houses will revert to being houses for girls of all ages. Tanner Main will continue to look after all the girls in the Upper Three and Lower Four, as well as those from Upper Four – Six One, so that the Upper Three and Lower Four can be given the special support together that younger pupils benefit from. Lawrence Senior, Lawrence Main and Tanner Senior will become houses for girls from Upper Four – Six One.
 - a. This means that roughly half of the current Upper Five in Tanner and Lawrence Main will remain in those houses and the other half will move to Tanner and Lawrence Senior.
 - b. It also means that roughly half of the girls currently in Upper Four and Lower Five who are based in Lawrence and Tanner Main will move to Lawrence and Tanner Senior.
 - c. The current Lower Four boarders going into Upper Four will remain in their current houses in Lawrence and Tanner Main.
 - d. There will, therefore, be some movement of girls around the main school houses but only within either Lawrence or Tanner sides, not across.
 - e. Mrs Brett has worked very closely with the Team Leaders and Heads of House to draft a proposal identifying which girls should be resident in which House and these decisions have been made with the best interests of the girls at heart. The staff have used their knowledge of the girls and their friendship groups to try to ensure that no girl feels isolated from her friends.
 - f. There will be House meetings for girls in Upper Three – Upper Five in either Lawrence Main ODR or Tanner Main ODR (depending on whether girls are in Lawrence or Tanner) at break time on Monday 10 May to let the girls know where they have been placed. If there are any problems with the lists, please do not panic! Please discuss any worries with the relevant Head of House and then Mrs Brett and the staff can look at all the concerns together.

- g. Because of the change in the make up of the houses we are also going to go back to calling them the names that the Lawrence sisters gave them 125 years ago:
 - i. Lawrence Senior will become House 1
 - ii. Lawrence Main will become House 2
 - iii. Tanner Main will become House 3
 - iv. Tanner Senior will become House 4

Whilst these names may not seem very imaginative they correspond to the numbers of the four adjacent houses that the Lawrence sisters started Roedean in when the school was based in Sussex Square in Brighton before this site was built and they moved up here.

- h. The girls are encouraged not be too unsettled by this change. It is designed to make the houses feel more like 'family' units and it means that the current Upper Five girls, moving into Six One, will be able to take a very active part in running each of the houses. They will be the Senior Girls in each house and the younger girls will look up to them. There will be Six One Heads of House in each house and other significant positions of responsibility.
 - i. Weekend activities will also be organised by each House in turn for the whole school; perhaps House 3 will emerge at the best at organising socials or House 1 will plan the most exciting trips?
2. The second thing that we are going to do, which will support the change in the houses, is to merge the Teams with the Houses.
- a. This will mean that instead of supporting their Team in plays and sport (which is currently a different group from the people girls live with), their 'Team' and their House will be the same.
 - b. The staff Team Leaders (who will be called House Activity Coordinators) will work closely with the Heads of House to support all the activities which used to be Team based and are now House based. So there will be House plays in the Autumn (and not Team plays) and we will need Directors for House plays from the newly formed House groups as soon as possible. There will be House badminton matches, House athletics, netball, swimming and so on. There will be House music competitions. The girls' Commendations will contribute to their personal House totals and the Bucket Cup will go to the winning House (and not Team) at the end of the academic year.
 - c. The Team Leaders will join the Houses that their Teams equate to so:
 - i. Mrs Goulet (Team 1) will be the House Activity Coordinator for House 1
 - ii. Mrs Chandler (Team 2) will be the House Activity Coordinator for House 2
 - iii. Miss Walker (Team 3) will be the House Activity Coordinator for House 3
 - iv. Mrs Carnaghan (Team 4) will be the House Activity Coordinator for House 4
 - d. Every member of Roedean staff is also affiliated to a Team and they will join the House which equates to their Team. So if Mr England is a member of Team 3 he will become a member of House 3.

- e. This does mean that some of the girls will have to effectively move Team. When the new lists were drafted, Mrs Brett put girls into the House which equated to their Team if it was within either Lawrence or Tanner side. The staff felt that girls would not want to move from Lawrence side to Tanner side. So if girls are a member of Lawrence Main (House 2) and a member of Team 4 (House 4) they were not moved into Tanner Side where House 4 is, they were kept on the Lawrence side. However friendships groups and the girls' need to feel as secure and stable as possible overrode some 'Team' allocations. That was the guiding principle for deciding which house girls should be in.
- f. If girls are currently in Six One they will move to Keswick House for Six Two and their Team allegiance will simply transfer to the equivalent House allegiance. So if they are a Six One in Team 2 they will be allied to House 2.
- g. If girls are currently in Upper Three they will stay resident in House 3 but they will be given another House which will be the one they physically move to in the Upper Four (except the quarter who are given House 3 as their House of allegiance) and which they represent for all inter-House activities in the Lower Four. New Upper Three will all be based in House 3 but will be given another House which they will physically move to in Upper Four (except the quarter who are given House 3 as their House of allegiance) but which they will represent for all inter-House activities.

This is quite a lot of change and upheaval but remember our reasons:

1. To encourage more of the older girls to take positions of responsibility within their houses.
2. To support the Houses as the heart of the lives of day and boarding pupils.
3. To combine the huge enthusiasm girls have for their Teams with the great loyalty they have for their houses.
4. To help our new students integrate with current students.

Next academic year will be very exciting and we are all looking forward to some healthy competition between the Houses. The House Activity Coordinators will be talking to the girls this week about House Drama!

Please do not hesitate to talk to the Heads of House, Senior Tutors or Mrs Brett if there are any worries about these changes.

Frances King
Headmistress
10 May 2010