



The Blue Coat School

An Academy 'Leaders in Science and Mathematics'

Church Road Wavertree Liverpool L15 9EE

Telephone: 0151 733 1407

June 2021

Dear School Community,

Re: Update on House Names Review and plans for September 2021

As you will be aware, the School has been carrying out a review of our House Names.

This project was initiated as a result of the working party which met to discuss the appropriateness of the School retaining the name Blundell as one of the House Names. Bryan Blundell was one of the key founders of the School over 300 years ago. There were significantly strong views across the breadth of the Blue Coat community that it was wrong to retain Blundell's name due to his involvement with the transatlantic slave trade.

Over the last eight months I have been working alongside a team of Year 13 students and Ms Holland to progress this review, and support the students as they look at appropriate individuals to name the houses after. We have made substantial progress with the project, but, unfortunately, Covid has meant that we have not been able to proceed at the pace that was originally intended.

As I am sure that you will appreciate, this is a really critical process, and, given the importance of our house system, it is one that it is vital we get right. We also don't want to make any decisions in a rushed or ill-considered way, as we hope that the final names will remain in place for generations to come.

As a result, I have made the decision to delay the launch of the new House Names. Instead, during the coming Autumn term, we will be working with students to undertake a thorough investigation into the personal and professional backgrounds of a group of individuals who are being considered for the new House Names. This stage of the project will be supported by a professional archivist to ensure all necessary care is taken before the new House Names are formally adopted.

The one thing that has all been decided is that Tod House will be retained as one of the future House Names. The Tod family have a long and distinguished relationship supporting the School that continues to this day.



Plans for September 2021

Given the strength of feeling there is around the use of certain names, we are proposing introducing temporary house names for the next academic year. All the current House Names will be removed and replaced with prefixes A to F as follows:

Years 7 – 11:

- **Bingham:** 7A, 8A, 9A, 10A, and 11A
- **Blundell:** 7B, 8B, 9B, 10B, and 11B
- **Graham:** 7C, 8C, 9C, 10C, and 11C
- **Shirley:** 7D, 8D, 9D, 10D, and 11D
- **Stythe:** 7E, 8E, 9E, 10E, and 11E
- **Tod:** 7F, 8F, 9F, 10F, and 11F

Once our new five individuals have been selected, the temporary letter used to denote the form names will be replaced. We will make an announcement about the names during the next academic year, and then phase the new House Names in after that. Everything will then be in place for the start of September 2022.

I appreciate that this may cause some short-term confusion for stakeholders who are used to the current names, and I apologise in advance for any inconvenience. However, the working party believe it is important to take the necessary time required and that this is the most pragmatic and sensible approach in the circumstances.

I look forward to updating you further in due course.

Yours faithfully,



Ms S Yates
Headteacher

