

Overview

At Park House there are **four Houses**, each comprising of two **Tutor Groups**. Throughout Years 7 & 8, students go to all of their lessons in Tutor Groups, except for when they are put into sets for some subjects (E.G. English/Maths).

Once students begin their option subjects in Year 9 they generally no longer get taught as a Tutor Group. Tutor groups from all Years start their day with a 30 minute **Tutor Session** (except on Mondays due to a shortened timetable) where they are briefed on any relevant information, have an assembly, and/or otherwise engage with their **Tutors**.

As Tutor Groups progress through school, it may be the case that the staff member acting as their Tutor changes, and some groups may even have more than one staff member for a tutor.

Each student's journey through Park House is unique to them, so (although it can happen) family members are not in the same House by default.



Park House was originally the home of the land owner and park keeper.

After WWII (in 1946) the House opened itself as a school for boys, later becoming all inclusive.

The initial House System had three houses named after local rivers/canals, but these were changed in an effort to create a more personalised association. Named after some of the oldest and most stunning trees on the school site, the current Houses allow for a friendly competition, whilst developing pride, sportsmanship and providing opportunities for leadership and participation.

Each House has a dedicated shield and logo, created by former students with the leaf designs inspired from the leaves of their host trees.

House Points

Students can earn 'House Points' which benefit both them as individuals, and their House as a whole. A running tally of student's individual House Point scores are counted and published on the 'House Point Spreadsheet' several times per week.

Tutors will show this to their Tutor Groups as often as possible to ensure students are aware of their positive impact around the school, and to encourage continued positive behaviour, effort and, attitude.

There are five awards lower school students can earn over the course of their school lives (three for VI Formers). Below you can see the number of House Points needed to receive an award, and the expected year group of a student by the time they may achieve it.

Bronze	=	75 HP	-	Year 7
Silver	=	150 HP	-	Year 8
Gold	=	250 HP	-	Year 9
House Colours	=	400 HP	-	Year 10
House Captain	=	1000 HP	-	Year 11
House Hero	=	100 HP	-	Year 12
House Legend	=	250 HP	-	Year 12/13
House God	=	600 HP	-	Year 13

(All competitive elements of the House System are based solely on the House Points and therefore the positive contributions of students only. VI Form awards are counted from Year 12 onwards.)

House Points also accumulate across the entire House System and the overall winners are crowned at the end of the year.

House Points are not only a reward for students. They are used in data analysis within our behaviour policies to see how students are positively impacting the school and wider community year on year.

House Points can be awarded by any member of staff for any number of positive reasons. Here are the guidelines for teachers to follow, but please remember a teacher can use their discretion when rewarding students:

- 1 HP should be awarded for a student going a little bit out of their way to reach above what they might normally produce. This might take the form of an insightful comment or two in a lesson, a solid piece of homework or generally helping out the class, teacher or learning environment in some way.
- 2 HP can be awarded for a very strong piece of work, homework and/or contribution to the learning environment. Other reasons include helping other students learn, contributing to and leading class discussions, and being consistently above normal expectations in a particular lesson.
- 3 HP may be awarded if a student has created a significantly good piece of work or has maintained a high level of effort for a significant duration. This might take the form of substantial effort made for an entire project or scheme of work, or perhaps even an exceptional piece of homework.
- 4 HP is an exceptional reward to achieve and is the highest amount of points a student will generally receive at any one time. This should be reserved for an outstanding piece of work or homework which clearly details a tremendous amount of effort. 4 HP could also be awarded for outstanding classroom behaviour and attitude to learning.
- Commendation: a commendation can be awarded to a specific piece of work, homework or school task in replace of standard points. Commendations are worth 5 HP and teachers should try to contact the student's home to give praise.
- Head of Learning Award: a special commendation may be awarded to a student who has made a significant contribution to their house, school, wider community or own personal education inside and/or outside of school. House commendations are worth 10 HP and should only be awarded by the Head of Year, Department or SLT.
- Special Commendation: a special commendation is awarded to a student when they have surpassed the expectations and requirements of a commendation and deserve extra praise. These are worth 15 HP and a reserved for incredible display of work, effort and/or behaviour.

- Head Teacher Award: a reward of 20 HP given by the Head teacher (or on their behalf) for the most impressive of contributions to the school or wider community. This is also awarded for breaking a school record at Sports Day.
- VI Form Award: as VI Formers have fewer lessons and have higher expectations placed on them, this replaces the standard 1-4 House Points given in younger years.

The Competition

The overall competition is based on the total House Points earned over the course of the academic year. Points from House Events are added (along with any other points awarded to Houses for the year) and the winner is announced. This usually takes place in the final days of the academic year and celebrated with a House Party.

The previous winners of House Events can be seen in the Trophy Cabinet just inside the main entrance near the canteen. Each trophy is decorated with ribbon in the current holder's House colours. Next to this you can see the House Shield engraved with the latest champions & past winners.

The House Boards (situated in the corridor outside the library) display pictures, stats and information from the previous academic year.

This includes results, records and more.

How it is all kept fair!

The overall points are adjusted to take account of differing numbers of students in each House. If Oak has 50 more students than Beech for example, the points for Oak are reduced. This adjustment *does not affect the individual scores of students* or their awards.

There are many other ways the system is kept fair. For example, if a student moves House during the year, their points move with them.

If a student joins after Year 7 they need fewer points for awards.

House Events

Throughout the year there will be many House Events taking place. This is a fantastic way for students to contribute to the school and gain some extra points.

These events change and develop over time but some of the current favourites still include House Dance, The School Production and Sports Day.

Student Teams

The majority of House related activities are organised, run and supported by students, with key staff assisting where necessary.

In the Sixth Form there are several students who are appointed as 'Senior House Captains'. Each tutor group will also elect a 'Form Captain'.

The role of Senior House Captain is one of great importance and prestige. They will act as a support role to the 'Senior Student Team' (Year 13's including the Head Boy and Head Girl) and their responsibility will be to ensure they guide, support and develop all Houses throughout the year.

They will be responsible for organising, creating, delivering and supporting all House related events and activities throughout the Year.

The following outlines the expectations of Senior House Captains:

- Work alongside the Lead House Co-ordinator
 - Ensure each tutor group has elected a Form Captain to speak/act on behalf of their tutor group. The Form Captain can be elected as their Form Tutor sees fit
- Visit tutor groups at least once every two weeks (they will need to organise this with the tutors to find a day which suits them). In this visit they should encourage the viewing and discussion of the House Point Spreadsheet, ensure each student has their latest award and take feedback about the House system
- Plan, create and deliver House Assemblies (three times per year)
- Organise House support for Sports Day and other House events (this could include flags, bunting, chants, mascots and the actual set-up on Sports Day)

Each Tutor Group should also elect its own 'Tutor House Team'.

This might include every single member of the tutor group, or perhaps be comprised of a select number of students.

Although each tutor group can develop their own way of doing this (teacher led debates, votes, presentations, names out of a hat), it is important to liaise with the Senior House Captains to achieve an overall House style and maintain a fair approach.

It is also important for each Tutor group to elect a 'Form Captain', who will act as the lead for their tutor group's House activities. The following is a list of responsibilities that Tutor House Teams need to act on.

(These should not all be left to the Form Captain, in fact the Form Captain might just organise the team rather than complete any of the tasks for themselves).

- Collect the green folder from the Attendance Office
- Attend Student council (up to three members of the tutor group)
- Collect House Badges and rewards and distribute them to their tutor group
- Gather subject specific information
- Canvass tutor group opinions on House events
- Ensure House events are signed up for fairly and appropriately
- Create decorations and House themed displays for their tutor room
- Create banners, flags and other House themed displays for House Events
- Encourage their tutor group to achieve as many House Points as possible
- Act as a 'go-to' runner for events such as Sports Day

It might be that the role of the Form Captain rotates through the members of the Tutor House Team on a termly/yearly basis.

FAQ

Can staff get House Points?

No. Staff are assigned to a House but can't impact the competition.

What do I do if I think points aren't being awarded (or awarded fairly)?

If a student thinks they haven't been awarded points they have been promised, they should politely and respectfully remind their teacher. If this still doesn't resolve the situation, students should speak with their Tutor. Please do remember that teachers have the ultimate discretion on whether points are actually given and for what they feel is appropriate of their individual students and groups.

Are there any other ways Points can be achieved?

Yes. The House Events offer special rewards depending on the structure of it. Winning teams in a sports event may receive a bonus 500 HP for their house for example. These points are calculated and added to the final standings.

When will rewards be issued?

Once a student achieves the target set for a particular award they are eligible to receive it. Form Captains should collect these during tutor time.

What happens if you get more Behaviour Points than House Points?

If a student gets more Behaviour Points than House Points they will have a negative total score. However, this will not affect the overall competition or individual awards. House Points are a reward and cannot be taken away. If a student has achieved something point worthy then those points will always be there.

Behaviour Points are simply an indication of how a student is behaving in school.

Can students get directly involved with the House System?

Yes. Students can apply to be a Form Captain for their tutor group. They will be responsible for the House Tutor Team and ensuring their tutor group is up-to-date with all relevant information.

Do family members go in the same House?

Not necessarily. A student's journey through Park House is unique to them.

Are Tutors in the same House as their Tutor Group?

Not necessarily. A Tutor group may be shared between two members of staff. Tutors may also change year on year so it is very possible that a Tutor might be in a different House to their group.