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Dear Parent/Carer,

In order to provide the best pastoral care and guidance for our students, we have decided to make some changes to our tutor group organisation.

We are going to retain our vertical tutor group system (placing students in forms of mixed ages), as we feel this supports younger students to settle into the academy and for older students to take on leadership roles within the tutor group. However, in order to support Year 11 with their examination preparation, we are going to place current Year 10 into dedicated Year 11 form groups. This will enable them to focus their attention on revision, exam preparation and choices post 16.

We are also going to create specialist nurture groups to support students who struggle to maintain good attendance and may benefit from a smaller and more supportive environment.

Years 7, 8 and 9 will continue to be in vertical tutors groups but in order to balance numbers in terms of year groups and gender, some substantial changes are required to the current groupings. Where possible, we have tried to keep students in their existing House group and with their friendship circle. Where this has not been possible and a student has moved into another House, we will of course provide them with a new House tie.

Whilst we hope our students will be resilient to change and accept they will soon make new friends, if after a period of time, your child is unhappy and struggling to adapt to the move, please encourage them to speak to their form tutor. Of course, some students may be moved away from their friends because we feel this is the right thing to enable them to focus on their studies and reach their true potential.

All students have had an opportunity to meet their new form tutor and tutor group today and during our Year 6 Induction Days on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July they will meet the new Year 7 students.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

The House Team