



Cokethorpe SCHOOL

From the Headmaster

Damian J Ettinger BA, MA, PGCE

May 2010

Dear Year 7 Parents

You will find attached to this note a detailed letter that outlines some proposed changes to the house system here at Cokethorpe, and their rationale. I am taking the opportunity to write to you, as current Year 7 parents, because it may seem to you that your children will be most affected by the changes.

I would ask you to read the general letter as it contains a full statement of the thinking behind these changes, but it will be helpful if I highlight here the specific effects of these changes for the current Year 7.

- Although they will not shed their current senior house affiliation, for the coming academic year they will belong primarily to the new Lower House, with Mrs Pratley as their Housemistress. They will be referred to as the Upper First. As I said in the longer letter, there will be a new Lower House tie. But, of course, you bought house ties only this year, so I will ensure that the current Year 7 pupils receive these new ties free of charge.
- They will continue to take part in inter-house competitions and other activities as members of their affiliated senior house.
- I am particularly delighted that Mrs Pratley, as a senior and experienced member of our pastoral team, has agreed to offer that experience to support the establishment of this new house. The house will help ensure that the pastoral concerns of younger members of the Senior School can be addressed in an individual and dedicated way.
- At the end of the Upper First year they will have the privilege of launching the new Second Form activity.
- After the Upper First year they will enter Third Form, and take up full membership of their respective senior houses.

Clearly this is a change from the way your children have been cared for this year, and from what they will have been expecting. I am totally confident that the move into the care of the new Lower House will be seamless, and that changes will be wholly beneficial. Nevertheless, you may have some level of uncertainty about the effect of these changes, and so my offer to answer any such questions applies to all - please do not hesitate to be in touch.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely