

Vertical Tutoring to Horizontal Tutoring – Academic Year 2016-17

This document will address frequently asked questions and provide information to support the change.

<p>What is Horizontal Tutoring?</p>	<p>This is where all tutor groups will be made up of pupils from the same year group.</p> <p>This is a move from the current structure where each tutor group consists of a number of pupils from each year group.</p>
<p>What are the benefits?</p>	<p>We feel that pupils will benefit from sharing experiences with children of their own age, but we will still create opportunities for pupils to continue to mix with other year groups, building on the experiences provided by the house system and vertical tutoring. Tutor time will be more focused for the particular year group, which will be invaluable at key points during the year. Messages, activities and sessions will be directed to meet the needs of one year group and not seven within one form. We feel that this is a more effective use of time and will benefit all pupils.</p> <p>There will be opportunities for clearer and more differentiated tutor programmes and assemblies. For example, exam revision techniques for year groups before internal and external exams, CV writing for Year 10 pupils, Options Talks for Year 9, Higher Education and preparation for the world of work for Years 12/13.</p> <p>Form tutors will be able to focus their efforts towards one year group; this will aid communication across the school and supports the tutor’s delivery of sessions. For example, Year 7 will not have to listen to Year 11 revision announcements and examinations. Form tutors will move through the years with their tutor group, watching them grow up and progress together. Strong relationships can be formed between tutors, pupils and parents.</p> <p>The role of Achievement Director will move from the House to a Year Group. This will support tracking, monitoring and evaluation as the Achievement Director can apply their efforts to a whole year group, in particular, being able to effectively track performance of vulnerable, disadvantaged and underachieving groups. We will be able to improve consistency across the year group as the Achievement Director will have the full overview of the year group, as opposed to having 5 Achievement Directors working though all year groups.</p> <p>Similarly to the monitoring of academic progress, Achievement Directors and pastoral teams will be able to ensure greater consistency in the monitoring of attendance and punctuality, and rewards and sanctions.</p> <p>There will be increased opportunities to create a year group identity and competition across tutor groups. We hope this will further the sense of belonging for pupils.</p>
<p>What about the pupils who like Vertical Tutoring?</p>	<p>We will continue to adopt the qualities and positive elements of the vertical tutoring system. For example, older mentors can be assigned to tutor groups / students to support with transition, charity events, literacy and numeracy activities.</p> <p>Inter-house activities will still take place through inter-form activities. Students will be involved in the naming process of the Houses.</p>
<p>Will my child get to choose their tutor group?</p>	<p>The Pastoral and Senior Leadership Teams have given careful consideration to the placing of pupils in horizontal tutor groups, taking into account a wide variety of factors. All students will still be with one of the students from their original tutor group to aid transition.</p>

My child's tutor knows them well and now that experience will be lost. What is the school doing to provide continuity?	Effective transition to the new system is crucial to its success and therefore we will strive to ensure that communication of key information is shared with all relevant people. There will be a thorough induction for all tutor groups and we are confident it will not take long for pupils to settle into their new tutor groups, ensuring that they can quickly build upon existing friendships.
How will my child be supported?	Your child will have a tutor who will join them on their journey through the school, rotating with the pupils. Form tutors take pride in this role and should be the first contact for a child with a concern. There will be an Achievement Director for each Year Group. They will have an overview of the year groups and will strategically lead their team. Pupil welfare, behaviour and achievement will be the centre of everything that they do. They will still be supported by a Pastoral Manager, who are non-teachers, and will continue to provide the best pastoral care required for our pupils.
What about the House identity that you have created?	Year group competitions will take place throughout the year and, in some cases, will allow for learning with other pupils across all year groups. We will be developing our year/school council and pupils will be leading a range of events.
Will this impact my child's friendship groups?	In some cases, younger pupils have struggled to build strong friendships with the older pupils. The move to the new system will allow them to share experiences with pupils of the same age, whilst supporting and guiding each other. We feel this will encourage more positive interaction.
How will assemblies work?	Each year group will have a designated day for their assembly.
Will there be a change of uniform?	No. There will be no changes to the current uniform. Please can I remind you of our expectations on our website. Students must be in shoes at all times. We have spare pairs if necessary. A blazer must be worn at all times. Shirts need to be tucked in, and students should wear tailored trousers or skirts.
Is this change a result of the Ofsted inspection?	No. This is something that the Senior Leadership Team has been considering for a period of time and was promoted by a request from KC students. It is about what is best for all of our pupils. We would not make such a big decision if we did not believe it was in the best interest of the pupils and that it would help them achieve their full potential.
Why are you confident that it will succeed?	A great deal of thought has gone into this decision and we will be working hard to ensure it is a success. We will, of course, be reviewing and monitoring the new approach. There may well be some teething problems but we will be working with all stakeholders to make this work and deliver the benefits to help us on our journey to achieving the highest possible standards.
Where can I find more information?	Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Key Summary:

Pupils will be in a tutor group with pupils of their own age group.
Achievement Directors to move from Houses to Year Groups.
They will be continued to be supported by a Pastoral Manager.
Form tutors will remain with the tutor group throughout Years 7 – 10.