



VIVAT REDIVIVA! THE HOUSE SYSTEM REBORN

The school's House system was created in 1909 by headmaster Thomas Henry Knight – a comparatively recent development for a 400 year old school! He believed that *"it is when we get a boy out of school that we have our best chance of developing his character – on the playground, the cricket field or the rifle range"*. He created six Houses, each named after distinguished figures in the school's history.

A few years after the school's move from Camberwell to Wallington in 1975, the Houses were reduced to four, before climbing back to six as the school numbers grew. Thanks to the stewardship of several highly-respected members of staff (including, most recently, Mr Burton), many Old Wilsonians

and current pupils have taken pride in their representation of Brecon, Camberwell, Datchelor, Greencoat, Hayes and Southwark in House events.

We are now poised to re-launch the House system in the school, raising its profile considerably and building in new opportunities for pupils to lead and to build relationships with those in other year groups. This is a fantastic opportunity to boost awareness of a range of aspects of school life and celebrate achievement in new ways, always mindful of the beneficial effects of participation and fellowship on pupils' wellbeing.

HOUSE CAPTAIN INTRODUCTIONS

Brecon – Akila, Year 13

Also known as the red house at Wilson's, Brecon is named after the Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales, where Year 7 go for their activities week in the summer. The badge of Brecon is the red dragon of the Welsh flag with the black and gold background representing St. David's Cross. The motto of Brecon is 'Y DDRAIG GOCH DDYRY CYCHWYN' which translated from Welsh means, 'The red dragon goes on the attack'



I have loved being a member of Brecon from my very first day as it is and has always been a friendly community where everyone is able to express themselves and get along with one another. I also love the competitive aspect of Brecon, always putting our best foot forward for all house related events, such as house football, chess and sports day.

I look forward to being the house captain this year as I intend to work to try and better integrate the year groups of my house so that the older students are not complete strangers to the younger years as well as increasing house morale and confidence to improve participation in all school events. However, primarily my role will be to be a friendly face to all year groups and be as supportive as possible to those who need assistance.

Camberwell – Jacob, Year 13

Camberwell house is named after the original home of Wilson's School, founded by Edward Wilson in 1615. The old school building still stands and is now the Camberwell College for the Arts. Our house badge is the Phoenix, symbolic of the school's rebirth. In 1845 the school was forced to close due to a financial scandal but following an Order in Council from Queen Victoria in 1880, the school was rebuilt. Appropriately, our motto is "Vivat Rediviva.", meaning "Live again, Live forever."



I am extremely proud to be Camberwell house captain and a member of Camberwell house. I think the house system instils students with a sense of team spirit and friendly competition, and provides you with good friends that you will keep all the way from Year 7 to Year 13.

I have enjoyed working closely and getting to know the new Year 7 form over the first half term and I look forward to working with the other Camberwell forms throughout the rest of the year. I hope to be a friendly face that students can recognise around the school and feel comfortable approaching if they need to. I also intend to set an example to all members of our house.

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Looking Ahead

- Tuesday 9 November - Oxbridge Information Evening (7.00 p.m.)
- Wednesday 10 November - EARLY FINISH FOR STUDENTS 1.05 p.m.
- Thursday 11 November - Y13 Parents' Evening (4.00 p.m.)
- Thursday 18 November - Y11 A Level briefing - online meeting (7.00 p.m.)
- Tuesday 23 November - Oxbridge Information Evening (6.00 p.m.)
- Wednesday 24 November - Y11 and Sixth Form Recital (7.00 p.m.)

Deputy Head's Reminder

One Kind Word

With anti-bullying week approaching (w/b 15 November), we turn our attention to this year's theme: One Kind Word. In accordance with the national campaign, we will focus our attention on the positive things we can all do to halt hurtful behaviour in its tracks. Parents and pupils will receive further information next week.





HOUSE CAPTAINS - contd.

Camberwell - continued from front page.

Camberwell aims to perform to the best of our abilities both in the classroom and outside. We strive to do our best in house competitions, and ensure that every student contributes to the success of the house. This started at the end of last year with Sports Day in which Camberwell were victorious, a great achievement. This year we will continue to live the school's values and to have fun.

Datchelor – Tomás, Year 13

Datchelor is the newest house to Wilson's, having been introduced in 2014. It is named after the girls' grammar Mary Datchelor School, which closed in 1982 and passed some of its assets to Wilson's which helped to build the music department which is known as the Mary Datchelor wing. It's motto: *Non Sine Pulvere Palma* means 'no palm without dust', in a reference to the Roman circus where a victor would receive a palm leaf, but only after having struggled and worked to achieve it in the dust below. This encapsulates the attitude of our house: the hard work and effort that is put in and hopefully the victories that follow.

I've enjoyed being a part of one of the first ever cohorts of Datchelor students and have seen our identity develop from plucky underdogs with too few students for sports day, to a confident and successful house. I want to continue our fearless approach, but also build on our increasing house successes. With more opportunities for inter-house competition this year, Datchelor can definitely push for its first House Cup win.

Greencoat – Jasper, Year 13

Before moving in 1975 to its current site in Wallington, Wilson's had lain in the heart of Camberwell since 1615. The Greencoat School, a church primary school nearby, is the namesake of our house.

After closing in 1959, the assets of the Greencoat School were given to Wilson's. In 1961, the funds helped build the Greencoat Building, a science block, at the Camberwell site. However, the most visible remnant of the school for today's Wilson's boys are the sculptures of a boy and a girl in the Greencoat courtyard, the inspiration for our house badge. The courtyard symbolises the importance of the Greencoat School in Wilson's history,



and just as the sculptures welcomed students through the entrance of the primary school, so now do students at Wilson's walk past the Greencoat statues every day.

I have always proudly represented Greencoat throughout my time at the school, especially in house sports and sports days. I am always happy to answer queries about house activities if you see me in the corridors, whether it be regarding sport, chess or house mufti. Every Greencoat student throughout the school should try and get involved in upcoming house competitions - a great way to enjoy co-curricular activities in a fun and competitive environment! Always remember our house motto – *'Viror vires virtus'* - 'Green our strength and courage'!

Hayes – Alex, Year 13

Many groups of Old Wilsonians (OW) set up sports clubs to continue their sport after leaving Wilson's School. This included the OW cricket club (1886), the OW football club (1888) and the OW chess club (1904). Together they formed the Old Wilsonians Association (OWA) which had its headquarters on a ground in Dulwich Common. But, this didn't actually become the Old Wilsonians Sports Club until 1959. A substantial financial contribution made by A. W. Bourner, a former pupil turned successful businessman, allowed the Sports Club to be founded and take its headquarters in Hayes. Hence, the house is named after the location of this club. Annual matches are still held between current students and Old Boys. The badge and the yellow colour come from the school crest.

In my view, Hayes does not just represent the badge you wear or the colour of your tie. To me, it represents a community of people that are willing to help you. This owes to our motto *"OMNIBUS QUISQUE CUIQUE OMNES"* which translates as "One for all and all for one". This motto strongly champions the idea that the individual helps the group and the group helps the individual. Through this, I believe that the members of Hayes can empower each other to do great things.

I am the Hayes house captain. I play football for the school's 2nd XI and athletics for South London Harriers. Whether it was the sound of the gun firing at the start of a race or making an important goal line clearance, I have always enjoyed competition and the adrenaline that comes along with it. Outside of sports, I am an avid programmer and love to code in different languages as well as experiment with new technology. As house captain, I believe that students should be more excited about being part of their house. I envision House points



Hayes - continued from previous column

having a more significant role, where people are more aware of house point standings and how house points can be gained.

Southwark – Ayush, Year 13

Southwark is one of the newer houses, formed after the school moved to the Wallington site and stems from the school's link with Southwark Cathedral. Along with the bold purple house colour, the badge depicts the devil eating Judas.

The fusion of the house's heritage alongside its futuristic nature through our motto *"Modo Modo Inceptum"* (we have only just begun), inspires me as house captain to motivate a new generation of house members to balance their academic load by immersing themselves in co-curricular activities.

Over the past few weeks, I've got to know most of 7S and 8S by helping them settle in, advising them on typical lower school problems such as "I've lost my flute" and encouraging them to join new clubs. I'd like to make the younger year groups feel they are supported by me throughout their non-academic lives in school and the most rewarding part of my role is when they recognise me in corridors, (or even better, address me as 'sir'!!) I also look forward to being more involved with the older forms and hope that I can motivate them to achieve great things in the name of Southwark!



A BUSY HALF-TERM FOR THE CCF

JNCOs Leadership Cadre

During the second week of Wilson's half term break, aspiring Junior NCOs from Wilson's and Wallington High School for Girls were joined by their counterparts from St Benedict's CCF for the leadership phase of a cadre which prepares senior cadets for promotion to Lance Corporal. The course was run from Crowborough Camp in Sussex and was the first time any of these cadets had been on a residential camp since February 2020. The varied leadership activities and command appointments allow the students to test their confidence in front of their peers as well as their ability to lead. Complex command tasks, command appointments in the field, including the popular and well-acted casualty evacuation stand, delivery of lectures and battle lessons give every student two chances to lead their squad, two chances to lecture and one to instruct. There are many chances to discuss and learn about leadership including an opening address from Lt Col Burton, icebreaking activities, a lecture and a follow-up discussion about the core values of the British Army and an interesting Leadership Lecture from guest speaker Maj Towes RA, Old Wilsonian. At the final parade, Cdt Mayorga was announced best on course, with Cdt Madhu and Balanathan winning best in squad prizes and Blue squad scooping the best section award.

Master Cadet Course

Four senior cadets attended the prestigious Master Cadet course at the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park. CSgt Acevedo along with Sgts Bidie, Mayorga (elder brother of our own JNCO Cadre best student) and Weerakody attended and passed this rigorous fieldcraft and leadership course. Each taking command appointments. In Sgt Bidie's case he was given the Platoon Commander's role for a deliberate platoon attack. We await their reports although the informal feedback the Contingent Commander has received is that they were all a credit to the contingent.

Selection Day for the Qualified Aerospace Instructors Course

Congratulations to Cpl Merzlikin of the RAF Section who attended an online selection day for the upcoming Qualified Aerospace Instructors Course and exciting STEM based departure for Royal Air Force Air Cadets. The selection process whittled over 200 applicants down to 40 attendees, so he has done incredibly well and is looking forward to the course.

Royal Air Squadron Trophy Competition Preparation

In the second week of half term a squad of 16 RAF Section cadets spent three days in school preparing for the upcoming regional heat of the Royal Air Squadron Trophy Competition.

They are previous two time winners of the National Finals so are keen to progress from the regional stage to have a chance of emulating their predecessors.

Pre-OIC Course

Acting Pilot Officer Cady attended his Pre-OIC course, the next stage in his progression towards a Cadet Force Commission

Promotions

Congratulations to Flying Officer Paschoud and the following cadets on their promotions announced this week:
Colour Sergeants Bidie, Guha, Mannix, Mayorga, Phillips, Weerakody.
Flight Sergeant Chodyko
Sergeant Choudhury





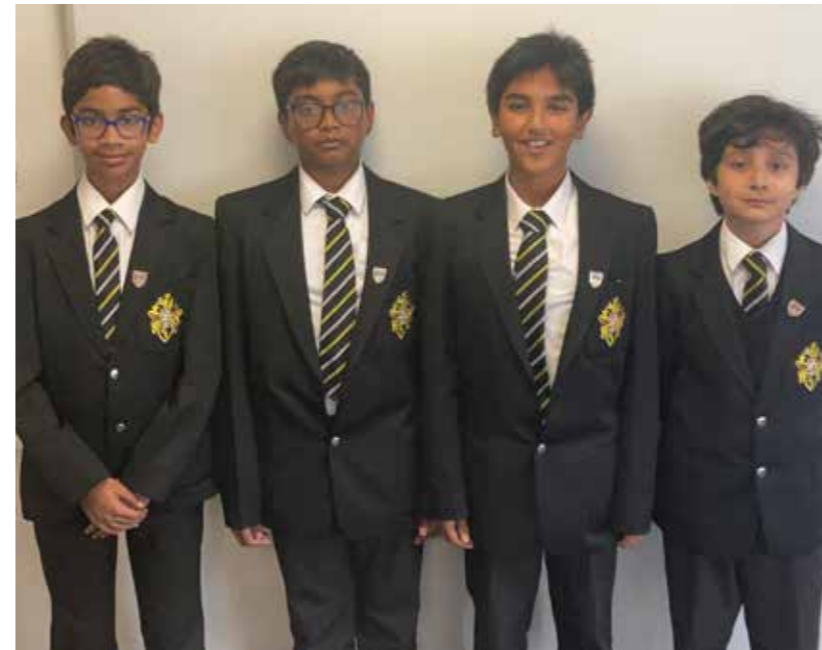
YEAR 7 ENTERPRISE DAY

The recent Year 7 Day Enterprise Day is an event that is eagerly anticipated by staff and students alike. It's a chance for all Year 7 boys to start developing skills and attitudes that will serve them throughout their school lives and beyond - learning how to work with each other, listening and collaborating, but also daring to take risks and think creatively.

The Enterprise Day providers, The Inspirational Learning Group, set the teams a challenging task of how gas storage containers could be repurposed in a way that could add to social welfare with the accent on improving environmental impacts where possible. This required the teams to consider budgets, marketing, design and working to a brief, whilst competing against a tight time deadline. Staff were very pleased with the good humour and dedication that the boys brought to the whole occasion.



The winning team was announced after a very competitive and entertaining final heat involving six finalists. The worthy winners were Emad R, Ali R, Siddarth S and Abilash S of team 'SCT' and so close, but not quite, were runners up Oliver T, Bentli V, Adiraj T, Omer-eren U, Praneel V and Hari W of team 'Blown Away'. A final 'Thank You' to the staff on the day who encouraged and enthused and team from The Inspirational Learning Group (Daniel, Jordan, Meghan and Abi), who lived up to their company name.



Endangered Instrument Scholars

The Sutton Music Service are offering a limited number of scholarships for those looking to learn an instrument (trombone, French horn, tuba, euphonium, oboe, bassoon, double bass and viola). A young person can apply if the following criteria are met:

- attend a state-funded school in the London Borough of Sutton
- are in Key Stage 2 or 3.
- are not currently learning an endangered instrument.

Musical Success

We are delighted to report that Ryan Court, who has just taken up his place to study Music at Cambridge, passed his diplomas (dipABRSM) in both oboe and singing. He took both examinations while still attending Wilson's and learned the results just a few weeks ago.

Our congratulations go to Ryan.





BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month took place in October (<https://www.black-historymonth.org.uk/>) and was celebrated at Wilson's in a number of ways. A number of Sixth Form Students helped Miss Riddle and Mrs Webber in preparing daily information bulletins that were shown to form groups during morning registration. These included information on Sybil Phoenix OBE (the first Black woman to be awarded an OBE, for her community work in Lewisham), Walter Tull (a footballer and officer of the First World War), and information about the experience of Black American soldiers stationed in Britain during WW2. Mrs Webber ran a lively History Club discussion asking why it is important for us to discuss history that sometimes seems to have been 'forgotten'. This focused on the longer term history of Black people in Britain, including Roman soldiers, the Ivory Bangle Lady, the Tudor trumpeter John Blanke and Queen Victoria's goddaughter, Sarah Forbes Bonetta. Miss Riddle led school assembly, focusing on what can be learnt from the Mary Rose exhibition in Portsmouth. The use of archaeological exploration and science has shown about the extent of ethnic diversity in Tudor History. Incredible historians such as Onyeka Nubia, Miranda Kauffman and David Olusoga have proven black Tudors not only existed but that they helped shape Britain at crucial moments. Students or parents who wish to know more about these topics might enjoy reading David Olusoga's *A Short Essential History* or Miranda Kauffman's *Black Tudors* or watching the Channel 4 documentary *Skeletons on the Mary Rose: The New Evidence*.

Black History Month, which runs in October each year, is about the celebration of Black British History. As we hope students have seen from the slides in tutor groups, assembly and History Club there are countless examples of important and often heroic contributions by people whose stories can get left out thanks to our obsession with monarchs, politicians, generals and archbishops! But a richer and far more inclusive picture of our history emerges when we look more deeply. If you have ideas for how we can mark Black History Month more effectively in future, please let your form tutor know and they will pass these ideas on.



WALK OF THE WEEK

At 294m above sea level, Leith Hill near Dorking, is the second highest point in the South East England and the highest point of the North Downs meaning that a walk to its summit presents walkers with beautiful views over the Surrey countryside. There are a number of different routes of varying lengths, taking you into beautiful and enchanting woodland spaces, and the National Trust website gives full details of these trails. There is also a 7km mountain bike trail if cycling is more your thing. We parked in the Starveall Corner Car Park and walked for about 8km. On the top of Leith Hill there is a tower, and in summer you are able to walk up the spiral staircase to enjoy even better views from the top. There is also a charming café in the base of the tower where you can buy a range of hot and cold drinks and snacks to refresh you after a stroll, or indeed give you some energy beforehand. Another site to take in on the walk is Leith Hill Place. There has been a house here since the 16th-century, perhaps even earlier. In 1754 it was sold to Richard Hull, a Bristol merchant, who built Leith Hill Tower, which still dominates the hill today. Other famous tenants have included Josiah Wedgwood of the pottery fame, and composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. The building later became a school. Dogs are also welcome at Leith Hill, and the number of different tracks you can take, mean that this is a spot that can be enjoyed again and again without getting bored. If you have a walk to recommend, please get in touch with Ms Banner.



U13 Tennis Surrey Final

The U13 and U14 tennis players were involved in a Surrey Final at the start of October. The team of Mark (Year 8), Dennis (Year 9), Rajadithan (Year 9) and Vivaan (Year 9) played some excellent tennis throughout the previous summer term in a group stage of the competition.

The squad began their tournament run with a win against Ewell Castle School; winning every set in what was their first match of the year. The team were then victorious against Alleyn's School before travelling to Trinity School in mid-May to pick up a 6-0 win in what was the final game of the group stages.

The boys had to wait 4 months and were into a new school year before the Surrey semi-final was due to be played. However, they picked up where they left off with another emphatic performance against Reed's School B team, again not dropping a set. With an injury to Rajadithan, Jack's (Year 8) good performances in year 7 warranted a call up to replace Rajadithan in the Surrey Final. The final was a tough match and unfortunately, after some tremendous performances the boys were placed as runners up to Reed's School A team.

Well done to all those involved in the fixtures this year and last year in both the regional rounds of the national competition as well as the Surrey Schools League.

