



23 October 2020

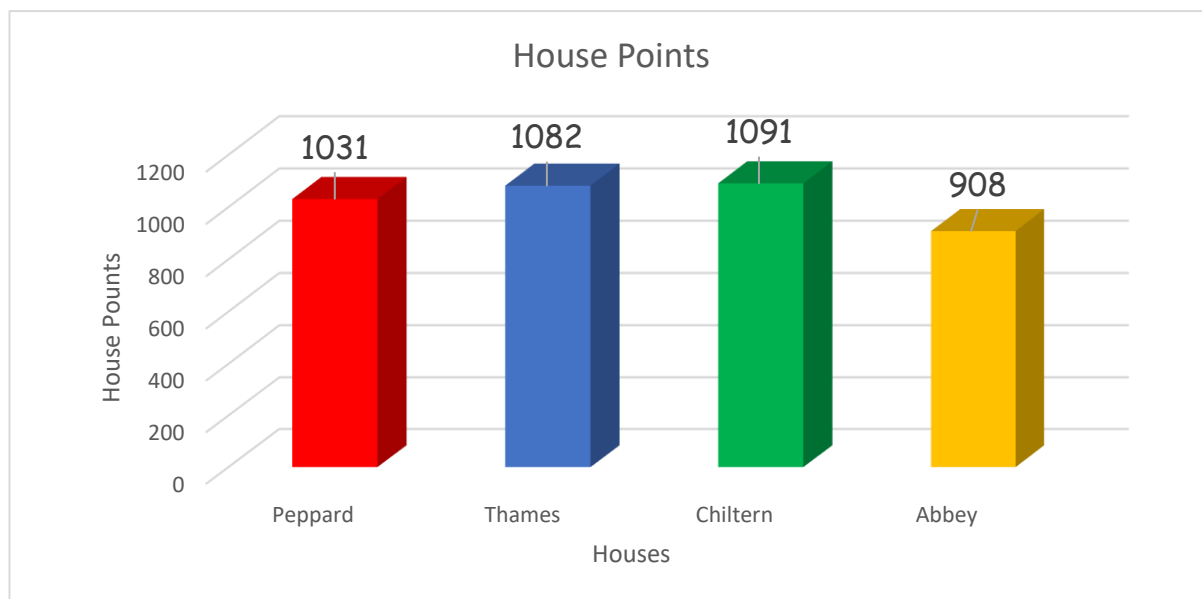
Dear Parents and Guardians

Well team, we made it!! It seems like September 1st is a long time ago and I know there are many staff and students who are very much looking forward to a bit of down time over the next 10 days. It's definitely deserved and a few lie ins are just what is needed to recharge and recover.

This half term has been memorable in so many ways and some of real success and progress are listed below. What is really becoming evident is that our students are seeing school as a secure place, are understanding our expectations and enjoying the consistency. Staff have unanimously remarked on the improved learning behaviours of the students and this is resulting in such a productive atmosphere in school. We have also been fortunate to have no Covid disruptions so far but this has been complemented by the very positive attitudes of staff and students alike towards being back at school this term and valuing school and all that it can offer.

Some of my positives that I have shared with the students this week are:

- ❖ Positive behaviour in lessons
- ❖ Great uniform
- ❖ Attendance levels (well over 95% for the half-term)
- ❖ More able opportunities growing all the time and being taken up
- ❖ Hot chocolate with the Head (it's so nice to meet these students!)
- ❖ Tutor Reading has been a great success
- ❖ Tools for Learning is making a huge difference (Please make sure all gaps are filled for the first Monday back)
- ❖ Knowledge retrieval activities are really helping students to engage in lessons as they remember more of their previous learning
- ❖ Reades Lane roadworks- we dealt with this 4-week challenge as a team with students and staff working so well together and it exemplified the high expectations of all concerned
- ❖ House system being relaunched (Inter house football has gone brilliantly this week) Please find below our latest House Point totals. Well done to all the students who have contributed. Chiltern are in the lead by just 9 points!! It's a really tight contest and every good deed and bit of good work counts!!"



So far, this week has also been very calm and I am grateful for the focus of the students. We've endeavoured to open the sports hall during break times to give the students a space to play football when their bubble is not allowed on the courts and burn some energy during the breaktimes. I particularly enjoyed being a part of the 25 a side Year 10 against Year 11 game during our wet Wednesday!

Furthermore, I have been really pleased with the levels of engagement and stamina of Year 11 in preparing for their mocks. We have given them tutor time sessions on three days a week and also four days a week of after school revision hours. I was a little concerned that during this week the numbers would be lower due to fatigue but on Tuesday for instance we had over 90% of the year group in attendance. They seem to be working hard, but of course some quality revision time across the next week will support their chances of a good mark. We have worked hard as a school on memory recall activities in each lesson and I hope this series of exams supports this shift in focus.

A few reminders

Can I remind parents and students about our expectations regarding hair (I realise there is a certain irony here given my lack of it!). We ask for no extreme fashion styles, no unnatural colours and nothing shorter than a grade 1. My desire is to work with families when things go wrong and I am grateful for the support we have received regarding two students recently but with half-term looming can I ask that as parents you ensure any haircuts that are received meet our high standards and are suitable for school. When this doesn't happen, it can result in some awkward conversations and students being removed from a learning environment whilst the hair 'recovers'.

Thank you for all the parents who have bought dark coats in line with our uniform policy. The students look very smart on these colder mornings. Can I remind anyone purchasing a new coat over the half-term that it must be a dark colour. Thank you for your co-operation.

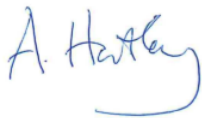
We have seen a number of students arriving at school with energy drinks on recent mornings (Red Bull, Relentless, Monster, etc). These are not permitted on school premises and I will

remind students of this when I deliver my assemblies in the week after half-term. It is also worrying that the students have been able to purchase these items as it is illegal to sell these drinks to under 16s because of their high sugar and caffeine content and the obvious consequences of a child drinking adult levels of caffeine and sugar are clearly not conducive to concentrating consistently in the classroom environment.

Lastly, can I make a plea for face masks on the bus once again. I have been delighted that almost all students enter the bus with a face mask. However, some students are still not bringing one in. The bus company have been sending stills of the CCTV of some students removing their masks on the bus which is very disappointing. It is a tiny minority of students that do this but they really are endangering the welfare of a wide number of other students. If this persists we may have to consider a sanction for this action as it is so important in this virus-hit time.

Have a great half-term and we look forward to seeing everyone again at 8.40am on Monday 2nd November.

Take care and stay safe



Andy Hartley
Headteacher