



North Brent School

Newsletter

Summer 2 - 2025

HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION TO NBS HOUSE SYSTEM



At North Brent School, we are proud to introduce our new House System - an initiative designed to strengthen our sense of community, nurture student leadership, and foster a culture of collaboration and healthy competition. This development is an important step in bringing our school vision, *Achievement for All*, fully to life across every aspect of school life.

From this academic year onwards, every student and member of staff will be part of one of three Houses: **Al-Khwarizmi**, **Angelou**, or **Confucius**. Each House is named in honour of an influential figure who embodies the values we seek to instil in our young people:

- ♦ **Al-Khwarizmi**, a pioneering mathematician and scholar, represents innovation, intellectual curiosity, and the transformative power of knowledge.
- ♦ **Angelou**, the renowned poet and civil rights activist, stands for creativity, resilience, and the importance of using one's voice for good.
- ♦ **Confucius**, a foundational thinker in ethics and education, symbolises wisdom, integrity, and the pursuit of lifelong learning.

Our House System has been designed to encourage friendly competition. It is a platform to celebrate achievement in all its forms, encourage participation in extra-curricular life, and develop the character and confidence our students need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Throughout the year, students will earn points for their Houses through academic success, positive behaviour, participation in events, and contributions to the school community.

This initiative is closely aligned with our mission statement, to deliver: '*Achievement for All*', one child at a time. We do this by creating a dynamic and inclusive learning environment where every student is empowered to achieve the grades that unlock the doors of opportunity. Driven by our core values of hard work, ambition, resilience, empowerment, diversity, and helping others, we believe that academic excellence is the golden ticket to success. We are committed to equipping our students with the skills, knowledge, and love of learning that they need to excel, ensuring they have the confidence and capability to shape a better world. Through perseverance and collaboration, our students will not only achieve their personal goals but also become compassionate leaders who inspire positive change.

Through the House System, students will have the opportunity to develop essential skills such as teamwork, leadership, and empathy - skills that are vital for their future and for the world they will go on to shape.

I am confident that the House system will strengthen our culture, build deeper connections across the school, and offer every student an opportunity to flourish. A significant amount of work has gone into the establishment of the House system and we are excited to see it become a vibrant part of school life.

Ed Martin
Headteacher

Meet the Heads of House

Each House will be led by a dedicated Head of House. These are key members of staff who will support and guide students, celebrate successes, and foster the ethos of their respective Houses.

House of Al-Khwarizmi



Head of House: Ms D. Church



I am an Art Teacher and Head of Al-Khwarizmi House.

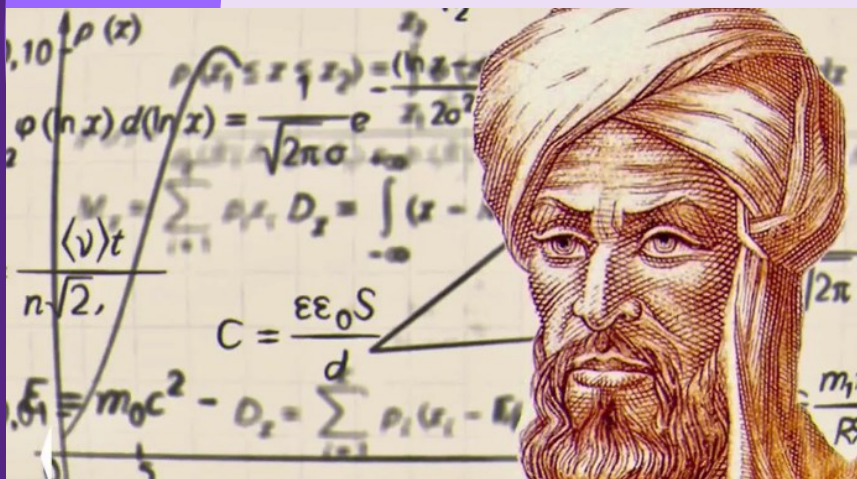
Whilst at the University of Leeds I studied Art and Design BA, specialising in painting and printmaking but I also love experimenting with new materials and techniques.

The House System has a special meaning for me, as during my time at secondary school, I was part of 'West House'. A highlight of which was our house competitions like sports day! I am very much looking forward to encouraging involvement in our wide range of competitions and events including an Art exhibition to showcase our range of skills. When I'm not creating art, you can find me running, baking and socialising with my friends and family (I'm the eldest of six!).

I am thoroughly enjoying teaching our pupils at NBS and look forward to launching our House system to further encourage team spirit, friendly competition, and a sense of pride within our school. I am keen to promote Al-Khwarizmi's value of hard work both inside and out of the classroom to encourage both academic and personal development, cultivating a community of bravery and resilience.



About House Al-Khwarizmi



Al-Khwarizmi was a Persian mathematician, astronomer, and geographer whose works laid the foundations for algebra and introduced the Hindu-Arabic numeral system to Europe. His legacy of innovation and logical reasoning continues to influence mathematics and science globally.

Al-Khwarizmi exemplifies intellectual bravery and lifelong learning, aligning with NBS's values of Hard Work, Resilience and Achievement.

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Head of House: Ms N. Rubio



I am the Head of Spanish and Head of Angelou House. I studied European studies at King College London and then on to complete my PGDE at University College London.

When I'm not teaching or planning lessons, I enjoy travelling the world, cooking, and spending time with friends and family.

I am really looking forward to the launch of our new House System and working closely with the students to bring passion, positivity, and purpose to our House events this year as we honour the legacy of Maya Angelou and everything her name represents.

As the Head of Angelou House - The House of Empowerment, Courage, and Expression - I am honoured to help foster a community where every student feels seen, heard, and valued. I am committed to creating a space where students are encouraged to use their voices, express themselves authentically, and stand up for justice and equality. My passion lies in empowering others and supporting students to reach their full potential - both academically and personally. I believe deeply in the transformative power of education; with the right support and guidance, students can break barriers and become the very best versions of themselves.

Maya Angelou was a celebrated American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist whose work illuminated the experiences of Black women and promoted social justice globally.

Her memoir, 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings', broke new ground in literature and her activism placed her alongside civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

House Maya Angelou reflects the values of Empowerment, Courage, and Expression - encouraging students to face challenges with integrity and use their voices to lead positive change.

About House Maya Angelou



House of Angelou



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House of Confucius



Head of House: Mr E. Lucas

I am a PE teacher and Head of Confucius House. I went to secondary school in Southampton, where I was part of 'Anderwood House'.

Some of my best school memories come from interhouse competitions, which helped spark my love for sport and teamwork.

I'm excited to bring that same energy and spirit to NBS. I studied Sports Coaching and Physical Education at Southampton Solent University and the University of Southampton, before completing my PGCE. Outside of teaching, I enjoy playing Padel, rugby, and supporting my favourite football team, Southampton FC.

I thoroughly enjoy teaching our pupils at NBS. I am especially looking forward to the launch of our new house system. Our house is named after Confucius, the influential Chinese philosopher and educator whose teachings continue to shape ideas around ethics, learning, and leadership. He emphasised respect, responsibility, and the value of lifelong learning - principles that closely reflect the values we uphold in Confucius House and across NBS. As Head of House, I aim to encourage our students to live out these ideals in everything they do.



About House Confucius



Confucius was a renowned Chinese philosopher and teacher who lived over 2,500 years ago. His teachings, which focused on morality, respect, responsibility, and the importance of education, have influenced millions of people around the world. He believed that a strong society begins with individuals who act with integrity, show kindness to others, and strive for personal growth. In our house, we embrace these timeless values - respect for one another, a commitment to learning, and the courage to always do what is right.

As members of Confucius House, we aim to lead by example, support each other as a community, and become thoughtful, inspired individuals ready to make a positive impact on the world.




How Will My Child Benefit from Being in a House System at School?

- ◆ **Fostering a Sense of Belonging:** The house system will help your child to feel part of a smaller community within the larger school, promoting a sense of pride and identity.
- ◆ **Encouraging Healthy Competition:** Houses can facilitate inter-house competitions in sports, academics, and other areas, motivating your child to strive for excellence.
- ◆ **Building Leadership Skills:** Older pupils can take leadership roles within their houses, such as being house captains or team leaders, helping them develop a sense of responsibility and teamwork.
- ◆ **Promoting Social Interaction:** Pupils from different year groups come together in their houses, leading to greater social interaction and friendships across age groups.
- ◆ **Enhancing School Spirit:** A house system will boost overall school spirit, with your child supporting their house in various events, creating a more engaging school environment.
- ◆ **Improving Behaviour:** The structure can encourage positive behaviour, as your child will earn points or rewards for academic achievements *and* contributions to house activities.
- ◆ **Encouraging Personal Development:** By participating in house events and activities, your child will develop a range of skills, including teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

What is School Spirit?

School spirit is the collective sense of pride, loyalty, and enthusiasm that students, staff, and our wider community show towards our school.

This sentiment is expressed through:

- ◆ Active support for House activities such as Sports Day, theatrical productions, and fundraising initiatives.
 - ◆ Wearing House colour badges to visually demonstrate affiliation and pride. Each student and member of staff will receive a badge with their house colour on. This should be worn proudly on blazers.
 - ◆ Participation in school traditions, such as rewards celebrations and Culture Day, which foster unity and community.
 - ◆ Promoting a positive image of the school within and beyond the institution.
 - ◆ Demonstrating solidarity and a sense of community, especially during collective events or shared challenges.
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House	Colour
Al-Khwarizmi	Purple
Angelou	Turquoise
Confucius	Green

We believe that the House System will further enhance our school spirit by:

- ◆ Hosting regular competitive events such as inter-house tournaments and creative competitions.
- ◆ Running regular charity fundraisers for local and international causes.
- ◆ Encouraging students to wear their House badges and colours with pride.
- ◆ Fostering inter-year group relationships and mentorship, with pupils in older years guiding and supporting younger peers.

Programme of Events

The House System will offer a wide range of events designed to promote creativity, physical activity, collaboration, and friendly competition amongst our student body.

Older students will lead these events and younger students will participate.

Parents and Carers will be invited to a selection of these events to celebrate their child's achievements and we will communicate with you about these closer to the time.

There will also be a programme of Year Group sectional events, where students compete in Year Groups or Key Stages to earn points for their House.

The final calendar of events will be finalised in September.

Half Term 2025-2026	Event
Autumn 1	Girls' House Football Boys' House Football Inter-House Chess Tournament
Autumn 2	Spanish Spelling Bee House Competition University Challenge House Competition Inter-House Table Tennis Tournament
Spring 1	Spanish Translation Bee House Competition Inter-House Debating Competition House Drama Showcase Maths House Challenge
Spring 2	Girls' House Basketball Boys' House Basketball Creative Writing House Competition
Summer 2	Girls' House Cricket Boys' House Cricket House Art Showcase

Each of these events will allow students to earn points for their Houses. The winning House will receive the House Cup at the end of the year.

The House that has best embodied school spirit through charity work and mentoring will receive the School Spirit Cup at the end of the year.



House Allocation

Students have completed a questionnaire about their interests inside and outside the classroom.

Based on their responses, they will be placed into one of the seven Houses, ensuring a balance across all Houses.

This thoughtful allocation process aims to ensure a diverse and vibrant House experience for every student.

House Captain Elections and House Assemblies

Each House will elect a House Captain and Deputy House Captain from the Sixth Form.

These are substantial leadership roles where students will guide their Houses in competitions, lead assemblies, and be positive role models for their peers.

In addition, each House will have a selection of additional leadership positions including:

- ◆ Year 7 Transition Captain
- ◆ House Mentoring Captain
- ◆ House Charity Captain
- ◆ House Arts Captain
- ◆ House Sports Captain
- ◆ House Drama Captain
- ◆ House Music Captain

House Assemblies will take place every half term, providing a platform for celebration, updates, and motivation. Students will be able to track their House's position on the leaderboard and share successes.



House Mentoring

Older students will work with younger students to provide support, encouragement, and guidance.

This will strengthen relationships across Year Groups and foster a caring and inclusive community within each House.

This will be particularly impactful for our incoming Year 7 students.

Welcome Communications

Parents and students received an email welcoming them to their allocated House on **Thursday 3 July**.

This will now be followed by House assemblies and Sports Day before the end of term.

