



MALTBYLEARNINGTRUST

Exceptional Experiences. Successful Lives.



Athens



Carthage



Rome



Sparta



Thebes



Troy

House System

Building teamwork, confidence and community through competition



Wath Academy



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Wath's Houses

The House System at Wath Academy

Every student at Wath Academy is a member of a school house. The six houses – Athens, Carthage, Rome, Sparta, Thebes and Troy – are named after ancient cities. Each house has its own badge, colour and set of values.

All six houses contain students from Years 7 to 13, uniquely enabling different year groups to come together. Members of staff are also placed in a house (usually the same one as their tutor group), embodying the house spirit fully in the school's ethos.

Under the guidance of a head of house, each house takes part in assemblies and extracurricular events across the academic year (see pages 4–5).

The overall aim of the house system is to build students' teamwork, confidence and community through friendly competition.



Mr Taylor Senior House Link

The house system at Wath Academy is thriving, but dates right back to our humble beginnings in 1923.

Every week students can look forward to taking part in house competitions. We have mass participation events every Friday lunchtime, where hundreds of students get involved and represent their house and earn points for doing so. Alongside these events, we run 'box entry' competitions such as winter poetry. Students post their competition entry in their house box as they enter reception, again they receive house points for taking part. At the end of the year, the prestigious House Participation Trophy is awarded.

There is no wonder that students at Wath Academy develop an enormous sense of pride, belonging and loyalty to their house, whilst creating a friendly competitive spirit.

Established 1923

History of the House System

The house system is as old as the school. When the first 77 pupils enrolled at the new Wath Secondary School (as it was then known) in September 1923, they were organised not into forms but into the first two school houses, Rome and Sparta. As the school grew, more houses were added: Athens and Carthage in 1925 and Thebes and Troy in 1927.

Watched over by a housemaster and housemistress, each house competed for the likes of the Work Cup and Games Cup. Competitions similar to these continue to the present day.

There have been challenges to the house system. Thebes was disbanded in 1942 due to low student numbers. However, like other aspects of the house system, it survived and was re-founded in 1958.

Today, the house system has been modernised for the 21st century, but is still built on the same sense of community envisaged by the school's founders.



Above: Part of the school's war memorial, which includes the badges of all six houses

Below left: Athens girls in 1927

Below right: Sparta boys, also in 1927



House Events

House Competitions

Friday lunchtime is when house challenges are held. All students in the school are invited to participate in a fun mass activity. Past events include a conga challenge, paper aeroplane competition and treasure hunt. Points are awarded not just for winning, but also for participation.

An online quiz is available to complete every week, as well as a fortnightly paper-based 'box task' (with students posting their entries into the boxes in the school reception). Both challenges are often linked to events like World Book Day or Careers Week. Points are awarded to the best entries.



The submission point for the 'box entry' competitions near reception

Assemblies and Guest Speakers

House assemblies are held once a half term. With all the house's students from across the school in attendance, the head of house leads a lively and informative assembly, usually based around the house's values.

These assemblies provide a beneficial opportunity for students to reflect and embed their house values into their personality.

Guest speakers are often invited to speak at these assemblies, often about a house value.



The 'sorting hat' used to allocate students to houses in their first assembly



House Representation

Many students aspire to represent their house and can achieve this through a wide variety of competitions, such as being selected for their house football team.

Sports Day is run on a house basis, with each house competing to be crowned the Wath champions.

House captains are elected from Year 12 students. They help organise house events and gain valuable leadership experience for their UCAS applications or CVs.



House badges are part of the school uniform



An Athens relay team confident of victory on Sports Day



A festive house climbing wall event... in Christmas jumpers

Athens



ASPIRATION | COMPETITIVENESS | LOYALTY | RESPONSIBILITY | WISDOM



Miss Goulty Head of Athens

I feel truly privileged to lead the incredible team of staff and students in Athens House. The high levels of passion, participation and competitiveness that I see around the academy from Athens keeps me confident of many more winning years in our future.

Being a member of Team Athens is a legacy that will stick with you well beyond your years at Wath Academy, leaving you with a sense of loyalty towards this fantastic house.

My aspiration for Athens over the coming years is to continue our winning streak, instilling in all house members a sense of competitiveness and a drive to succeed. We will achieve this responsibly, earning our win through 100% participation and all-round enthusiasm.

I cannot wait to see what ingenuity our fresh-faced Year 7 pupils will bring to Team Athens this year, from expressing your creativeness in box tasks to leading Friday events as tutor reps.

So let's continue wearing our house badges with pride.

Go, Team Athens!

The City of Athens in Greece

Athens was the largest and most influential of the Greek city-states. It had many fine buildings and was named after Athena, the goddess of wisdom and warfare. The Athenians invented the concept of democracy ('demos' = 'the people', 'kratia' = 'the power of rule') to describe their system of government, where every citizen could vote on important issues, such as whether or not to declare war.

In the classical period, Athens was a centre for arts, learning and philosophy, home of Plato's Academia and Aristotle's Lyceum, Athens was also the birthplace of Socrates, Plato, Pericles, Aristophanes, Sophocles and many other prominent philosophers, writers and politicians of the ancient world.

Athens is widely referred to as the cradle of western civilization.





Carthage

CANDIDNESS | HONESTY | KINDNESS | PERSEVERANCE | STRENGTH



The City of Carthage in Tunisia

According to legend, colonists from modern-day Lebanon, led Queen Elissa, founded Carthage c. 814 BC. The Carthaginian Empire extended over much of the coast of north west Africa as well as encompassing substantial parts of coastal Iberia and the islands of the western Mediterranean Sea.

Carthage settlers were a seafaring people known as the Phoenicians. The ancient city of Carthage, located in modern-day Tunisia, was a major centre of trade and influence in the western Mediterranean. Carthaginians were a formidable warring nation. They fought a series of wars against Rome, which were known as the Punic Wars. Hannibal Barca was a general and statesman from ancient Carthage who is widely considered one of the greatest military commanders in history.



Mr Marriott Head of Carthage



We have a great team of staff and students in Carthage and I am proud to be leading an extraordinary group of people.

Our key values have been the key to our successes so far and will drive us forward to become even more successful. A candid approach to performances by accepting that we can improve no matter how well we have done so far, alongside the honesty to review performances and accept feedback even when things have not gone as planned, are essential in reaching our goals. Perseverance, kindness and strength go hand-in-hand if we are to reach our goals and never give up in our pursuit of success.

In Carthage, we show the determination to keep going, the strength to act on feedback and the kindness to encourage each other. In short, we work hard for each other not just ourselves – a true team.

My goal for Carthage is not just to excel and be successful, but for the house badge and all that wear it to be recognised as hard working, supportive and honest. With these values, any challenges that may be faced can be overcome. We can chase perfection and definitely catch excellence on the way.

Rome



CONFIDENCE | CREDIBILITY | FAITHFULNESS | RELIABILITY | TRUST



Mr Gibson
Head of Rome

I feel very privileged, as the Head of House of Rome, to be part of a great team of staff and students who are dedicated to ensuring that we are successful as a house.

Rome's values are something that I am fully aligned with and I am passionate about ensuring that every member of my house lives up to these values – both during their time at Wath Academy as well as in their lives beyond academic life. After seeing the successes of our house, I cannot wait to build upon these past achievements and ensure that our status as a successful house is elevated even further. Rome's students are a loyal group who will relish the opportunity to showcase that Rome is the greatest house.

Through becoming a member of Rome, and by partaking in various house events, our students will become better people as a whole, instilling crucial characteristics such as confidence, trustworthiness, faithfulness and reliability within them. Moreover, by committing to such a community, pupils will be able to create bonds that will last for years to come, as well as creating an array of positive school memories that they can cherish.

I always look forward to wearing my house badge with pride and working with all the fantastic staff and students who are dedicated to further embellishing the history of our great house, just as the Romans of old were set upon bettering their empire.

The City of Rome in Italy

The civilization began as an Italic settlement in the Italian Peninsula, that grew into the city of Rome and which subsequently gave its name to the empire over which it ruled and to the widespread civilisation the empire developed. The Roman Empire expanded to become one of the largest empires in the world.

Ancient Roman civilisation has contributed to modern language, religion, society, technology, law, politics, government, warfare, art, literature, architecture and engineering. Rome professionalised and expanded its military and created a system of government called 'Res Publica', the inspiration for modern republics such as the United States and France. It achieved impressive technological and architectural feats, such as the construction of an extensive system of aqueducts and roads, as well as the construction of large monuments, palaces and public facilities.





Sparta

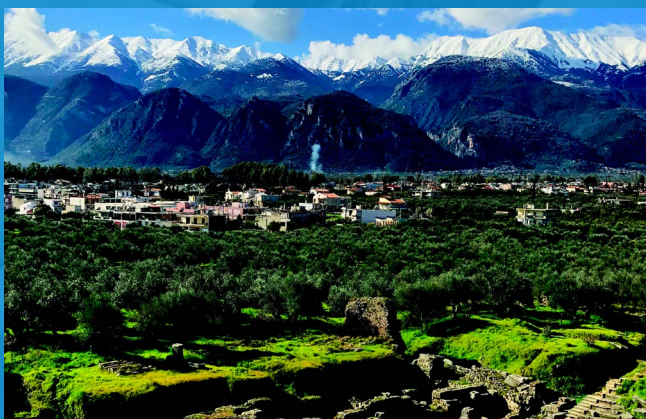
CONSIDERATION | COURAGE | ENDURANCE | TEAMWORK | VISION



The City of Sparta in Greece

Sparta was a prominent city-state in ancient Greece. Around 650 BC it rose to become a dominant military land-power. It was unique for its social system and constitution, which configured its entire society to maximise military proficiency at all costs, focusing all social institutions on military training and physical development. Spartans underwent the rigorous 'agoge' training and education regimen, This started at the age of 7 and lasted for 11 years.

Spartan women also enjoyed considerably more rights and equality with men than elsewhere in classical society. Spartan phalanx brigades were widely considered to be among the best in battle. The movie '300' is based on the Battle of Thermopylae, where 300 Spartans held off 100,000 to 150,000 Persians. It is a true story about the victory of a few brave Spartans holding their ground against a larger adversary.



Ms Ashton Head of Sparta



I have been leader of Sparta for many years and every year I am incredibly proud of how Spartans never cease to amaze me with their originality and determination. They are a group of students who always put themselves out there and show the courage and determination to succeed, even in events that are outside of their comfort zone.

As a house, we have endured periods with little reward. However, through teamwork, just like the wolves that adorn our badges, we have consistently strived towards the vision of success. Staff and students have worked as a team, again like the wolves that adorn our badges, to ensure that all members of Sparta are included in all events.

Whilst success is important to us Spartans are also considerate to others – the house system only succeeds when all houses are successful, and all students are able to participate in all events.

My vision for Sparta is for it to be seen as a hardworking dedicated group of staff and students who will go the extra mile and show real endurance through tough times and lead the house system to build on its past successes.

I look forward to our future as Spartans where we will use our key values to handle whatever the future brings for us and excel in everything we do.

Thebes



AMBITION | DETERMINATION | ENTHUSIASM | FOCUS | OPTIMISM



Mrs Yellott Head of Thebes

To be Head of House of Thebes is truly an honour. I am excited to watch Thebes' journey continue, and I am proud to lead a house with such fundamental values and such amazing members – from our new Year 7s right through to Year 13, and our Theban staff members. I hope to see us rise victorious against Thebes' historical rivals – Athens! Following my example, I expect to see each Theban wearing their house badge with pride and getting involved with activities every week to aid us in our rise to victory! Only through our determination and optimism will we see our success.

As a Teacher of Science, I pride myself on nurturing curiosity in students and I believe the house system fosters this. The house system encourages students to try new activities, engage with different staff and students, challenges individuals and promotes skill building. The house community not only drives ambition but provides a platform for our students to create impactful school memories. I encourage all students to get involved so they can not only receive the recognition they deserve from success, but participation also.

The five Theban values are integral to our team, and these values get modelled by our students with each house activity. I am confident that our house enthusiasm and focus will drive us to become a truly accomplished house each and every week!

The City of Thebes in Greece

Thebes was a city in Boeotia, central Greece. It played an important role in Greek myths, as the site of the stories of Cadmus, Oedipus, Dionysus and Heracles. Thebes was the largest city of the ancient region of Boeotia and was the leader of the Boeotian confederacy. It was a major rival of ancient Athens, and sided with the Persians during the 480 BC invasion under Xerxes.

Thebes was a major force in Greek history, and was the most dominant city-state at the time of the Macedonian conquest of Greece. During the Byzantine period, the city was famous for its silks. The Sphinx, which features on the house badge, is a mythical creature with the body of a lion, the head of a human and the wings of a bird. It is often associated with Egypt, but the sphinx also plays a part in Greek traditions and is said to have guarded the entrance to the Greek city of Thebes.





Troy

CURIOSITY | DEDICATION | INGENUITY | PRUDENCE | TOLERANCE



The City of Troy in Turkey

Troy was a city in the far northwest of the region known in late classical antiquity as Asia Minor, now known as Anatolia in modern Turkey. It was the setting of the famous Trojan war. During the war, the city of Troy was besieged for ten years. After the deaths of many heroes, including the Achaeans Achilles and Ajax, and the Trojans Hector and Paris, the city fell to the ruse of the Trojan Horse. Legend states that the Greeks pretended to sail away whilst leaving a large wooden horse as a gift.

The horse was dragged into the city by the Trojans, but inside were hidden Greek soldiers. These soldiers let the rest of the army into the city and then the city of Troy fell.

A famous Trojan is Helen of Troy. In Greek legend, she was often described as the most beautiful woman of Greece and the indirect cause of the Trojan War. She was daughter of the god Zeus.



Mrs Lines Head of Troy



As a student myself, I was a loyal Trojan so it was an absolute honour to become Head of Troy as a member of staff. We have an amazing set of students and staff in our house who are passionate and dedicated to ensuring our success. By taking part in the various house activities, our students create fantastic lifelong memories, build positive relationships and develop attributes that contribute to their exceptional characters. Being a member of Troy over the years has had its ups and downs but, like with anything in life, we have never given up. The resilience, determination and team spirit we have is what I truly believe will get us to the top of the league.

I believe in the power of community and that individuals with passion and commitment for any cause can have a huge impact on the world around us. This marries perfectly with Troy's values of curiosity, dedication, prudence, ingenuity and tolerance. Be curious about the world around you. Be dedicated to your passions. Use your good judgement to make decisions. Create new and inventive ideas. Be more tolerant of everyone around you.

My aim is for every member of Troy to feel valued and included; we are a family with a bond that cannot be broken. I want all students and staff to be a proud member of Troy where everyone is included and equally valued. I hope that you all create positive memories that last a lifetime and that one day you can share with your own family.

