

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Work continues apace on the four main building projects Sixth Form, School House, the Dance Studio and the Dining Room extension, along with 32 smaller projects: from new bathrooms and kitchens in Twiston Davies, ready for Monnow boarders to move across at Easter to refurbishing the Art department at the boys' school and installing glazing in the arches in that area.

Names

As you know, we have already chosen for the new overarching school to be called Haberdashers' Monmouth School. As we refer to the new set up for September 2024 we will be referencing some new names. The key ones are as follows:

- Monmouth Pre-prep, located in Inglefield House
- Monmouth Prep, located in the Prep School (formerly the main building of the girls' school)
- Monmouth Senior, located on the William Jones Campus (formerly the boys' school)
- Monmouth Sixth Form, located on the St Catherine's Campus (formerly part of the girls' school)
- The sports fields currently used by the girls' school will be referred to as the Hereford Road Sports Fields
- The sports fields currently used by the boys' school will be referred to as the Wye Sports Fields

House structure

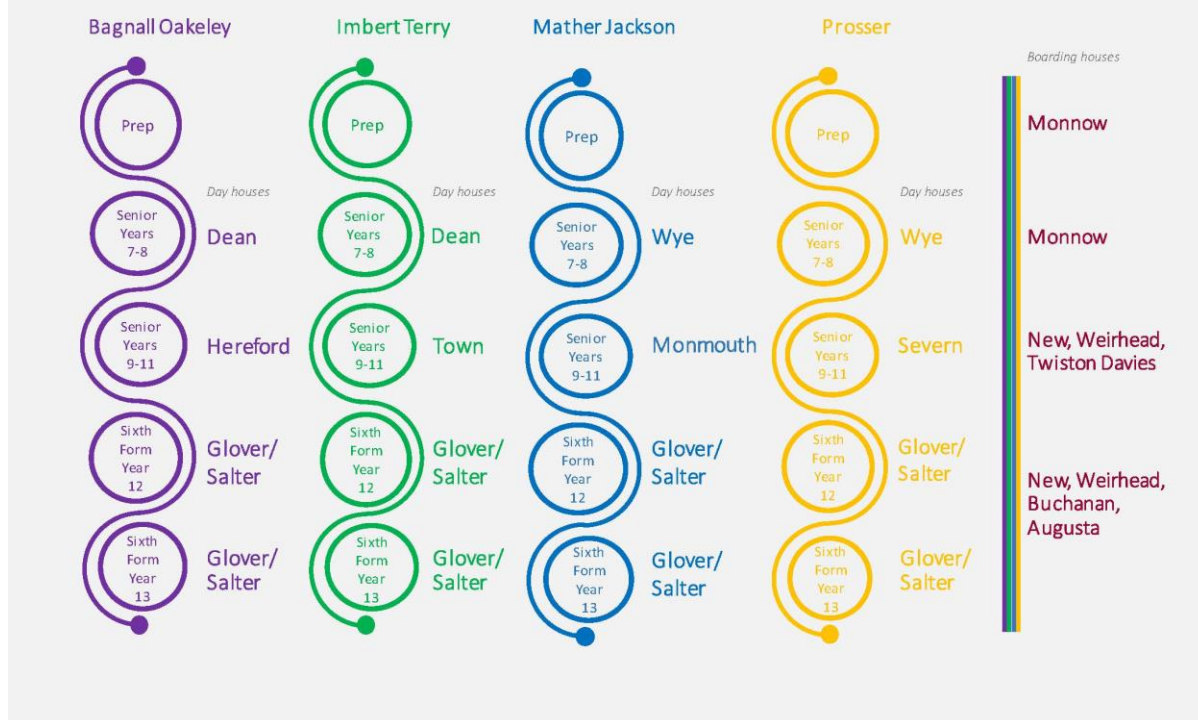
We are delighted to announce the house structure for September 2024, which affects not only Monmouth Senior but also Monmouth Prep and Sixth Form. We have chosen a format that will provide the best possible pastoral care for your children, whilst also combining and preserving the best of both schools' traditions: the competition houses of the girls' school and the vertical pastoral house format of the boys' school. We are delighted to be keeping the names that alumni and the school community value so much.

Every student (day and boarding) from Nursery to Year 13 will be put in a Family where they will remain throughout their Haberdashers' Monmouth School journey. These families whose names will be familiar to girls' school parents will be called Bagnall Oakeley (purple), Imbert Terry (green), Mather Jackson (blue) and Prosser (yellow). The families will compete in sporting and other internal competitions, ultimately competing for the annual Family Cup.

Monmouth Prep will remain unchanged in its pastoral structure. However, when your child gets to Year 7 they will be cared for by pastoral leads (day pupils) and Housemasters and mistresses (boarders) within day and boarding houses located on or around the senior school site, as the boys are now.

As your child moves up the school they will change house. Please see the diagram below. For example, a Year 7 day pupil in Bagnall Oakeley will firstly join Dean House, then in Year 9 they will move to Hereford House until the end of Year 11 when they join the Sixth Form to be part of either Glover or Salter House for their remaining time at the school. Boarding houses, for boys and girls, will remain as they are.

Families and Houses Structure



Continuity in safeguarding and pastoral care

Further to the Safeguarding Review in October, we will be taking the review’s recommendation of expanding our pastoral provision from what is currently in place for September 2024, to meet the pastoral needs of our pupil body and to allow for any pastoral challenges which arise when we go fully co-ed in September. We are delighted to announce, therefore, that David Edwards will be staying on as a Pastoral Deputy Head from September 2024 alongside Rachel Rees who will resume her position following her time as Acting Head.

Parent Forums

We were delighted to hold one face-to-face and one online Parent Forum last week, when Mrs Rachel Rees and I took the opportunity to update those who attended on progress towards the merger as well as discuss exciting ideas for Saturday activities from September. More information about these activities will be published shortly but there was a good deal of enthusiasm for them, especially around the theme of sustainability, community and wellbeing.

Mrs Rees’ presentation included a summary of what we have achieved so far particularly in the pastoral area, with excellent initiatives in both the boys and girls’ schools helping students to prepare for the transition to a co-education, as well as more generally dealing with friendships; supporting our comprehensive day-to-day pastoral care. She explained that we have been building “co-ed” activities into each Year Group’s social, PSHE and extra-curricular activities as well as delivering pastoral programmes to build awareness of issues between the sexes: Girls on Board, Men at Work, It Happens, introducing more opportunities for students to voice their concerns with The Student Voice platform, the Gender Agenda student panel which discusses equality, along with already established platforms such as School Council. Mrs Rees also shared information on the places and people students can approach for help and clarified the changes we have made to student device usage; greater restrictions in Year 9 to encourage social interaction.

She also touched on the feedback received from the Estyn information gathering in which we participated in September 2021, called *We don't tell our teachers*. We shared with them how we approach child-on-child abuse and sexual harassment, and the ensuing report praised the leadership of the school, use of pupil voice and comprehensive PSHE content in our pastoral provision. They recognised *Shelf Help* as sector-leading, with Head of Libraries, Saffron Williams, subsequently making the top 3 in the School Librarian of the Year award.

Further parent forums are in planning for the Lent and Summer terms and we will publicise them in due course; I do hope you will be able to attend.

Kind regards,
Simon Dorman