



Ellesmere

A 7 – 18 Coeducational School

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Dear Parent,

With this letter is a sheet outlining the House arrangements relating to your son or daughter's move from Year 8 and Lower School into Year 9 and the Senior School.

In the majority of cases you may find the information of interest, but you will **not** need to return the slip at the bottom. However, **only if you have a family connection to one of the Competitive Houses**, perhaps from their former days as both residential and competitive entities or because an older sibling either passed through or remains in the House, you may wish to maintain that connection. **In that case, please complete the slip below and return it without delay to:** [academicsecretary@ellesmere.com](mailto:academicsecretary@ellesmere.com)

I am afraid that I am **not able to offer choice of Competitive House to all parents** since the intention is to continue with our policy of ensuring healthy competition between such Houses by placing pupils with particular talents, be they leadership, musical, dramatic, social or sporting, across the four Houses. We also attempt to give each House approximately the same total numbers and gender mix.

Similarly **it is not possible for me to accept preferences for a particular boys' Pastoral House** since many factors are taken into account when placing pupils in the Houses and we require the freedom to attempt to achieve a balance between them.

Yours sincerely,

Enc.

**Year Eight Transition: The Upper School House System.**

Pastoral (residential if boarding) and Academic Houses.

Pupils in Years 9 to 11 inclusive, whether day or boarding pupils, are placed in St Aidan's if girls and one of either St Cuthbert's or St Patrick's for boys. In the case of boys, placement is decided upon the basis of a mixture of the accommodation available, the balance of boarding and day pupils in the House and any educational factors thought to be relevant. **I am afraid that parental choice is not available.**

As they move into the Sixth Form students are placed in St Oswald's or St Hilda's if girls and St Bede's or St Luke's if boys, again irrespective of whether they are boarding or day. Collectively the pastoral/academic Houses are known as 'the Saints'.

Competitive Houses.

When pupils move into the Senior School they are placed in one of four Competitive Houses and remain in the same House for the rest of their time at Ellesmere. 'Meynell', 'Talbot', 'Wakeman-Lambart' and 'Woodard' take their names from Ellesmere's past and were previously the names of the residential Houses when the pastoral system was based upon 'vertical' Houses containing pupils from year nine through to the Upper Sixth.

**Particular efforts are made to try to ensure that a pupil with family connections to a Competitive House is given the opportunity of joining that House.** Once such things have been taken into consideration we endeavour, as far as possible, to ensure that year groups in the Houses are of comparable 'strength' and so, recognizing that for some boys and girls House Competition may represent the main outlet, promote healthy competition between them.

Should you wish to apply for your son or daughter to be placed in a particular Competitive House **due (only) to a family connection**, please **complete and return the slip below to The Academic Secretary without delay and certainly before Half Term.** We regret that it may not be possible to consider requests after this date once allocations have been made.



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*Please return FAO: Academic Secretary, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire. SY12 9AB*

**Year Eight Transition: The Upper School House System**

Pupil's Name *(Please print)*: \_\_\_\_\_

Competitive House applied for *(Please circle)*:

**Meynell**

**Talbot**

**Wakeman-Lambart**

**Woodard**

Nature of family connection: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Parent): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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