



Wath  
Academy

# House System

Building teamwork, confidence and  
community through competition





Athens



Carthage



Rome



Sparta



Thebes



Troy

# 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 competes for the Participation Trophy and Academic Cup, as well as other events.

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



**Mr Shaw**  
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 Creative Challenge competitions every half term, where students again receive house points for taking part. At the end of the year, the prestigious winners for the House Participation Trophy are unveiled.

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

**T**he 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 Work Cup and Games Cup. The house badges were designed by the school's Art teacher in the 1930s.

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 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 half termly Creative Challenge, judged by the Senior House Link. Both challenges are often linked to events like World Book Day or Careers Week. Points are awarded to the best entries.



Information about the houses is proudly on display in reception

## Assemblies and Guest Speakers

House assemblies are held once a 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 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*



*A Thebes football team, dressed in their house colours*



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



# Athens



ASPIRATION | COMPETITIVENESS | LOYALTY | RESPONSIBILITY | WISDOM



**Mr Marriott**  
Head of Athens

**I**t is a real privilege to be Head of Athens House – especially because I’m not just a teacher at Wath Academy... I’m also a former Athens student. I remember wearing the red colours of Athens, cheering at house competitions, and feeling that mix of nerves and excitement before big events. Athens has always meant something special to me, and I’m incredibly proud to return and lead the house that helped shape who I am.

Athens is built on five core values: Aspiration, Competitiveness, Loyalty, Responsibility, and Wisdom.

Aspiration means never settling for ‘that’ll do’. Competitiveness isn’t about arrogance; it’s about pushing yourself to be better today than you were yesterday. Loyalty means having each other’s backs. When you wear Athens colours, you represent something bigger than yourself. Students should support one another in form, lessons, and around school, with older students leading by example and younger students feeling part of a team. Responsibility is about owning your actions and doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. Wisdom links to Athens’ heritage and the idea of strategic thinking: learning from mistakes, thinking before acting, and making smart decisions in studies, friendships, and future plans.

My vision for Athens is simple: that we are visible in everything we do, united across Years 7 to 13, and relentless in how we respond, improve, and come back stronger.

## The City of Athens in Greece

**A**thens 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.



## Miss Lessells Head of Carthage



As Head of Carthage, I am immensely proud to be leading an incredible group of people. The enthusiastic spirit of both staff members and students is something that genuinely excites and motivates me.

There is a clear sense of togetherness and camaraderie between housemates, which is something that will stay with you for years to come.

Our values are at the forefront of what we do in Carthage and I am committed to motivating all students and staff to embody these values within their day-to-day at Wath Academy.

Whilst success is an important part of the House system, members of Carthage are sure to act with candidness and kindness, even when facing adversity.

My vision is that every member of Carthage feels truly supported and valued, has the courage to persevere and the strength to overcome any challenge.

At the heart of everything that we do is our sense of unshakeable team spirit.

I look forward to seeing members of Carthage succeed in activities, perhaps outside of their comfort zone!



# Rome



CONFIDENCE | CREDIBILITY | FAITHFULNESS | RELIABILITY | TRUST



Mr Shaw  
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

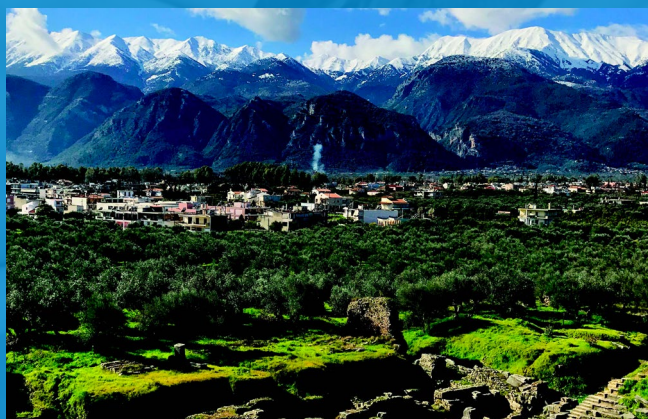
CONSIDERATION | COURAGE | ENDURANCE | TEAMWORK | VISION



## 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



## Miss Molson Head of Thebes

**T**he values of the Thebes really strike me as being some of the most important to live a fulfilling life and it's inspiring to lead a house with these values.

When I think of someone who embodies these values in their daily life, I imagine a positive, optimistic, person who both attracts success and focuses their efforts helping others achieve their own success; the kind of person you cannot ignore.

I want those that wear the Thebes badge to see it as a reminder to be optimistic, happy, positive people who enjoy the opportunities life throws at them and sees the best in themselves and others, especially during times when that can become difficult.

I think that badge can have that power if we start to see it as that physical reminder of the kind of person anyone ought to be.

Our ambition should be to engage with the house system as not only a series of competitions to be involved with and win, but to develop friendships and memories.

That should be a major focus, not just to win competitions and trophies but to compete with strength of character, determination, grace, lots of smiles and enthusiastically cheering each other on.

## The City of Thebes in Greece

**T**hebes 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.





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