

THE HEARTBEAT OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our school's house system is the heartbeat of our community, bringing together students from different year groups to compete, collaborate, and support one another in various events. Throughout the year, Bronte, Clarke, Houldsworth, and Priestley houses have demonstrated incredible spirit and determination across numerous competitions. Each year the House system is growing, and it is so exciting to see how events develop and adapt over the years. It is a privilege to celebrate the achievements and efforts of every student, teacher, and staff member who has contributed to making this year extraordinary. With this, the participation and involvement get stronger.

There has been a record number of students participating in the wide range of events on offer. A grand total of 905 students have competed in at least one House event which is just under two thirds of the school. There are very few other schools who can also share results like this.

It is also wonderful to celebrate the students who have achieved their House badges. A total number of 275 students have competed in four or more events across the year. Some students successfully achieved their badge earlier this year but with events such as House Music and Sports Day where so many participated, there are many more to be received today. Congratulations to everyone who has got the House badge this year, and for many of you for the second or third year running for your continued service.

A FEW FIGURES TO SHARE FOR EACH HOUSE ARE:

Bronte have awarded 66 House badges this year. And 62% of the House have participated in 1 or more events. A special mention to Praise Nduka-Obiora Y10 and Martha Walker Y9 who have both taken part in 10 events each.

Clarke have awarded 64 House badges this year. And 60% of the House have participated in 1 or more events. Another special mention to Ben McNally Y8 who has taken part in 10 events also.

Houldsworth have awarded 65 House badges this year. And 60% of the House have participated in 1 or more events. A special mention to Rueben Booth Y9 who has completed 11 events and an incredible mention to Tahmeed Bhuiyan in Y8 who has taken part in a staggering 12 events.

Priestley have awarded 80 House badges this year. And 62% of the House have participated in 1 or more events. A special mention to Evie Lu Y7 who has completed 10 events and to Hassan Hariri Y8 who has taken part in 11 events.



As a school there is such a range of activities for students to get involved with. It is fair to say, the sporting activities do become some of the most competitive competitions throughout the year. Our sports competitions, including rugby, netball, and sports day, were filled with moments of intense competition and teamwork. Each match and event highlighted the importance of perseverance, strategy, and sportsmanship. Whether on the field, the court, or the track, your efforts have been commendable. From House netball, rugby, football and hockey throughout the Autumn and Spring terms to cricket, cross country and rounders in the summer term, students have really got stuck in to all the different events. Unfortunately, this year the Swimming Gala could not go ahead due to facility closures however we are due to be back poolside next December! Yesterday was a fantastic day, and a wonderful finish to a year of House events. The competition was fierce and every student who participated gave their full commitment win or lose. All these sporting events could not take place without the time and commitment from the PE staff so please can we give a huge thank you to them.



Sports Day yesterday was a huge success. Around 300 students competed down at Princess Mary's Athletics Stadium. Thankfully the sun shone, and the students were great. As ever, the day exemplified our student's determination. Every event was filled, and students gave their all, even if they were not the fastest or strongest. We even had some records that were broken:

Evie Lu – Y7 shotput

Lucy Webb – Y12 shotput

Caitlin Murray - Y12 long jump

Yusuf Qureshi - Equalled 400 m record

A huge thankyou to Mr Walker for making sure the day went so smoothly and thank you to all the staff who were there to help. Well done to everyone who competed. The results were as follows:

Girls:

1st - Priestley 156

2nd - Clarke 139

3rd - Bronte 133

4th - Houldsworth 126

Boys:

1st - Bronte 132

2nd - Pries

The academic competitions in the House system are getting stronger than ever! Debates, maths, spelling bees and chess competitions tested your intellectual abilities, encouraging you to think critically and articulate your ideas confidently. The level of preparation, the quality of arguments and sheer skill presented in these events have been impressive, demonstrating your commitment to academic excellence. These events have grown even more popular and have provided entertainment, and genuine suspense throughout the year.

Please can we thank the staff who have expertly led these events; Mrs Hepworth, Mrs Jarvis, Mrs Whitelaw, Mr McLaughlan and Mr Robinson.

The Arts events showcase the amazing talent we have here at Heckmondwike. From performing in the Drama Studio for House Dance, to performing on the Swann Hall stage in House Drama, it takes a lot of courage to stand up and perform in front of audiences. We had some fantastic performances for House Drama this year; the thought and creativity were unmatched. Thank you to the Mrs Hellewell and the Drama department for their help and support. Events such as House Art and Creative Writing allowed students to work on pieces in their own time before submitting them for marking. It is always great to see how many students get involved in these events. Thank you to Mrs Cheeseborough for House Art and Miss Gledhill for marking the Creative Writing entries, these are time consuming events for both students entering and staff marking, so we cannot underestimate the dedication given by everyone involved.

We also finished this year once again with two full-on days of House Music. We had a record number of entries this year which took some very considered planning and coordination to get them all in across the two days.

The talent is unmeasurable and a pleasure to watch and listen, but the event really does exemplify the idea that every point counts, and everyone who participates helps their house edge closer to winning. Thank you to Mr Cole for helping run this great event.

Staff have also been very active in the staff house competitions. It was another very tense quiz at Christmas time with Mr Tipler's University Challenge. And the baking entries were once again absolutely phenomenal. Lastly, a few weeks ago staff managed to find a nice sunny afternoon to play rounders, and while there was some very competitive playing, it was all in good spirit. Thank you to all staff who participated in these events.

We have to give a massive thank you to the continued work of the House staff: Mrs Swann, Mr Bassar, Mrs Goulding, Mr Ellis, Mrs Jarvis, Mr Drake, Mrs Bell and Mr Keenleyside. The House system would not be the success it is without the hard work and immense support of the House Leaders. Their encouragement and commitment are what drives the students to get involved.

To every member of Bronte, Clarke, Houldsworth, and Priestley, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations. Well done to everyone who has contributed to your house's success.

CONGRATULATIONS PRIESTLEY HOUSE.

Bronte	Clarke	Houldsworth	Priestley
115	124	142.5	168.5

LEES CUP 2024 CHAMPIONS

