

# **PREFECTS**

The prefectorial system at our school is, we believe, one of its great strengths and advantages. It is at this stage of a boy's career that he is given genuine responsibility and help in exercising it. For many this proves to be a crucial stage of personal development and a preparation second to none for the next stage of schooling, and, indeed, for life.

This is how it works:

- In Form 7 all boys are given the opportunity to apply to become prefects. They are taught about the role as leaders in the school during PHSE lessons. Training takes place during the Trinity Term of Year 7. It is run by the Deputy Head with assistance from various colleagues. It includes explanation and discussion of the role of the prefect within the school; setting an example; reacting in the right way to other boys and staff; and practice in dealing with the sorts of situations likely to occur around school from day to day.
- The Form 7 boys then write a formal application letter and all boys go through an interview process.
- Staff are asked their opinion on the Form 7 boys becoming prefects via a document with specific leadership headings. There is also a discussion in a staff meeting where staff voice their opinions.
- Once a short list has been drawn up a final decision is made by the SMT.
- All boys, successful or not, have an interview, either explaining what they need to work on to become a prefect or congratulating them on becoming a prefect.
  
- When they have completed their training the full Prefects are awarded their badges by the Headmaster in Assembly at the start of Year 8 and take their place in the running of the school, dealing with many straightforward issues themselves and referring everything else to a member of staff. They enjoy the respect of other boys and of the teachers and have an influential voice.
- They meet with the Deputy Head every Friday during morning break, where issues and other pupils are discussed. They are also treated to an extra snack during this meeting
  
- Each prefect, where possible, is allocated a Form to supervise in the mornings and during wet breaks. They bring their Form down to assembly every morning and supervise them during assemblies. Their other duties are mainly helping with the supervision of break time and lunchtime though they are sometimes called upon to perform other responsibilities as and when they arise.
  
- They are expected to act as role models to those boys who are younger than them.
  
- Their opinions are sometimes sought about matters affecting pupils
  
- Prefects may not administer punishments but should instead inform a member of staff about the behaviour of the pupil concerned.

## **DESCRIPTION OF ROLE OF HOUSE PREFECTS**

Prefects have a number of responsibilities and roles in the Boarding House. The following constitute their main responsibilities:

- Prefect meetings

These meetings give the year 8's a regular formal occasion to present general feedback on behalf of the house and to report any general concerns about the younger boys. These may include trouble with prep, homesickness and relationships between choristers.

- Supervision of other year groups at meal times.

Each year group sits at a specific table in the dining room. The prefect sits at the head of the table and maintains general order such as good table manners and politeness. Following the meal the prefect will assign one boy to wipe the table and another to collect the water jugs and cups.

- Morning wake-up calls for all other dorms

Prefects wake up around 06.25 and check to make sure that other dorms (particularly the younger children) are awake.

- Lead choristers to and from the Cathedral for services and rehearsals

When we go over to the cathedral the prefects arrange the choristers into a columns of twos – a 'crocodile'. Two prefects lead and two follow at the rear making sure that the line is tidy and proceeds in good order when crossing or close to roads. The choristers are highly publicly visible in their gowns and caps and their ordered procession, organised by the prefects, makes for an impressive display.

- Assisting the younger years with preparation for dormitory inspections

Prefects assist the year 4, 5 and 6 in preparing for dorm inspections. They also assist in making beds. Prefects are granted a number of privileges not afforded to their juniors.

- Morning showers

Showering separately affords the older boys more time, greater privacy and means that they do not need to wait for a shower to become free

- Desk in their room

The prefect's dorm is quite spacious and provides facilities for them that are unique in the house. Two desks and storage for book allows for a quieter, more private study area.

- Prefect meetings

In recognition of their commitment prefect meetings are held with biscuits and their own choice of drinks. It is an opportunity to present ideas on behalf of the rest of the house and aims to be a mature, relaxed and convivial occasion.

- Movie nights

Because the prefects are twelve they are granted the opportunity of watching a movie separate to the rest of the house – so they can watch films which would be inappropriate for the younger years. Drinks and treats are available during film night for all pupils.

- Saturday night bedtime extension

Form 8s get 'extensions' to their bedtime allowing them a degree of full and uninterrupted use of the common room.

Prefects may not administer punishments but should instead inform a member of staff about the behaviour of the pupil concerned.

In general we aim to ensure that prefects are treated with the greatest of respect from their peers and that they themselves set the highest examples of patience, kindness and dedication to their fellow choristers.

These responsibilities and privileges are also designed to prepare the senior boys for the transition to their chosen future schools.

Reviewed by SMT 31 April 2019