

02 March 2026

Dear Parents/Carer,

As a school rooted in the values of Love, Hope and Trust, we are continually looking for ways to strengthen our culture and bring our community even closer together.

This year we are proud to be launching a new House System which will enable us to continue to promote our values across the school community. Our House System has been carefully designed around our core values of Love, Hope and Trust, ensuring that everything we do continues to reflect and reinforce what we stand for as a Church of England school.

The House System will unite students across year groups, allowing them to represent and support one another. This vertical structure will help build stronger relationships, develop leadership opportunities, and create a deeper sense of belonging within our school community. Each coaching group will represent one of our core values, and every house will be named after a biblical figure who exemplifies that value.

Over the next couple of weeks, students will have the opportunity to vote for their house name, giving them ownership and a voice in shaping this important part of school life. Your child's coaching group will be placed in a house that represents the value of Love.

The possible house names are:

- **Barnabas** – Known as the "son of encouragement," Barnabas showed love through kindness, generosity, and believing in others when they needed support most.
- **Paul** – Paul dedicated his life to serving others, teaching about compassion, unity, and leading with selfless love.
- **Joseph** – Joseph demonstrated extraordinary forgiveness and care, choosing love and reconciliation even after experiencing betrayal and hardship.

Each of these figures' models love not simply as words, but as action — through forgiveness, service, encouragement, and unity.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could share this information with your child and encourage them to engage thoughtfully in the voting process. We are excited for them to take pride in representing a house that reflects such a powerful and meaningful value.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and commitment to our school community. Together, we look forward to building something that strengthens belonging, character, and unity across St Mark's.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Alabi (St Marks)

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