

Bishop Wordsworth's School

AROUND THE HOUSES



The 2023-24 academic year is one in which we are aiming to raise the profile of the House system at BWS, allowing all pupils the opportunity to achieve points for their respective house, whether via an extra-curricular activity, or via a competition directly linked to a curriculum area. As you'll see in this update, we have run 28 competitions already this year, all of which had House Points available to win. In addition, House Community awards and distinctions continue to be recognised by the House system, with points awarded for outstanding contributions to academic life by the different form groups. House assemblies this term have focussed on the themes of Resilience and Respect, and the House Captains have planned these assemblies carefully, linking them to all stages of school life, while incorporating some fun and engaging activities along the way. Most impressively, of the events that have taken place so far this year, 23 have been organised and run by the House captains and subject prefects, showing that whether by running an event or participating in one, all pupils have access to the House system and can make a contribution to its success. This truly has become a competition run by the students, for the students. Here is how the different Houses have got on so far this year...



Jewell House



J House have made a highly impressive start to the year, led by Will Pischel and Millie Gurney, and can put their success down to their fantastic participation in all events, as well as their victories in several competitions. The Photography competition, organised by David Alappat in Year 13, was won by Radha Patel, with her beautiful photograph of a sunset. In total, over 30 students participated in this competition, showcasing their wonderful talent for photography. 7J's unbelievable commitment to the Get Active competition over October half term, led enthusiastically by Mrs Martin, led to another 1st place finish. In October, over 60 language enthusiasts flocked to W1 to take part in the MFL department's Guess the Language competition, where again, J House triumphed, and finally the J House mathematicians showed their problem solving skills by winning both the KS3 Problem Solving competition and the Senior Maths Challenge. December's final event, the Year 7 Gingerbread House competition, was also won by 7J, who participated in their masses! There is a long way to go in the competition, but J House should be proud of the way in which they've given every competition a go, knowing that taking part is key to winning points.

J House KS3 Distinctions (Term 1): 51 (4 points)

J House KS4 Commendations (Term 1): 178 (3 points)

J House Sixth Form Commendations (Term 1): 44 (1 point)

Martival House



M House are looking to bounce back after losing the House Cup to W House in 2023. The 2022 champions, led by Ed Klein and Otto Jenner, have stayed in the top three throughout the opening term, with the two House Captains and all form tutors playing an essential role in encouraging the students to participate in all competitions. The RE department's KS3 Philosophy competition was an entertaining event, with a mixture of general knowledge and public speaking, and the M House team of one came out on top, aided by some y11s who were hiding from the rain! The recent chess competition went to an M House v J House final, with M coming out victorious. One of the first events of the year was a Psychology Murder Mystery competition, which was fantastically organised by the prefects, and well-attended by all year groups. Again, the M House team came out on top here, and we look forward to another creative event from this team. Finally, M House's participation in the Y7/8 Table Tennis competition led to a second place finish, gaining six points towards their overall total. Again, M House's participation has been fantastic throughout this term, and you would have to fancy their chances of being in the mix towards the end of the school year...

M House KS3 Distinctions (Term 1): 62 (5 points)

M House KS4 Commendations (Term 1): 244 (5 points)

M House Sixth Form Commendations (Term 1): 76 (5 points)

Osmund House



O House have not had their name on the trophy in a long, long time, and so Alex Facey and Matilda Jeffery face the challenge of leading them towards a new era of success! If they are to win it, O House will look at their rugby performance as a key factor, with impressive victories in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 Inter-House Rugby! The victories for O House have been widespread, however; the Geography Bee, the first House event of the year, was won by Timothy Morgan in 8O, and the Music Department's BWS Got Talent competition for Y9 students was convincingly won by Gabriel Williams in 9O. Mrs Dewar and her 8O form group amassed an outstanding amount of exercise during the October half term break, and in doing so, won 5 points in the Get Active competition. O House should be very pleased with their first term's work, but with 3 competitions in which they weren't represented, and so no points were won, one has to wonder if they've let the other houses back in the game!

O House KS3 Distinctions (Term 1): 35 (2 points)

O House KS4 Commendations (Term 1): 132 (1 point)

O House Sixth Form Commendations (Term 1): 51 (3 points)

Poore House



P House have a rich tradition of success in the House Cup, and so Victoria Herbert and Will Durrant are tasked with maintaining the high standards of those who have gone before them. After their outstanding success at Sports Day last year, P House have been represented in all but two competitions so far (an aversion to Problem Solving in P House?), and have approached all events with high levels of commitment. Their victories so far this year came in Noah Taylor's Economics quiz for the Sixth Form and in the Graphics competition, where Archie Paterson's design was voted for as the most stylish newsletter header. Their consistent performances in the House Rugby means that P House remain in the hunt for the House Cup. A special mention to 9P, whose second place finish in the BWS Got Talent competition was a joy to watch. With two terms ahead, some determined House Captains and a fiercely partisan P House representation amongst the staff, you can never write off this house's chances of coming back into the 2023-24 competition!

P House KS3 Distinctions (Term 1): 37 (3 points)

P House KS4 Commendations (Term 1): 173 (2 points)

P House Sixth Form Commendations (Term 1): 74 (4 points)

Ward House



W House, the reigning champions, have put their faith in Anna Hayakawa and Patrick Dulong in their quest to make it two years in a row with their name on the House Cup. The W story so far has been one of outstanding achievement but occasional non-representation, which has hindered their title bid. There are two successes which really stand out. Firstly, on the last day of term in October, over 60 sixth formers turned up in torrential rain to play inter-house mixed touch rugby, with W House running out victorious. A huge thanks to Poppy Egerton for her energy in getting the event to run, and to the PE Department for putting the ideas into action. Secondly, 8W's dominance on the Table Tennis tables saw an incredible ten points awarded, as three of the final four competitors were representing W House. With second place finishes in the Photography, Gingerbread Houses and Murder Mystery competitions, W House have had the strong performances needed to retain their trophy, but must ensure that they have someone in every competition going forwards!

W House KS3 Distinctions (Term 1): 32 (1 point)

W House KS4 Commendations (Term 1): 202 (4 points)

W House Sixth Form Commendations (Term 1): 49 (2 points)