**Vertical Tutoring to Horizontal Tutoring – Academic Year 2016-17**

This document will address frequently asked questions and provide information to support the change.

| What is Horizontal Tutoring? | • This is where all tutor groups will be made up of pupils from the same year group.  
| | • This is a move from the current structure where each tutor group consists of a number of pupils from each year group. |
| What are the benefits? | • We feel that pupils will benefit from sharing experiences with children of their own age. We will also be creating a system and opportunities for pupils to continue their social mixing with other year groups and building on the experiences that the house system and Vertical Tutoring provided.  
| | • There will be more ‘year’ focused tutorial time which is invaluable at key points during the year. Messages, activities and sessions will be directed to meet the needs of one year group and not five within one form. We feel that this is a more effective use of time and will benefit all pupils.  
| | • There will be opportunities for clearer and more differentiated tutor programmes and assemblies. For example, CV writing for Year 10 pupils, Options Talks for Year 8s.  
| | • Form Tutors will be able to focus their efforts towards one year group; this will aid communication across the school and supports the tutor’s delivery of sessions. For example, Year 7 will not have to listen to Year 11 revision announcements and examinations.  
| | • Form Tutors will move through the years with their tutor group, watching them grow up and progress together. Strong relationships can be formed between pupils and Form Tutors, but also parents and Form Tutors.  
| | • We will be moving from ‘Heads of House’ to ‘Heads of Year’. This will support tracking, monitoring and evaluation as the Head of Year can apply their efforts to the whole year group. We will be able to improve consistency across the year group as the Head of Year will have the full overview of the year group, rather than having 5 Heads of House working with all year groups.  
| | • The Head of Year does not have teaching commitments and will support pupils with all aspects of pastoral care.  
| | • Similar to the monitoring of progress, Heads of Year and pastoral teams will be able to ensure greater consistency in the monitoring of attendance and punctuality and rewards and sanctions.  
| | • There will be increased opportunities to create a year group identity and competition across tutor groups. There will be the further sense of belonging for pupils.  
| | • Should a Subject Leader wish to share the successes of pupils within a class, or indeed concerns, they will only need to communicate with one Head of Year as opposed to five Heads of House.  
| | • Year 7 pupils in academic year 2016-17 will start their journey at Haughton Academy together.  
| | • Year 11 tutor groups will be able to focused on areas of the curriculum where pupils require the further improvements.  

| What about the... | • We will continue to adopt the qualities and positives of the Vertical Tutoring system. For example, older mentors can be assigned to tutor
| pupils who like Vertical Tutoring? | groups to support with transition, charity events, literacy and numeracy activities.  
| | • Inter-house type activities will still take place through inter-form activities. |
| Will my child get to choose their tutor group? | • Not necessarily. The Pastoral Team and Senior Leadership Team have given careful consideration to the placing of pupils in Horizontal Tutor groups, taking into account a wide variety of factors.  
| | • In some cases, a pupil request to change their tutor group may be considered. However, this will only be done prior to September and not once the academic year starts. |
| My child’s tutor knows them well and now that experience will be lost. What is the school doing to provide continuity? | • Effective transition to the new system is crucial to its success and we will ensure that there is a system to share information about every pupil.  
| | • In some cases, where there are particularly strong tutor-pupil relationships, we will be able to strategically place pupils.  
| | • There will be a thorough induction for all tutor groups and we are confident it will not take long for pupils to settle into their new form.  
| | • Pupils, in many cases, will be with peers from teaching groups, which will ensure that they can interact and quickly build upon existing friendships. |
| How will tutor time be organised? | • Tutorial time will continue to take place at the start of the day (8:50am – 9:10am)  
| | • Each year group will have a differentiated programme to meet their needs.  
| | • Form Tutors will keep a close track of the progress of each pupil, helping to ensure that all pupils achieve their very best.  
| | • Monitoring of attitudes to learning and other aspects of performance (including attendance) will take place during tutor time.  
| | • Opportunities for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development will be created. |
| How will my child be supported? | • Your child will have a tutor who will join them on their journey through the school, rotating with the pupils. Form Tutors take pride in this role and should be the first contact for a child with a concern.  
| | • There will be a Head of Year for each Year Group. They will have an overview of the year groups and will strategically lead their team. Pupil welfare, behaviour and achievement will be the centre of everything that they do.  
| | • The Heads of Year are non-teachers and will continue to provide the pastoral care required for our pupils. |
| What about the House identity that you have created? | • Year group competitions will take place throughout the year and, in some cases, will allow for learning with other pupils across all year groups.  
| | • We will be developing our year/school council and pupils will be leading a range of events.  
| | • Each year group will select a charity and will participate in charity events throughout the year. |
| Will this impact my child’s friendship groups? | • In some cases younger pupils have struggled to build strong friendships with the older pupils. The move to the new system will allow them to share experiences with pupils of the same age, whilst supporting and guiding each other. We feel this will encourage more positive interaction. |
Will the same Head of Year follow my child through the school?
- Some classes will be taught in form groups which will help cement relationships.
- No. The Head of Year 7 and Year 11 will remain fixed in order to consistency and high quality transition programmes in and out of the Academy. Heads of Year for Year 8, 9 and 10 will follow their year group through to the end of Year 10 and then rotate back to Year 8.
- Form Tutors in Year 7 will have their tutor group through to the end of Year 10.
- Form Tutors in Year 11 have been selected to cover the main areas of the curriculum, for example Maths, English, Science, Languages and Humanities. Pupils will be assigned to the relevant Form Tutor who can provide extra intervention to support the improvement of your child’s progress in that area.

How many forms will there be in each year group?
- There will be 7 form groups in each year group.
- With intake numbers expanding at Haughton Academy our Year 7 tutor groups will contain approximately 25 pupils. This is the same for Years 8 – 10.
- Numbers within Year 11 are varied based on pupil need identified through regular data captures. Numbers will vary between 15 and 25 within tutor groups.

How will assemblies now work?
- Each year group will have a designated day for their assembly. This will take place on a weekly basis and they will have a specific focus on achievement, progress, behaviour and welfare.
- There will also be opportunities to address current issues.

Will there be a change of uniform?
- The only change of uniform will be the Year 7 – 10 (black with 3 broad stripes at the bottom of the tie – clip on) and Year 11 (black with Academy logo – traditional tie) tie
- Pupils can exchange their current tie for a new one once stocks arrive – parents/carerers will be notified.
- All Year 7 pupils (September 2016) will be expected to purchase a new tie.

Is this change a result of the Ofsted inspection?
- No. This is something that the Senior Leadership Team has been considering for a period of time. It is about what is best for all of our pupils. We would not make such a big decision if we did not believe it was in the best interest of the pupils and that it would help them achieve their full potential.

Why are you confident that it will succeed?
- A great deal of thought has gone into this decision and we will be working hard to ensure it is a success. We will, of course, be reviewing and monitoring the new approach. There may well be some teething problems but we will be working with all stakeholders to make this work and deliver the benefits to help us on our journey to achieving the highest possible standards.
- Other structural changes, such as tutor time being moved to the start of the day and the move to one lunch, will complement this system.
- It has been acknowledged that the Senior Leadership Team are aware of the areas for development and have the strategies to ensure we move in the right direction as a school; this is one change that will contribute towards us moving out of special measures.

My child is nervous about the change. How will you address their
- Pupils may speak to their current Head of House or Mrs Gill
- Form Tutors will work through the key information and will address questions (week beginning 11th July).
Where can I find more information?

- Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Gill on sugill@educationvillage.org.uk

Key Summary:

- Pupils will be in a tutor group with pupils of their own age group
- Heads of House to become Heads of Year
- Heads of Year will continue as non-teaching members of staff
- Form Tutors will remain with the tutor group throughout Years 7 – 10
- Year 11 Form Tutors will provide extra intervention for pupils in identified subjects