

I am delighted to welcome you officially into Year 9 and it is with great pleasure that you become part of **Ferndown Upper School**

My name is **Mrs Barrett** and I will be your Head of Year for the next 3 years.

Your new tutor group will be . Your tutor's name is and your Head of House will be .

Cheetham House is named after a student called Sam Cheetham. Sam was an excellent student, with a passion for racing, who lost his battle against a heart condition. Sam never gave up smiling and made the best of every moment.

Read House is named after Charlotte Read. Charlotte was a student at Ferndown Upper School. She was diagnosed with cancer at just 13 years old. She achieved flying a plane, swimming with dolphins and passing her A Levels as well as her GCSE's. Charlotte never stopped trying to be her best.

Thornton House is named after Lieutenant John 'JT' Thornton who died fighting for his country with the Royal Marines in Afghanistan in 2008. John was such a positive role model at Ferndown Upper School, both in terms of his work ethic and his keenness to take part in all aspects of school life.

Ashton House is named after an ex-student who studied physics at university, completing a PhD in gravitational waves, tiny ripples in the fabric of spacetime created when black holes collide. When he began his PhD, these gravitational waves had not yet been directly observed but in September 2015, the LIGO detectors made the first detection, and he was co-author of the paper. This was a watershed moment for astronomy and won the founders of LIGO the Nobel prize in 2017. He is now a Lecturer at Royal Holloway, University of London, where he divides his time leading the LIGO collaboration's working group that finds black hole collisions and teaching

I hope you find the last few weeks at your current school are good ones and we are really looking forward to you starting with us. **See you on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June @ 8:20am!**

**Mrs Barrett**

Head of Year 9