



**CHEL TENHAM
BOURN SIDE
SCHOOL**

June, 2025

Rowling House

News and updates for students joining Cheltenham Bournside School



Welcome

Welcome to Rowling

My name is **Mrs Stickland** and I am Head of **Rowling House**. I love working at Bournside but more importantly, I am thrilled to be a member of Rowling House. My role, along with Assistant Head of House, **Mr Morrison**, and your tutor who you will see twice each day, is to support you during your time at school. I am sure you will thrive here over the next 7 years.



What does being in Rowling House mean?

Rowling House will become your extended family at school, a support network that will be with you throughout your time at Bournside. Our house system fosters a sense of belonging, camaraderie, and healthy competition within the school community.

You will have opportunities to earn points for your house through various activities, such as sports competitions, academic achievements, and for wider contributions to the community. These friendly competitions not only promote teamwork and school spirit but also allow you to showcase your talents and contribute to the collective success of your house.

Rowling House, represented by the colour yellow, is a smaller community within the larger school based in **upper B Block**. House Captains act as student mentors, and our vertical tutor group system allows you to forge strong relationships with students across different year groups. It also means that you can benefit from the support and guidance of older students as you navigate your first year of secondary school.

Our house

Rowling House is named in honor of the renowned author J.K. Rowling, and our house embodies the spirit of creativity, imagination, and boundless possibilities.

Just as Rowling's captivating stories have transported millions of readers into extraordinary worlds, we encourage our students to embrace their unique talents and discover the magic within themselves.

Rowling House fosters a nurturing environment that celebrates diversity, courage, and the power of words. Here, every student is inspired to unlock their potential, write their own narrative, and embark on a lifelong journey of learning.



Our House icon

Using J.K. Rowling as inspiration, we have created our own **Rowling House** values: **passion, perseverance** and **pride**. These values underpin what it means to be part of Rowling House and what is expected of all our pupils. As one of our new year 7 pupils, you will be able to continue to build and develop our House identity, bringing your own character and personality to House life.

In Harry Potter and the Philosophers' Stone, Rowling writes *"while you are here, your house will be something like your family within Hogwarts."* I would hope that each Rowling student feels that our house is like family to them. An environment where they feel supported, happy and have the confidence to develop their own characters and personalities to be who they want to be.

I hope you will seize the many amazing opportunities to represent **Rowling House** in house competitions, sports teams, drama events, music concerts and the school production. It is our shared goal for Rowling to be the champion House each year and you can start to earn Rowling house points as soon as you join us.

Transition Week

We will meet for the first time during Transition Week (Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July), where you will spend five days getting to know us and the school site, meeting your tutor group, taster lessons, a Clubs Fair, a sports afternoon and a 'Concert in a Day'. There will also be plenty of opportunities to ask any questions about school life and how the school operates. More details are available on our [Transition webpage](#).

Essential skills

Whilst you await the arrival of September this summer, do keep up some essential skills so that you can start the school year with confidence. Reading is an important part of the learning process and we will be really interested to hear about the books you have been enjoying. It is also a good idea to take part in some sport or exercise so that you are ready for PE when you start. Keep up your passion too, whether it be playing an instrument, singing, drawing, computer programming, chess or designing and creating! We also recommend practicing how to tie a tie!

I look forward to welcoming you officially in September and presenting you with your **Rowling House** tie on your first day, which I am sure you will wear with pride.

Mrs Stickland

Head of Rowling House

"We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better."

J.K. Rowling



Inspiring lives through learning

We are: Ambitious, Curious, Proud, Purposeful, Respectful and Supportive