

PANKHURST HOUSE

I am delighted to have been allocated Emmeline Pankhurst as our figure of inspiration for the Green House at Coopers. She was a suffragette – a leading British women's rights activist, who led the movement to win the right for women to vote. She was the leader of the British Suffragette movement who gained a reputation for increasingly militant acts, which included cutting telephone lines, attacking the home of Chancellor David Lloyd George and chaining themselves to railings.

In 1910, Pankhurst led a march on Parliament of more than 300 women. They were met with an aggressive and violent police response - ordered by then-home secretary Winston Churchill - in which officers punched protesters and assaulted the women. The Police raided the WPSU offices and arrested Pankhurst, who was convicted of conspiracy to commit property damage. She was imprisoned in Holloway, where she went on hunger strike and was force-fed by officers.

But through all this militancy, she achieved what was thought an impossible result which we now take for granted: the equality of women to men – and the right to vote. She died aged 69 on June 14th 1928 and the bill giving legal rights to women was passed just four days later on 18th June.

A truly inspirational lady – her fighting spirit will motivate all members of Coopers' new green Pankhurst House to strive for the victory which will be rightly be ours .

"You have to make more noise than anybody else, you have to make yourself more obtrusive than anybody else,"

– *Emmeline Pankhurst, November 1913*

NEWTON HOUSE

Sir Isaac Newton was born 25 December 1642 and was an English physicist and mathematician, who is widely recognised as one of the most influential scientists of all time and as a key figure in the scientific revolution.

In Newton's early life faced many difficulties; Newton was born prematurely on Christmas morning, in Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire. He was a tiny baby, given little chance of survival. The country he was born into was chaotic and turbulent. England was being torn apart by civil war. Plague was an ever-present threat. Many believed the end of the world was imminent. This fighting spirit in the face of adversity is something which Newton House will hold at the forefront of its ideals. It is important we demonstrate a never say die attitude in all areas whether it competition, academic work or even every day battles that we may come up against.

Newton's work in his field was revolutionary, he dared to think and say things that nobody else would, this eventually led arguably his most famous work of 'discovering gravity'. His ability to think outside the box and come up with ideas that others simply missed is another key skill which Newton House will push forward in all aspects of life.

He showed modesty and humbleness in all of his work, often claiming little credit but ensuring he put the work achieve his goals.

Finally Newton's work embodies an attitude of willing to give things a go, something that our house will always strive to achieve. I am confident in saying that all members of the Newton House have skills and talents which can help us to achieve, the key will be in unlocking those and pushing them forward.

If I am anything, which I highly doubt, I have made myself so by hard work

- Sir Isaac Newton

WILBERFORCE HOUSE

William Wilberforce was a politician in the late 18th Century; he believed in equality and was willing to stand up against those who disagreed. This was demonstrated when he was a major part in the abolishment of slavery in Britain.

Wilberforce spent his political life fighting for fairness and allowing people to be judged upon their actions rather than their backgrounds.

Wilberforce also prided himself upon his moral compass; expecting those around him to demonstrate basic manners and respect for all and not just those in positions of authority. He would show resilience in times of adversity, when people told him that his ideas were too radical and to understand the hierarchy in place, he acknowledged their points, yet argued that people should be given the opportunity to succeed rather than just be told they will fail.

This sense of drive and passion was a feature of Wilberforce's character throughout his life until he passed away in 1833.

The Wilberforce house aims to take on these same values of standing up for what is right, demonstrating respect for the others based on their actions and not a pre-conceived opinion. William Wilberforce was willing to stand up and be counted in times of difficulty and in turn his actions have played major part in the development of Britain.

The focus of the Wilberforce house is to stand up and be counted, be acknowledged for the things that demonstrate respect, kindness, resilience, effort and most importantly for the things you are proud of.

"By the golden rule of doing to others as in similar circumstances we would have them do to us, and the path of duty will be clear before him."

- William Wilberforce

FRANKLIN HOUSE

Franklin house is named after the eminent scientist Rosalind Franklin who was a chemist who specialised in X-ray crystallography; her work aided the discovery of the structure of DNA.

During the 1940s and 50s Franklin was one of only a few women working in Science laboratories at Cambridge University and at this time the study of the Sciences was regarded as a male pursuit. Despite the hostility and sexual discrimination Franklin continued to collect data and analyse its resulting in the astonishing breakthrough of DNA's structure.

“Science, for me, gives a partial explanation for life. In so far as it goes, it is based on fact, experience and experiment.”

- Rosalind Franklin

Franklin is considered to be a champion of female scientists and always stood her ground when discussing her findings and in challenging developmental concepts in particular relating to the structure of DNA.

Crick, Watson and Wilkins were awarded the Noble prize awarded for the discovery of the structure of DNA in 1962. Sadly Franklin died of ovarian cancer in 1958 before she could be awarded the Noble prize and unfortunately the Noble prize can't be awarded posthumously.

Franklin exhibited many qualities that are relevant to our House such as resilience, competitiveness and perseverance in the face of adversity. She was conscientious, meticulous, steadfast and staunch. Franklin stood up for what she believed in and was an uncompromising individual when it came to her scientific work. These are all qualities that our students should aspire to have by the time they leave us.