



VOTING GUIDELINES: HOUSE COMMITTEE 2027

Background

In 2016 and 2017, the House Committees determined to dispense with preferential voting for positions and adopt the College Council methodology of “first past the post” and online anonymous voting via an external provider. The first independent online vote was held in 2017 for the 2018 House Committee. In 2025, at the request of that year’s House Committee, independent constitutional advice was sought as to whether to return to a system of preferential voting. The feedback given was that the voting group (the voluntary electors) was too small to be an accurate representation; and it was determined to retain the current “first past the post” methodology.

Further reflecting the Council voting model, these guidelines have been developed to achieve voting transparency and inclusion, enhanced opportunity to be considered for leadership and improve general governance processes.

Eligibility for Nomination

To stand for a House Committee leadership position, the nominee must be deemed a member of the Students’ Club according to its Rules (*Sept 2017*). Eligible, interested and qualified students must adhere to the nomination process and meet all requirements and timeframes. If no nominations are received for a position, the Senior Student and Principal will either agree to extend the deadline or leave the position vacant. Positions may change from year to year depending upon the requirements of the College’s strategy, the Committee’s resultant strategy and the students’ interests.

Nomination Process

1. Each vacant position will have a corresponding Position Description that is reviewed annually by the House Committee and College staff.
2. The vacant positions and position descriptions will be posted to the Woogle at least seven (7) days ahead of the call for nominations where possible.
3. Voting will be held as soon as possible in Semester 2 each year to allow for thorough handover, training, mentoring and planning for the coming academic year—the date to be agreed between the Senior Student and Principal.
4. Voting will be “first past the post” and conducted online by an external company.
5. Eligible and suitably qualified/experienced students may stand for more than one position on House Committee.
6. Students intending to nominate for positions other than Senior Student **must** meet together with the current incumbent member or one member of the House Committee Executive (if there is no current incumbent) **and** the College executive staff mentor for that position.
7. Potential candidates for Senior Student **must** meet with the current Senior Student together with the Principal¹.
8. If a potential candidate does not meet with the staff mentor their nomination will not proceed.

¹ Under Principle 1 in the Broderick Review of College Culture: successful and sustainable cultural renewal depends on strong and courageous leadership. For that reason, it is cited that candidates must have the express support of the Principal.

9. The students intending to stand for election must submit a **200 word maximum** statement including 1-2 sentence bio for inclusion on the voting site, on the official nomination form (*Appendix A*).
10. The students intending to stand for election for non-Executive roles may also submit a short video “pitch” of **no more than 90 seconds** in duration. These will also be included on the voting election site.
11. A different form must be submitted for each different position a student is nominating for.
12. Once a student nominates for a position they cannot shift their nomination to another position. If they wish to change their nomination, they must first withdraw their initial nomination before submitting a new nomination.
13. Nomination forms must be submitted to the Vice Principal by email in a Word document by the closing date. The Vice Principal will edit all statements prior to submission to the external election provider and, by nominating, each candidate accepts that the Vice Principal’s edits are final, unless there is a factual error.
14. Each statement must be written by the nominating candidate and be endorsed by a current member of the Students’ Club.
15. Candidates for the executive positions of Senior Student, Vice Senior Student & Secretary and Treasurer, will each deliver a **three (3) minute speech** at the Formal Dinner preceding the opening of the online voting on Tuesday 22 September 2026.
16. Time limits on speeches and videos will be strictly adhered to.
17. Should a student progress their nomination without fulfilling all the requirements listed above their nomination will not be accepted.

Voting

18. To be eligible to vote in the House Committee election, students must be deemed a member of the Students’ Club according to its Rules (*Sept 2017*).
19. Eligible voters for the different House Committee positions are as follows:

Senior Student	All students
Vice Senior Student & Secretary	All students
Treasurer	All students
3 rd Year Representative	2 nd year of College students
2 nd Year Representative	1 st year of College students
Cultural Representative	All students
Sports Representative	All students
Community Representative	All students
University & Intercollegiate Representative	All students
Sibyl Society Representative	All 4 th year and postgraduate students

NB: Voting for the 1st Year Representative takes place during Semester 1 of the following year

20. Voting for the House Committee executive positions i.e. Senior Student, Vice Senior Student & Secretary and Treasurer, will occur in the first instance with voting for the other House Committee positions held two weeks later.
21. Voting will be run online entirely by the external election provider with the opportunity to vote being open for a minimum of two (2) working days.
22. Successful students who run for more than one position will be appointed to the role where they achieve the greatest number of votes, assuming they are first in each position. In the position they achieve the lesser number of votes, the next candidate with the most votes will be appointed, and so on.

23. If a candidate receives the same number of votes and has the most votes for two positions, the Senior Student and Principal will make a determination on the positions. Their decision is confidential and final.

Results

24. The external election provider will notify the College of the results in confidence to the Returning Officer to inform the Principal and Senior Student, who will arrange for the results to be announced to the College.
25. The number of votes received by each candidate must not be divulged to any candidate—whether successful or not—and will be destroyed by the Principal once the final result has been advised.
26. The successful candidates will form the House Committee Elect and assume their roles in full following the next Students' Club AGM.
27. These guidelines are reviewed annually.

APPENDIX A

CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

(please submit a separate form for each position you are nominating for)

Position for nomination	
Name	
Home town, state, country	
Degree and University	
Year at College	
Leadership positions held at College	
Involvement/activities at College	
Awards at College (e.g., scholarships, academic prizes)	

Statement of leadership skills and experience relevant to the role

Other things you'd like us to know

Name and signature of Nominee

Name

Signature

Name, position and signature of Students' Club Member endorsing nominee

Name

Signature

Position