

HOUSE HANDBOOK

2021-22



WELCOME

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MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSEMASTER

Welcome to Dale House. I am honoured to have been the Housemaster of Dale House since September 2019, having previously been Assistant Boarding Housemaster of Northumberland House for four years. I first came to the school, initially as a boarding staff member in September 2014 whilst working for the RFU, and in the following November I became a member of the PE department.

I am here, along with the excellent tutor team in Dale House, to ensure that your child is supported through their journey at Barnard Castle School; not only academically and pastorally but in all their endeavours whether that be on the sports field, in the music room or in any other of the multitude of activities Dale House boys participate in. My aim for the boys of Dale House is to develop their resilience, mental toughness and self-belief by providing an environment where they are challenged and inspired to learn, to develop across all areas of school life and to help the boys to be confident individuals who have respect for themselves, for others and their environment.

Dale House Staff are also here to support parents and guardians. I believe it is important to maintain clear communication pathways to ensure that the team of people involved in supporting the development of the boys work together, to enable them to take all the opportunities offered to them at Barnard Castle School and help them to take steps towards goals which they once will have seen as impossible. With that in mind please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail cdmm@barneyschool.org.uk or telephone 01833 696036.

I look forward to being part of the boys' growth over the coming years and shaking their hands as Sixth Form Leavers on Speech Day, knowing that between us we have helped develop a young man who can go into the world ready to soar.

Chris McTurk





OUR HISTORY

Dale House was created as a result of increasing numbers of day pupils in Teesdale House, which was divided to create Dale and Tees House. Dale House lies towards the rear of the main school building. Pupils are proud to be a member of Dale House. As they progress through the school they certainly see it as their house and strong and long lasting friendships are forged.

HOUSE TUTORS

Tutors are the first port of call for parents/guardians wanting to contact the school regarding their son. Tutors are also responsible for morning registration and they report absences to the general office. Tutors routinely receive letters and/or emails from home and filter pastoral concerns to the Housemaster. Tutors are encouraged to take an interest in their tutees' wider development and to establish a dialogue, which recognises achievements in the classroom and beyond. A letter/email from home, addressed to the tutor, is required to explain an absence from school.

Tutors meet with the Housemaster daily and have an extended meeting each Wednesday at 08:40 prior to the weekly Dale House meeting and may raise various issues relating to pupils' pastoral or academic performance. They encourage all of the boys to record their prep in their planner, and parents/guardians are encouraged to sign the planner on a weekly basis. It can be an easy way to pass information between school and home.

Tutors write an Academic Tutor Report for pupils whenever a report or assessment is written by teaching staff. Academic Assessments and Reports are distributed to parents/guardians via the Parent Portal. Tutors also review academic and non-academic performances prior to the production of the bi-annual full reports. The pastoral section (House report) is written by the Housemaster.

OUR TUTOR TEAM

Every member of the House will have his own academic Tutor, a Teacher who is also a member of Dale House. You should see your Tutor to register in the morning every day before Chapel. You should also see your Tutor if you have any problems with your school work.

Year 7 Miss Tanya Broadbent (TCB@barneyschool.org.uk)

I am a member of the PE department where I love teaching academic PE in the classroom whilst also being head of Netball. I have worked at Barney for 19 years and am a long standing member of Dale House. My main hobbies include cooking, playing netball and riding my horse . Recently I have begun climbing all the Wainwright fells in the Lake District.



Year 8 Mr Andy Woodward (AW@barneyschool.org.uk)

I am a member of the PE department where I am Head of Performance Sport and strength and conditioning. I took up a career in teaching after serving in the RAF. In my spare time I am an avid snowboarder and enjoy spending my spare time on my motorbike whilst also watching live motorcross.



Year 9 Mr Nick Connor (NCJ@barneyschool.org.uk)

I teach Business Studies and Computing whilst also running business enterprise activities and coordinating industry days. Sport is a big passion of mine and I take football activities through all ages groups at school and run the U16 B school rugby team, but my true love is Sunderland AFC who my grandad played for and where I am a season ticket holder. I love experiencing different cultures which has led me to be able to teach in 5 different countries including America, Kuwait, Switzerland, Qatar and the UK.



Year 10 Mrs Janine Wilson (JW@barneyschool.org.uk)

A mother of two Barnardians and an explosive Chemistry teacher. Over my teaching career I have taught in a number of schools including highly exclusive independent schools in New Zealand. In my spare time I enjoy reading and travelling to different parts of the world.



Year 11 Mrs Judith Gibbons (JAG@barneyschool.org.uk)

I am Head of Academic Support and love working in a school which celebrates success in all forms. I run a Wellbeing club as part of the Mind Body and Soul programme. Outside of school I practise yoga at least twice a week and also enjoy reading and cooking. I have two children and as a family we love visiting National Trust properties.



Year 12 Mrs Amanda Gorman (AMG@barneyschool.org.uk)

I have been a teacher at the school for 22 years. Over my time here I have been a Housemistress and am currently Head of English. I am a mother of an Old Barnardian and have a passion for pastoral care. In my spare time I enjoy reading and am a big architecture enthusiast.



Year 13 Mr Martin Ince (MPI@barneyschool.org.uk)

I teach History at Barney. I enjoy teaching all age ranges and particularly enjoy Russian history and The Renaissance. I also help with the junior hockey for boys and girls and run a history of popular music club for the Year 8s. Outside school I like playing golf, listening to 1960s music and I am a keen cricket fan. I have been a tutor in Dale House since 2011.





PUPIL POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Pupils have ample opportunity to take on responsibility throughout their time in Dale House.

Each year, a member of the Upper Sixth is chosen to be the Head of House. A Deputy (sometimes Deputies) and House Monitors will be chosen to support him. These positions generally go to boys who are wholehearted, trustworthy, approachable, and who set a good example. These senior pupils are expected to accept some responsibility for the organisation of House practices and are expected to be role models for younger pupils.

As experienced members of Dale House, those in positions of responsibility have a varied role; this could range from being on duty in Dale, disseminating information to other pupils or being the first point of contact for a pupil who has an opinion they wish to channel or a problem they feel they would prefer to air with another pupil.

In addition to these senior roles pupils from all years are asked to volunteer for various school committees, including:

- Anti-bullying Committee
- Academic Committee
- Sports Committee
- Food Committee
- Charity Committee
- Environmental Committee

One pupil from each year group will be asked to volunteer to run for School Council. Each house enters one representative per year group in the election.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Wednesday afternoons 4-5pm are reserved for Inter-House Competitions and House Activities. All pupils are expected to take part or support these activities without exception. There are a myriad of activities and competitions meaning that there is something to suit everyone. Each term culminates in 'Nailing Up', when the winning boys' House and girls' House are announced and they are invited to nail a plaque to their House shield. In the Michaelmas term the main competition is House Rugby, in the Lent Term House Singing and House Cross Country Running (the Barney Bash & Barney Run) dominate our time and, in the Trinity Term, we focus on athletics, culminating in Sports' Day. There is also an Inter-House Merit Competition that runs each term. Other House activities/competitions include:

- Art
- Cake Decorating
- Charades
- Chess
- Dodgeball
- Drama
- Football
- Pool
- Public Speaking
- Quiz
- Rugby
- Scrabble
- Shooting
- Singing
- Squash
- Table Tennis



HOUSEKEEPING

House Subs

Each pupil is charged £10 once a year to help fund the House. This is put on the School bill. The money is used to help make the common room a more homely environment, and to fund the much loved tutor trips. It is also used for awards and to help provide additional material for House activities.

Security

During your free-time at school you may relax in one of the 3 Common Rooms in Dale House; The Junior Common Room for Years 7, 8 & 9, Senior Common Room for Years 10 & 11 and the Sixth Form Common Room.

All these rooms contain lockers in which you may store your books and other items. They can be secured by a padlock, which you must purchase. If you wish, you may leave the spare key in the Dale House Office in case you forget your own.



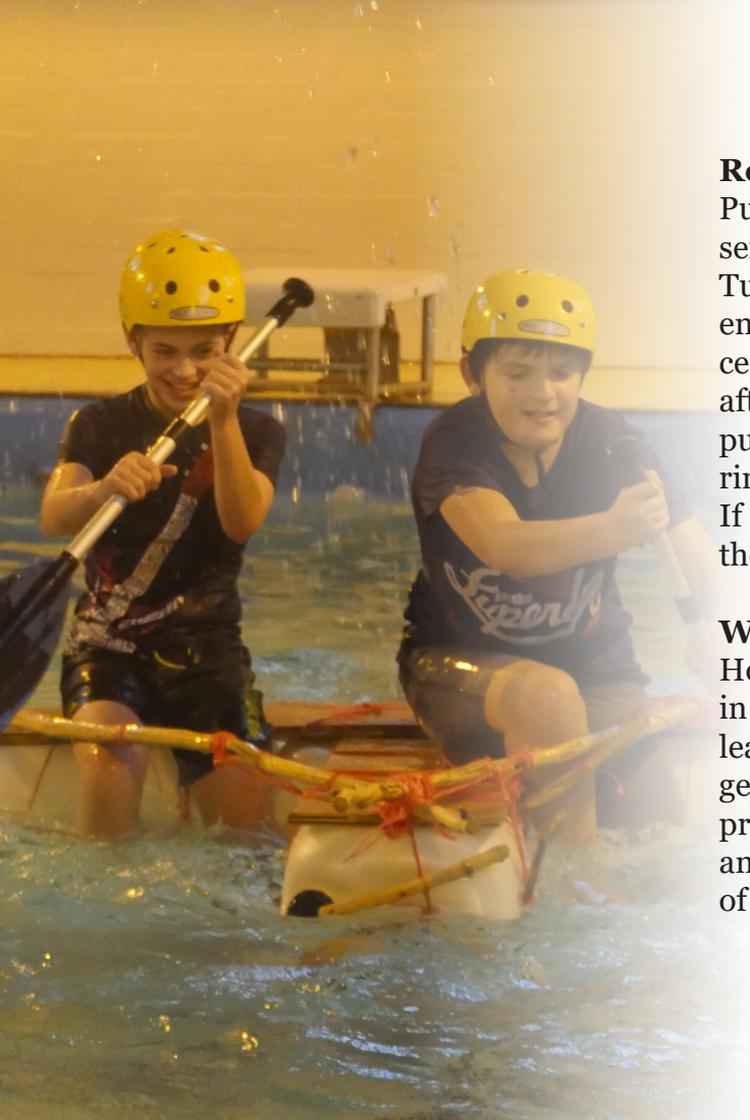
DAY-TO-DAY

Registration

Pupils register in House each morning before Chapel service or assembly. Registration is taken by House Tutors every morning at 08:45 and by teachers at the end of lunchtime. This is recorded electronically in a central School database, an absentees list is produced after each registration session closes each day. If a pupil is absent from School his parents/guardian must ring the House Office or send an email before 8.40am. If a pupil arrives late to school they should register themselves at the General Office.

Wednesday House Meetings

House meetings are held each Wednesday at 8.55am in the Senior Common Room. The Housemaster leads the meeting and reads the notices. There is generally a review of the previous week followed by preparation for the following week. House Tutors have an opportunity to address the House, as does the Head of House and his Monitors.



HOUSE EVENTS

House Service/Celebration

This is held biennially to celebrate current and former pupils of Dale House, their achievements, our house history and to showcase some of the talents of our current boys. All Dale boys, their parents and former members of Dale House are invited to attend.

House Competitions

Parents are invited to attend House sports fixtures including the Barney Run, House Rugby, House Football and Sports Day, House Drama and House Singing are very busy so we cannot accommodate spectators at these events.





REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

Pupils are awarded merits/distinctions for good work and strong assessments (the very best are given a Headmaster's Certificate) and these are celebrated in House meetings. 'Good Egg' awards are given termly for good conduct and acts of kindness are also given and announced at Nailing Up. Weekly merit prizes are awarded in Dale House. A number of termly and yearly trophies are also awarded in Dale House, some recipients are chosen by the pupils, some by the House Monitors and some by Tutors. House trophies have been donated by departing and former pupils; such gifts are always gratefully received.

If academic progress is below a satisfactory standard, the tutor may instigate an academic report for a short period. This requires teachers to comment upon work and/or conduct on a lesson-by-lesson basis and is to be taken home for countersignature each day. The Tutor reviews the report each day and will contact home if they see the need for more dialogue. More serious infringements of school rules would be referred to the Deputy Head (Pastoral). Parents may also be invited to a meeting to discuss the progress of their son.

Sanctions for inappropriate behaviour in School are not common. Mundane matters are quickly dealt with by House Tutors. More serious matters should be referred to the Housemistress or the Assistant Housemistress. Serious infringements must be referred to the Senior Management Team.

CONTACT WITH HOME

Routine home contact will happen via assessments, reports and parents' evenings. The Housemaster or Tutors generally make phone calls to address other issues as they arise. Parents are encouraged to call the Housemaster if they have any issues they wish to address. Parents should expect a call from their son's Tutor if they have any immediate concern about attendance, lateness and academic progress. Parents can also contact Tutors to request a meeting in person or on the phone.

There is a direct telephone line to the Housemaster's study (01833 696036) which parents and guardians are encouraged to use freely to discuss any aspect of their child's education. The Housemaster is in the House Office by 8.10am most days, between 16:00 and 17:00 most days and a member of staff will be there at lunchtimes (13:15-13:50). The Housemaster can also be contacted by email at **dale@barneyschool.org.uk**. Parents and guardians are welcome to arrange meetings with the Housemaster and/or their son's Tutor at any point throughout the term.

The school sends out a weekly email with any pertinent letters that staff wish parents to read.

We hope this gives you a flavour of life in Dale House, and excites you as you prepare for life at Barney. The key thing to remember is that there is always someone on hand to help - that is very important to us.







BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL