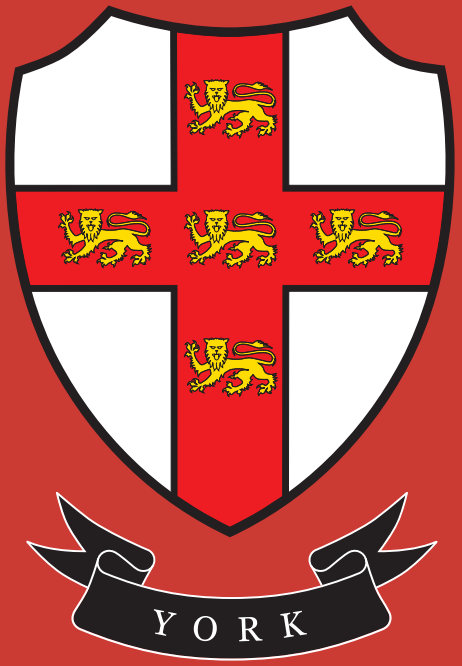

HOUSE HANDBOOK

2021-22

WELCOME

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MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSEMASTER

Welcome to York House!

It is an absolute honour and privilege for me to be the new Housemaster of York House and I look forward to being welcomed into the family.

My relationship with boarding harks back to the age of 12 when I joined a house of 80 boys. My formative years in boarding have no doubt made me the person I am today!

I am a huge advocate of championing pupils and celebrating success and failure in whatever form that is for the individual. Every young person deserves to become the best version of themselves and a boarding environment absolutely facilitates this.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your son in the coming months and welcome you to get in touch at any time with questions. My door is always open, the coffee machine on, and my dog is a great non-judgemental listener!

Best Wishes,

Matthew Gooch

OUR HISTORY

York House came into existence on 2nd February 1886 when the incomplete school buildings were first employed as boarders' accommodation. At the time there were only 116 boarders, all of whom were boys, although this number rose to three hundred by the turn of the last century.

The name York House was chosen because originally only boys from Yorkshire were placed in the House, whilst those from Durham and Northumberland went into Durham and North' Houses respectively. The crest on our House Flag and Shield reflects our connection with the county – it is that of the crest of the city of York. York House is one of the School's two boarding houses for boys in Years 9-13. The House colour is red and the House shield can be found on the first floor balcony of central hall, as well as on the front of this handbook.

MATRON

The House Matron - Mrs Lindy Themistocleous

The Matron acts as mother-figure and has a vital role to play in York House. Lindy plays a pivotal part of daily life in the House and is responsible for waking the boys up and ensuring their rooms are tidy and that they leave for school looking smart. She will also take boys to medical appointments during the school day. Crucially Lindy is available for chats and advice throughout the evening as she dispenses medicines and supervises after Prep. Lindy is qualified in First Aid and can often be the first to be called upon when the boys are unwell, due to her central residential position alongside her empathy and caring nature.

She has a vital pastoral role to play in the house and gets to know the boys well; enjoying excellent relationships with all and insisting on the highest of standards whilst carrying out her duties in a calm and cheerful manner. She is also available to talk about any problems with the boys in a sensitive way, liaising with the Housemaster.

HOUSE TUTORS

Tutors are the first port of call for parents/guardians wanting to contact the school regarding their son's academic performance. Tutors are responsible for morning registration reporting 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. Your son's tutor will spend significant periods of time each day discussing academic progress, alongside setting half termly academic targets and suggesting pastoral development. The tutor will help suggest activity choices and encourage boys to find interests beyond the classroom which will challenge them both physically and mentally. Termly, the tutor will run a trip for the group, previous trips have included meals, cinema and go karting.

Any letters or emails home will be copied and kept on file but in practice the majority of School/home liaison is relatively informal and can be done by telephone.
Tutors meet with the Housemaster daily and have an extended meeting each Wednesday at 08:30 prior to the weekly House meeting and may raise various issues relating to pupils' pastoral or academic performance. Tutors also support the House in activity time and during Inter-House competitions.

Tutors write an Academic Tutor Report for pupil 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.

North
Upper South
Mr Forsyth

OUR TUTOR TEAM

Boys are tutored with their year group by a member of staff and stay with that staff member all year. York House has five staff members each acting as a Tutor to a single year group.

Year 9 Fr Darren Moore (DRM@barneyschool.org.uk)
A Kentish man originally, he has gradually been heading north ever since! An Anglican Priest, he joined Barney in 2015 as Chaplain as well as teaching in the History and R.S Departments with the occasional foray into RS in the Prep' School. He became Assistant Housemaster of York House in 2016 and has very much enjoyed the pastoral interaction with the boys in both North & York. He runs a fledgling bell ringing activity so can often be found 'camping my ology' at St Mary's on a Friday afternoon in town.

Year 10 Miss Florence Riley (FER@barneyschool.org.uk)
Miss Riley joins us in September. As a first-class triple modern language graduate, she loves to travel and experience new cultures. Her favourite travels to date include trips to Canada, Europe and Malaysia, as well as living and working in the Haute-Savoie region of France and the Black Forest in Germany. When she's not sharing her passion for languages, she can be found baking, hiking or training her cocker spaniel puppy!

Year 11 Mr Ciaran Davis (CJD@barneyschool.org.uk)
Mr Davis is an English teacher and has spent several years teaching abroad. He speaks fluent Italian, Russian and French, which has allowed him to teach and study Literature in a number of different countries and institutions. He loves football, opera and cannoli and suspects he may have been Sicilian in a previous life.

Year 12 Mr Sam Forsyth (SSF@barneyschool.org.uk)
An Old Barnardian himself, Mr Forsyth has taught Biology at Barney since 2015. He has come late to teaching from the world of documentary film-making. He runs the Barney Film Club for pupils interested in media; helps run the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the School's fell-running club, and likes to get pupils out into the wilds of Teesdale as often as possible. He also has an ongoing interest in Community Development and Environmental Education in Kenya, leading a BCS trip for 18 pupils to Kenya in July 2018.

Year 13 Mr Mike Nicholson (MHN@barneyschool.org.uk)
Mr Nicholson joined BCS in 1994. He started his time here as a North' House tutor and took over as North Housemaster in 1996. Lucie arrived from the Czech Republic on a teacher exchange and they were soon married and once his son Tomas was born Mr Nicholson stood down as a Housemaster and took over as Head of Maths in 2001, which he has been doing since. He moved to Dale house as a tutor but returned to the boarding community a couple of years ago as a Sixth Form tutor in York House. He has a passion for skiing and is currently trying to revive his life on the road as a motor biker.

WHAT TO BRING

All items of clothing must be labelled with your name and school number for laundry purposes.

Duvets, sheets and pillows are provided by school, however some students chose to bring their own.

Space is limited with each boy having a wardrobe, chest of drawers and storage under their beds. If you choose to bring portable electrical appliances to school, they will have to be PAT tested before use and should be declared to the Housemaster on arrival.

Below is a list of items that you are required to bring.

8-10 x White shirts
3-4 x Pairs of good quality trousers
1 x Pair of school shoes
1 x Dressing Gown
1 x Pair of slippers
2 x Pair of Pyjamas
2 x Hand towel
2 x Bath towel
Shoe cleaning kit

1 x Large laundry bag
2 x Small net laundry bags for underwear
3 x Duvet covers
2 x Pair of trainers
1 x Rainproof light jacket
1 x Warm coat (uniform colour)
20 x Spare name tags (for clothing purchased whilst at school)

MEDICAL

You will have received a medical card and other documents to register at the local surgery with this information pack. These should be completed and returned to school.

All boarders are registered with the local surgery. A GP from the local surgery attends the school each morning before school to see boarders and appointments to see the doctor can be made at the School Medical Centre.

If a boarder is unwell the first person they should tell is a member of the boarding staff or any other member of staff on duty. If they need to see a doctor or the staff in the medical centre, we will arrange this.

If a boarder feels unwell during the night they should wake up a member of staff on duty who will decide on the best course of action. If they are unable to walk to the member of staff they should ask a roommate to do it for them. If serious injuries or problems occur, pupils will be taken directly to Hospital.

Generally, medicines cannot be self-administered. Any medication prescribed or otherwise should be provided to Matron with clear written instructions by parents. Guidance for this is in your school medical card which also contains the Policy on Homely medicines.

The School Medical Centre will also coordinate transport to medical appointments and orthodontic appointments as necessary. In general, to minimise disruption to the school day, regular dental check-ups should be conducted at home during the holidays.

Sporter 3P

PUPIL POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Pupils have ample opportunity to take on responsibility throughout their time in York 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 York House, those in positions of responsibility have a varied role; this could range from being on prep time duty, being trusted to staff the House tuck shop, 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:

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 stand as their tutor group's representative for the House council and will be nominated to run for election to the School Council.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Boys in York House have a chance to represent their views to the Housemaster through a House Committee. This is chaired by the Head of House or his deputy, and meets twice a term. Each year group has a representative on the council. Minutes are recorded and published on the House notice board. The pupils have found this forum to be an effective way for them to suggest improvements to the House; numerous ideas, which were proposed by pupils, have been put into place in previous years.

Important topics and the direction of the House are discussed at council meetings; in March 2019 the committee were pivotal in rewriting the House electronics and bedtimes policy.

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 boy's House and girl's 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. 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 Funding

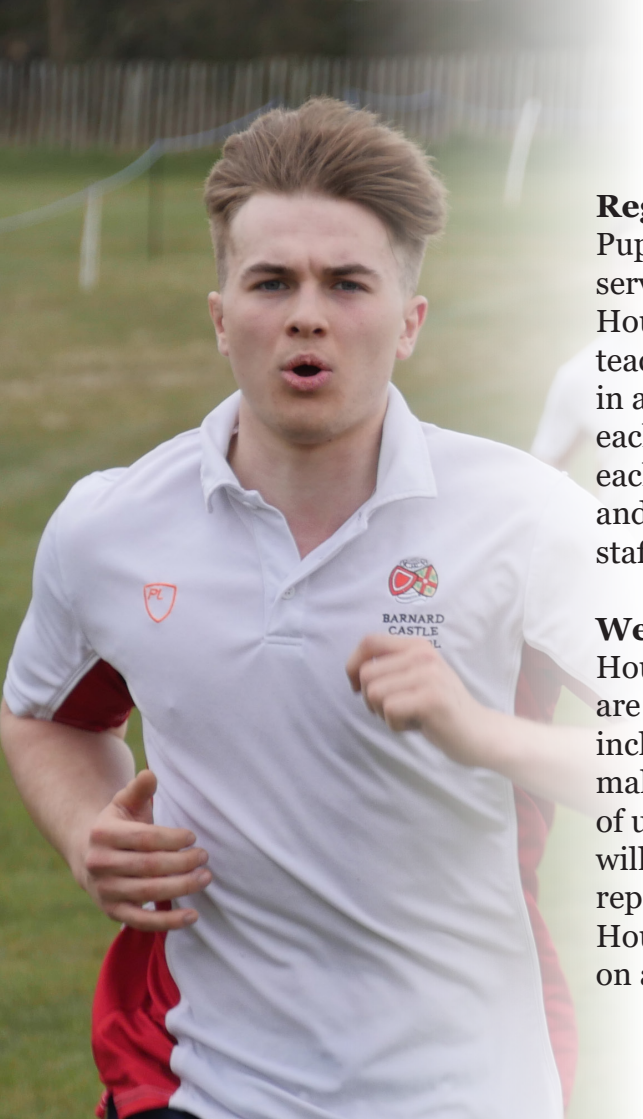
The House is partly funded using a House subscription of £7 per pupil, per term, as well as the money raised by the tuck shop. The money is mostly used for entertainment purposes (e.g. equipment maintenance, purchasing DVD's for the House library) and for purchasing prizes and gifts (e.g. House trophies, weekly merit prizes).

Security

- The House is secured via electronic door access at all times. Pupils are issued with an access fob which they are responsible for. Access to the boarding House is solely for boarding students; all visitors must be announced to House staff. At the beginning and end of term access will be granted for parents to assist with the arrival and departure of students.
- Each boarder is provided with a key for their room. Rooms should always be locked by the last occupant when they leave.
- Keys for your room, locker and your fob should be kept on your person at all times. Spare keys (for locker padlocks, personal safes or your home) may be deposited in the House bank.
- Lockers are provided for each boy in his room. Boys must bring their own padlocks to fit their locker.
- Valuables should be kept in lockers when not in use. This should include iPods and personal laptops and mobile phones (when not under the care of House staff), small amounts of cash, wallets and bank cards, watches, and cameras. It is strongly advised that valuable items which are brought to school be named on a contents insurance policy.
- Passports (for boarders who live abroad) should be left with the Housemaster at all times.

Fire

The fire alarms are tested weekly on a Wednesday morning. At any other time, the sounding of the fire alarm must always be treated as an emergency situation. If anyone encounters a fire they should break a fire panel immediately. The fire assembly during the school day is on the grass outside of A Block; after hours is in Chapel unless the red light above the door is on.



DAY-TO-DAY

Registration
Pupils register in York House each morning before chapel service or assembly. Registration is taken in the House by the Housemaster or one of his team every morning at 08:40 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, which is after 08:50 and 13:50 each day. The boys will also register during their evening meal and then they will be supervised by the relevant member of staff during prep, before a final role call at bed time.

Wednesday House Meetings
House meetings are an integral part of House life; they are an opportunity to bring the whole House together, including the Tutors. The Housemaster would typically make announcements, present prizes and inform the boys of upcoming events. Each week, if appropriate, a Monitor will announce the team for the week's House Activity, and report on their success the following week. On occasion, the Housemaster may ask one of the Monitors to address the boys on a given topic.

Routine

Breakfast is available between 7:30am and 8.15am. After breakfast pupils tidy their rooms and make their beds. They register in York at 8:40am.

Chapel, House Meeting or Tutor Time are at 8:50am every morning. Lessons and Games follow until 3:55pm (Saturday lessons end at lunchtime).

Every weekday from 4.00pm - 5.00pm is **Activity time**. After this time, boarders may change out of school uniform.

Tea is from 5:15pm-6:00pm. After this, there is either free time or organised activities until Prep. These might include a swim or a Sports Hall activity.

Prep lasts from 6:15pm-7:30pm for Year 9 and until 8:00pm for Year 10 and above each evening (not Saturdays). On Sundays there is a shorter prep time from 8:00pm-8:45pm. After Prep each night there is free time before boys get ready for bed; some may wish to listen to music, shower or watch some television.

Bedtimes

Year 9 should be in their rooms for 9:15pm and lights out is at 9:30pm.
Year 10 should be in their rooms for 9:45pm and lights out is at 10:00pm.
Year 11 should be in their rooms for 10:00pm and lights out is at 10:15pm.
Sixth Form should be in their rooms for 10:15pm and lights out is at 11:00pm.

HOUSE EVENTS

House Service/Celebration
A House Chapel Service is held annually to celebrate current and former pupils of York House, their achievements, our House history, and to showcase some of the talents of our current boys. All York boys and their family are invited to attend.

House Competitions
Parents are welcome to attend many Inter-House competitions, including the Barney Run, House Hockey, House Netball and Sports Day, to name a few. House Drama and House Singing are very busy, so we cannot accommodate spectators at these events.

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 696004), which parents and guardians are encouraged to use to discuss any aspect of their child's education and welfare. The Housemaster can also be contacted by email at msg@barneyschool.org.uk or mobile 07741560311. 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 regular emails with any pertinent letters that staff wish parents to read.

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 also given termly for good conduct and acts of kindness; they are announced at Nailing Up at the end of each term. Weekly merit prizes are awarded in York House. A number of termly and yearly trophies are also awarded in the House; some recipients are chosen by the House Monitors and some by Tutors. House trophies have been donated by departing and former staff and students.

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 to the Housemaster for countersignature each day. Tutors review the folder each day and 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. Simple house-based infringements are dealt with by the Tutor/Housemaster.

ROOMS

Televisions are not permitted in rooms. Pupils may make use of the televisions in the communal common rooms during their free time.

Tuck (food) may be stored in rooms in small quantities, provided that it is non-perishable. The House tuck shop will be open daily and, in addition, pupils may purchase non-perishable items from shops in town. Chewing gum is not allowed in School.

Soft drinks may be kept in rooms. Pupils should ensure that drinking vessels (glasses, water bottles etc.) are regularly cleaned. This may be done in the dishwasher in the House Kitchen.

Games consoles (including handhelds) are not permitted. Access to games consoles is available in common room space, and is age appropriate.

Mini-fridges are permitted for all those in Year 11 and above. Pupils must maintain the cleanliness of these items and ensure that any food stored remains in it's consume by date.

Heaters, kettles and toasters are not permitted and are provided by the School for your son to use.

Electronic devices, such as mobile phones, tablets and laptops are permitted and may be used by pupils during their free time. Their use during School hours should be in accordance with the School Phone Policy and Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). **They must be handed in (Years 9-11)** to staff during prep time and 15 minutes before lights-out. **Sixth Form have the option to hand in**

Pupils must register the details of their electronic items at the beginning of each term, and update upon the addition of new items.

The School's secure wireless network may be used by all in accordance with the AUP. Its security settings are closely monitored and access is switched off at bedtime.

BOUNDS

It is important that everyone stays within the School grounds unless they have Mr Gooch's permission or they are on a supervised trip or fixture.

The following areas are OUT OF BOUNDS to all York House pupils: :

- The playing fields after sunset.
- Longfield and Longfield Lodge.
- The playing fields in front of Longfield after 9:00pm.
- Old Courts.
- Mount Eff Lane.
- The trees at the top of the fields and the new estate behind them.
- All classroom areas beyond the S Block (after 5:10pm), back gate, and behind the Sports Hall.
- The River Tees and its environs.
- Town without proper permission.

The breaking of bounds is a serious offence.

HOLIDAYS END EXEATS

Weekends
Most of our boys are 7-day boarders and it is recommended that new boarders stay with us for the first weekend to allow them to settle into their new environment. After this, boys may take leave on any weekend, but they may not leave until they have finished any School commitments such as Games fixtures on Saturdays.

Weekend leave must be cleared by The Housemaster in advance. He requires a phone call, note or e-mail from parents to confirm arrangements, and pupils need to return on Sunday by 8:00pm. In some circumstances pupils may be allowed to return on Monday morning for registration.

There are popular weekly Sunday trips which might include bowling, paintballing, cinema, go-carting, Newcastle Falcons matches, professional football matches, Durham cricket matches, shopping or Wet n' Wild. These trips are optional and incur a charge at cost price, however are incredibly popular and offer all boys an opportunity to participate in activities off site.

Exeat Weekends
Exeat weekend offers a perfect chance for boys to go home or to a relative's house for a mid-term break. However, those pupils who cannot go home easily may opt to stay at school for the weekend. Escorted trips to popular destinations take place on the Saturday and attendance is mandatory for those who have opted to stay in school for the weekend.

WAS LAID BY EARL FORTESCUE.
ON THE 6TH NOVEMBER 1935.

We hope this gives you a flavour of life in York 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. We are extremely proud of our boarding provision and pastoral system, parents and pupils are welcomed to raise queries or concerns at any time your sons success and development are at the forefront of everything we do.

KEY CONTACTS AT A GLANCE

Mr Gooch – tel. 01833 696047 – email msg@barneyschool.org.uk

Lindy Themistocleous (Matron) – tel. 01833 696050 – mob. 07795426001 – email lt@barneyschool.org.uk

The General Office – tel. 01833 690222 – email genoffice@barneyschool.org.uk

The Transport Office – tel. 01833 690222 – email transport@barneyschool.org.uk

The Medical Centre – tel. 01833 696063 – email medical@barneyschool.org.uk

BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL