

HOUSE HANDBOOK

2022-23



WELCOME

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WELCOME 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 Barney Journey; 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, knowing that between us we have helped develop a young man who can go into the world ready to soar.

Chris McTurk



A BARNEY EDUCATION

At Barney we believe in character education. Underpinning our academic and pastoral programmes are four key pillars that we consider to be at the core of a Barney Education. These pillars are supported by twelve values that we consider vital to every young person's journey through Barney.

The language of these values is well-established within the School; you will hear about them in Assemblies, House Meetings and Tutor Meetings from teachers, your own peers and visiting speakers.



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 oversee your child's day to day academic and pastoral life and are the first port of call for any queries. Each morning tutors will meet their tutees for registrations, and throughout the week, as part of the Head Space programme, there is a group tutor time, as well as opportunities for individual meetings.

Tutors have regular contact with home through phone calls, emails and parents' evenings. At strategic points in the year, your child engages in regular target setting sessions and reviews with their tutor and you will have an opportunity to discuss these with tutors during parents' evenings. Tutors work very closely with the HSM in order to raise and resolve any issues relating to pupils' pastoral or academic performance. Any repetitive or significant pastoral, behavioural or academic concerns will be dealt with by the HSM.

If your child is absent from school due to illness, please inform the tutor and HSM by 8.40am.



PUPIL POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

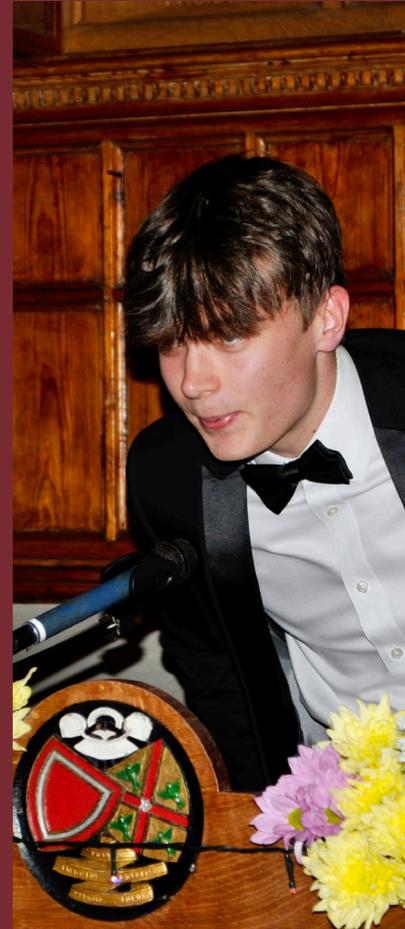
Pupils have ample opportunity to take on responsibility throughout their time in the House.

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 them. These positions generally go to pupils who are wholehearted, trustworthy, approachable, and who set a good example. These senior pupils are expected to take on responsibility for the organisation of House practices and are expected to be role models for younger pupils.

As experienced members of the House, those in positions of responsibility have a varied role; this could range from being on duty in the House, 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 across all year groups have the opportunity to volunteer for different committees. These include Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Peer Supporters (Sixth Form), Diversity Focus Group and Food Committee.

Each September hustings are held for pupils who wish to represent their year group on the School Council. A whole School election then takes place and the School Council members for that year are announced in the Headmaster's Assembly.



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

Registration takes place each morning by House tutors and is completed between 8.30-8.45am and then again 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. If a pupil is absent from School, their 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. The HSM leads the meeting. Each meeting starts with School notices and then there is often a review of the previous week, followed by preparation for the following week. Weekly awards are given to those who have been nominated by pupils and staff. Nominations are for those who demonstrate characteristics such as: kindness, compassion, leadership, selflessness, and for those who have experienced successes both in school and through activities outside of school. Weekly merit prizes are also given to those that gain the most merits in the Juniors, Inters and Seniors categories. Finally, the House meeting finishes with a "Pentatalk" on the weekly theme delivered by one of our Sixth Formers.

HOUSE EVENTS

House Service/Celebration

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

House Competitions

House competitions cover a vast array of interests, both sporting and non-sporting in order to encourage as many pupils as possible to take full part. While the majority of House competitions take place internally on Wednesday afternoons throughout the School year, please look out for invitations to certain House events which parents may attend, such as the Barney Run and Sports Day.





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 Housemaster or the Assistant Housemaster. 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 (13:20-13:40). 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