



# HOUSE HANDBOOK

2022-23



WELCOME

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## WELCOME FROM THE HOUSEMASTER

Welcome to York House!

It is an absolute honour and privilege for me to be the Housemaster of York House.

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



## 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

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 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.



## 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.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 x Pair of school shoes | 2 x Small net laundry bags for underwear                       |
| 1 x Dressing Gown        | 3 x Duvet covers   |
| 1 x Pair of slippers     | 2 x Pair of trainers   |
| 2 x Pair of Pyjamas      | 1 x Rainproof light jacket                                     |
| 2 x Hand towel           | 1 x Warm coat (uniform colour)                                 |
| 2 x Bath towel           | 20 x Spare name tags (for clothing purchased whilst at school) |
| Shoe cleaning kit        |  |
| 1 x Large laundry bag    |  |

## 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.



## 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.

## 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.





## 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

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.

### 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**

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.

## 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 696047), 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](mailto:msg@barneyschool.org.uk) or mobile 07443 779082. 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 its 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.



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 – mob. 07443 779082  
– email [msg@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:msg@barneyschool.org.uk)

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

The General Office – tel. 01833 690222 – email [genoffice@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:genoffice@barneyschool.org.uk)

The Transport Office – tel. 01833 690222 – email [transport@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:transport@barneyschool.org.uk)

The Medical Centre – tel. 01833 696063 – email [medical@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:medical@barneyschool.org.uk)



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL