



HOUSE HANDBOOK

2023-24



WELCOME

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WELCOME FROM THE HOUSEMISTRESS

I would like to warmly welcome you on behalf of the girls and tutors in Marwood House. I am delighted to be taking on the role of Marwood Housemistress and look forward to starting my journey in Marwood with those of you who are joining the House with me. Being a Housemistress is a privilege, and I am excited to be able to play such a significant role in supporting you through your Barney journey.

As an MFL and Drama teacher, as well as someone who is passionate about co-curricular activities, I am looking forward to encouraging every Marwood girl to contribute to the House and push themselves beyond their comfort, whether in striving for academic Merits, presenting to the House in assemblies or representing the House in the vast variety of competitions; there truly is a stage for every girl to be involved.

I am here, together with your House tutor and our wonderful Prefects, to support you in your journey.

Best wishes,

Lizzy Heward







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.



FEEL

*How you feel
within*

Gratitude

Courage

Resilience



BE

*Who you are &
how you behave*

Humility

Integrity

Humour



SHARE

*How you interact
with people*

Compassion

Service

Leadership



GO

*How you learn and
make progress*

Curiosity

Endeavour

Creativity

OUR HISTORY

Marwood House was formed in 1993 for the exclusive use of day girls. It used to lie on the parish boundary of Marwood, hence its name, but moved to refurbished accommodation adjacent to the School field.

The Houses are a very important part of School life and they play a key role in achieving the aims of the school. Consequently the aims of the House broadly follow those of the school. We aim to create a supportive and comfortable environment in which pupils are able to mature and form relationships with other pupils whilst fostering independence and an ability to develop interests outside the House. The virtues of self-discipline, diligence, mutual respect and good citizenship are actively promoted. We support children in the transition from childhood towards adulthood, encouraging them to develop a sense of responsibility and self-respect.

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 Prefects 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

Accommodation:

There are four Common Rooms in Marwood House organised as follows:

Junior: Years 7 and 8

Intermediate: Year 9

Senior Years: 10 and 11

Sixth Form: Lower and Upper Sixth

Each pupil has an individual locker with a padlock (if they choose to bring a padlock) where she can store books, Games kit and personal belongings. Pupils are encouraged to keep a spare key in their file in the House Office.

Girls are free to visit their House at any time during the day, except during lessons. They may visit other Common Rooms in Marwood and Bowes. Sixth Form girls from other Houses are also permitted to go into the Sixth Form Common Room.

A member of House staff generally visits common rooms at break, lunch and between 4.00-5.00pm.

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. It is also used for awards and to help provide additional material for House activities.



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.



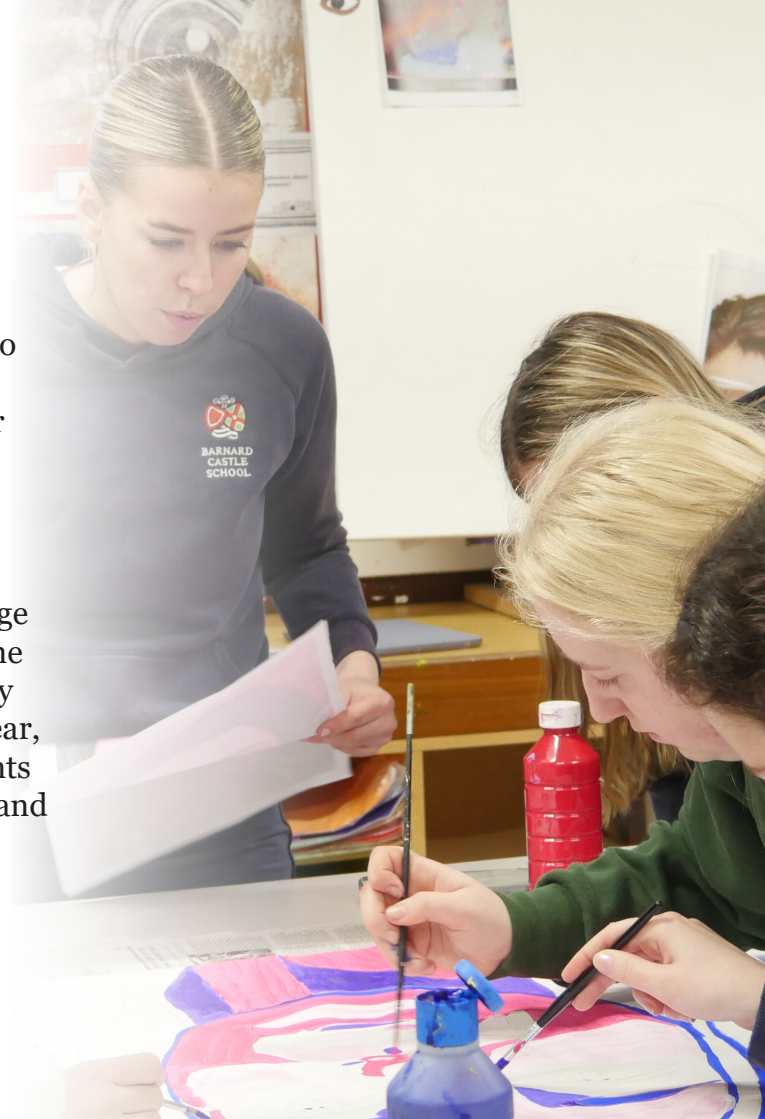
HOUSE EVENTS

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

Headmaster's Certificates are also awarded for receiving over 20, 30 and 50 merits in a term. The House also awards weekly prizes to the girl with the most merits each week.

An award is made each term to the member of the House who, in the opinion of the House Staff, has contributed the most to that term. They are awarded with a 'Trier's' Trophy. The girl that volunteers to do the most House activities each term is also awarded with the 'Holmes Activities' Cup. Additionally, each week there is a 'Marwoodian of the week' who is nominated by pupils and staff and the person with the most nominations across the term will win the 'Marwoodian of the term' trophy.

If academic progress or behaviour is below a satisfactory standard, it may be necessary for a pupil to be placed on report for a short period. This requires teachers to comment upon work and conduct on a lesson by lesson basis and is taken home for a counter signature each day of the sanction period. The Tutor reviews and signs the report each day and contacts home if they see the need for more dialogue. The Housemistress and Tutor will liaise if such action needs to be taken.

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 Housemistress or Tutors generally make phone calls to address other issues as they arise. Parents are encouraged to call the Housemistress if they have any issues they wish to address. Parents should expect a call from their daughter'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 Housemistress' study (01833 696058) which parents and guardians are encouraged to use freely to discuss any aspect of their child's education. The Housemistress 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 Housemistress can also be contacted by email at **marwood@barneyschool.org.uk**. Parents and guardians are welcome to arrange meetings with the Housemistress and/or their daughter'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 Marwood 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