

HOUSE HANDBOOK

2025-26

A green flag with a crest featuring a white cross and a yellow figure. The word "WELCOME" is written in white capital letters across the center of the flag. In the background, a blue crest with a white scroll and a star is visible on a wall.

WELCOME

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WELCOME FROM THE HOUSEMASTER

Welcome to Tees House. I have had the honour of being Housemaster of Tees since 2017, having previously been a Residential Tutor and Assistant Housemaster in Northumberland House. I teach Computer Science, serve as a Captain in the school Combined Cadet Force, support the Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh scheme and run the school Climbing Club.

The ethos of Tees House echoes the simple sentiment that pupils will “get out what they put in”. Pupils who get stuck in and embrace the opportunities that Barney offers will reap the massive rewards that come hand-in-hand. As Housemaster, I value energy and commitment but I also like to see humour, independence and a sense of community.

One of Tees’ greatest strengths is its history of success in House competitions and the wonderfully long list of current and former pupils who excel in academics and in extra-curricular achievement.

Best Wishes,

Henry Fairwood



OUR HISTORY

Tees House is a boys' day House. It was formed in 1982 when the single existing day-boy House, then called Teesdale House, was divided into Tees and Dale Houses. Day pupil numbers have grown since those times and in the nineties a third day-boy House, Durham House, was introduced. Tees House is currently home to around 70 boys who share one large and three small common rooms. Housed on the top floor of the Main School building it boasts one of the finest views in school; overlooking the playing fields and beyond.

HOUSE TUTORS

Tutors oversee their tutees 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 HeadSpace 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. 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 a pupil is going to be 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.

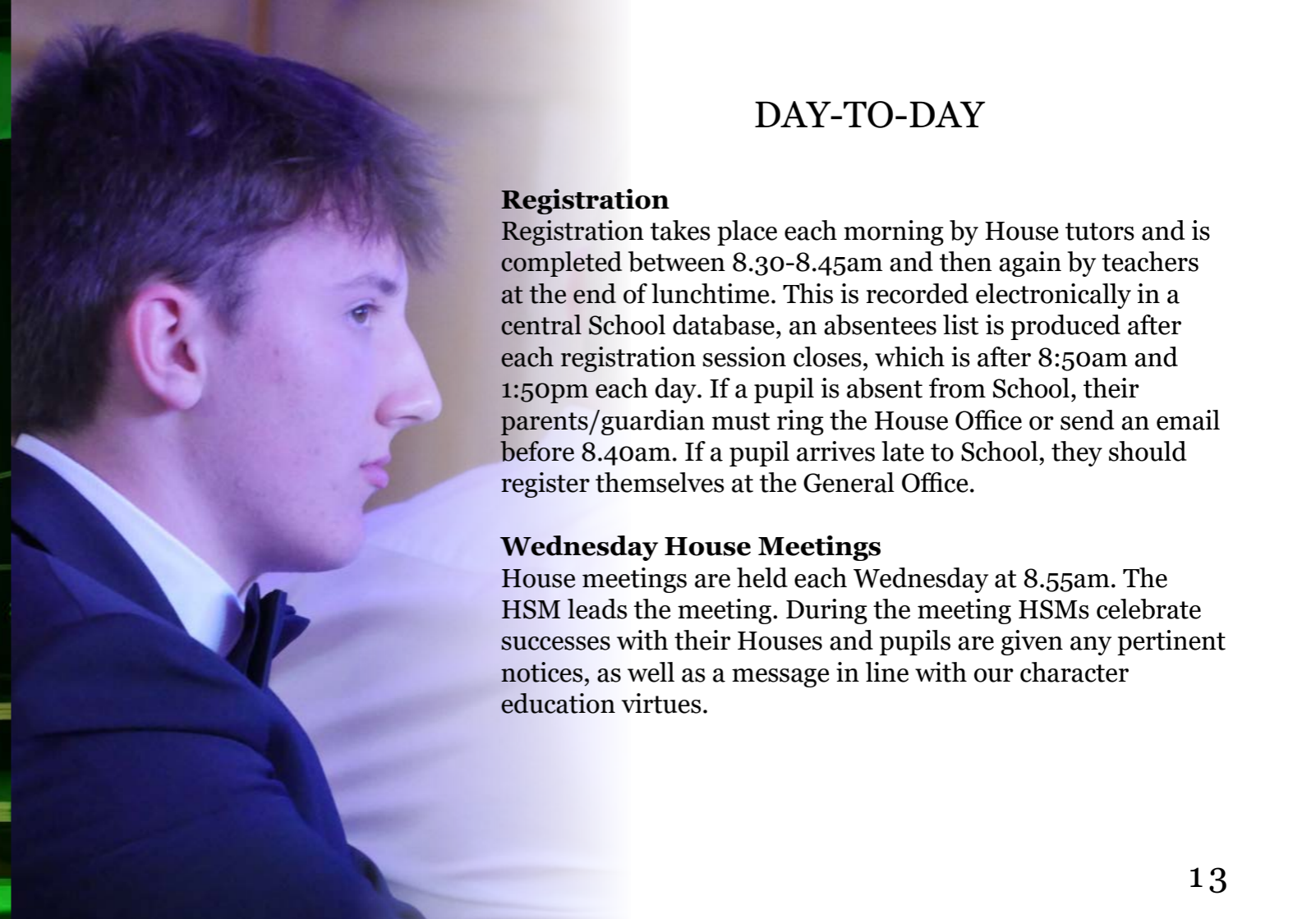


HOUSEKEEPING

House Subs

Each pupil is charged £15 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.

All common rooms contain lockers to store books and other items. They can be secured by a padlock. We encourage boys not to bring expensive/valuable items into School.



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 8:50am and 1:50pm 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. During the meeting HSMs celebrate successes with their Houses and pupils are given any pertinent notices, as well as a message in line with our character education virtues.

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 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 for good work and strong assessments and these are celebrated in House meetings. A number of biannual and yearly trophies are also awarded in the House, chosen by the HSM and Tutors. House trophies have been donated by departing and former staff and students.

If academic progress is below a satisfactory standard the Tutor or HSM 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. The Tutor reviews the report each day and will contact home if they see the need for more dialogue. For infringements of House expectations, the HSM may impose an appropriate and proportionate sanction that helps the pupil to reflect on how they would change their behaviour in the future. 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 child. Simple house-based infringements are dealt with by the Tutor/Housemaster.

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 child's Tutor if there are any immediate concerns 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, 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. 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 regular email with any pertinent letters that staff wish parents to read.



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL