

AMDG



Head of Playroom  
(Equivalent to Assistant Head)



STONYHURST

# AN INTRODUCTION TO STONYHURST COLLEGE



Stonyhurst is a Catholic, Jesuit, HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference), independent boarding and day school for boys and girls from 3-18. At the College, there are almost 500 pupils aged 13-18, over two thirds of whom are boarders. At Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall, the adjacent preparatory school, there are almost 300 pupils aged 3-13. The College is in stunning countryside, near the Ribble and Hodder rivers and the beautiful Trough of Bowland. Manchester is only about an hour away by road or rail. The market town of Clitheroe is 4 miles away, and we are 12 miles from the city of Preston. The Lake District can be reached in about an hour, and the Yorkshire Dales are even closer.

Stonyhurst has a fascinating heritage, being the oldest continuously existing Jesuit school in the world. It was founded in St Omers, northern France, in 1593, and moved to its present site in Lancashire's beautiful Ribble Valley in 1794. The original quadrangle at the centre of the College is part of a 16th century mansion, donated to Stonyhurst at the beginning of the 19th century by Mr Thomas Weld of Lulworth. Throughout the years of religious persecution in England, Stonyhurst educated boys from Roman Catholic families. In 1996, Stonyhurst became fully coeducational, and today it educates boys and girls from Catholic families, and also those of other denominations.

The College's Jesuit mission and identity, and its sense of community, set Stonyhurst apart from other schools. Pupils are urged to do as much as they can for other people following the example of Jesus Christ, 'the Man for others'.



# THE ROLE

Stonyhurst College is almost unique in independent boarding education, in that community life is centred around horizontal Playrooms rather than vertically structured Houses. The name Playroom is a Stonyhurst term for year group. It is an historical term made in reference to the importance of drama in Jesuit education in the 17th and 18th centuries. The Playroom was the space where the pupil plays were held.

This is a unique opportunity for an innovative, energetic and highly driven professional to have complete oversight over a coeducational year group at Stonyhurst (both boarding and day). The Head of Playroom will move through the years with his/her Playroom and so develop a close relationship with both the pupils and their families.

The Ignatian-Jesuit vision of Cura Personalis (care for the whole person) is at the heart of a Stonyhurst education. Concerned for both the physical and spiritual well-being of our pupils, we seek to identify and respond to their individual needs, fostering their potential to become fully developed human beings. The academic, spiritual, pastoral and co-curricular lives of our young people are inextricably linked. Consequently, the post holder will coordinate and lead a section of staff from across the College. They will build a team around each pupil to ensure all aspects of his/her life at Stonyhurst is in balance, enabling each pupil to flourish. It is expected that the successful candidate will be an inspirational teacher with considerable pastoral and boarding experience.



The post will be a public facing role and it is expected that the post holder will have exceptional interpersonal skills. It is anticipated that some time will be spent visiting feeder prep schools in order to maintain Stonyhurst's profile as one of the world's foremost Catholic boarding schools.

Given the unique horizontal nature of the Playroom system, the role does not require the post holder to live in a boarding house. An appropriate home will be provided on site for the successful candidate. It is expected that the post holder will be a significant presence in the lives of both the day and boarding pupils, so long working days are to be expected, as well as some evening involvement.

In light of the significant academic and pastoral responsibility afforded to the successful post holder and the large and varied team of staff they will lead, the seniority of this role should be judged to be equivalent to that of an Assistant Head. This position is a superb opportunity for an innovative, forward-thinking professional who is passionate about developing young Men and Women for Others, to be an agent of change in the world. This role will particularly appeal to someone seeking to eventually progress into a senior management position at Stonyhurst College, or another leading independent boarding school.



# KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Working with and through others, the Head of Playroom will

## Jesuit Mission and Identity

- Actively promote the College's mission and identity as set out in the Stonyhurst mission statement
- Work closely with the College Chaplain to ensure pupils at Stonyhurst develop a strong sense of the Catholic faith and Jesuit identity
- Manage the Playroom Feast Day celebration each year
- Supporting the Playroom as part of the full College two-day retreat

## Playroom Leadership

- Ensure a strong and cohesive Playroom community is maintained which integrates day and boarding pupils together
- Seek ways to reward and highlight pupil achievement within the Playroom
- Ensure the smooth running of the day-to-day operations of the Playroom
- Meet with the whole Playroom community at least twice each day
- Ensure the Playroom is a coeducational space where every pupil feels at ease and at home throughout the day
- Coordinate the Playroom assembly programme
- Ensure the fabric of the Playroom is well-maintained and looked after
- Be responsible for the induction of any new pupils into his/her Playroom
- Ensure high standards of health and safety are adhered to by both pupils and staff in the Playroom



## Academic Leadership

- Be ultimately responsible for the academic standards and attainment of those pupils in his/her Playroom
- Lead a team of academic tutors and liaise with the Director of Studies and Deputy Head Academic as appropriate to ensure pupils achieve their academic potential
- Chair regular tutor meetings focusing on the academic progress of pupils and implement appropriate intervention strategies
- Assist tutors with problematic pupils which will include arranging focus and strategy meetings, liaising with parents and setting appropriate academic expectations
- Be the central point of analysis and liaison for the half termly academic grades
- Be available on public examination results day as appropriate to the year group
- Allocate pupils to tutors
- Oversee tutoring in his/her Playroom, including induction of new tutors and reviewing the quality of tutor reports
- Teach up to a 50% timetable of lessons



# KEY RESPONSIBILITIES



## Pastoral Leadership

- Chair a whole Playroom pastoral team meeting once each week
- Coordinate the care of the most vulnerable pupils within the Playroom
- Liaise with the Learning Support Coordinator, Health Centre, School Counsellor and Chaplain to ensure the individual needs of pupils are met
- Ensure pupils have a full and varied programme of pastoral, co-curricular, academic events throughout the academic year and put in place systems to track and monitor pupil achievement in these areas
- Maintain high standards of behaviour in their Playroom
- Line manage boarding and day staff in terms of their pastoral role within the Playroom
- Work with boarding staff to ensure boarding areas fully comply with National Minimum Standards of boarding
- Be on the evening boarding duty rota 2 evenings per week; one evening in the boys' house and one in the girls' house. The post holder may be expected to be around the boarding areas on additional evenings when necessary in order to fulfil their commitments to the Playroom community

## Communication

- Be the primary point of contact for parents for all matters
- Establish a programme of events to encourage closer ties between the Playroom community and parents
- Ensure timely and appropriate communication with parents in relation to all matters academic and pastoral
- Ensure all parents are kept abreast of events taking place within their Playroom
- Visit feeder prep schools to promote Stonyhurst's profile as a leading Catholic boarding school
- Maintaining the Playroom social media feeds

## Whole School Leadership

- Be responsible for one whole school development area
- Support and promote inter-line competitions
- Play a full part in the co-curricular life of this busy boarding school



# PERSON SPECIFICATION



The successful candidate will be dynamic, innovative and a forward-thinking leader with high levels of emotional intelligence. They will have strong communication and relationship skills, and have the ability to manage staff well. They are likely to demonstrate all or most of the following:

- Personal academic credibility
- An empathy for the mission of the Church
- Knowledge of how to effect change
- A love and enjoyment of boarding communities, and the ability to articulate effectively the merits of boarding to prospective parents
- Have significant experience of working in a boarding environment, probably as a housemaster/mistress or an assistant housemaster/mistress
- A focus on excellence, with the desire and ability to get things done by working with and through others
- A genuine enjoyment of young people and the desire to help them grow into intellectually curious and compassionate young men and women
- A proven ability to lead a team
- A high level of organisation
- Experience of managing parental expectations
- Evidence of monitoring and challenging academic performance
- Evidence of supporting vulnerable pupils and coordinating complicated pastoral cases
- An ability to remain calm and think clearly under pressure
- An ability to inspire confidence in pupils and prospective parents
- A commitment to ensuring the highest levels of welfare and safeguarding for young people
- Experience of implementing and evaluating whole school pastoral initiatives
- The ability to work under pressure
- Attention to detail
- A good sense of humour
- A positive approach to problem solving
- An accepting and non-judgemental mindset



# TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

## Salary

The position will be demanding and carry a great deal of responsibility. Consequently, the package available to the successful candidate will be generous and commensurate with the importance of the role and the successful candidate's experience.

## Weekly Commitment

Given the nature of the role it will be expected that the post holder will be a presence both throughout the day and also during some evenings in boarding houses. The post holder will have one full day off per week. Days off and hours worked will be reviewed in light of the demands of the role as the first year progresses.

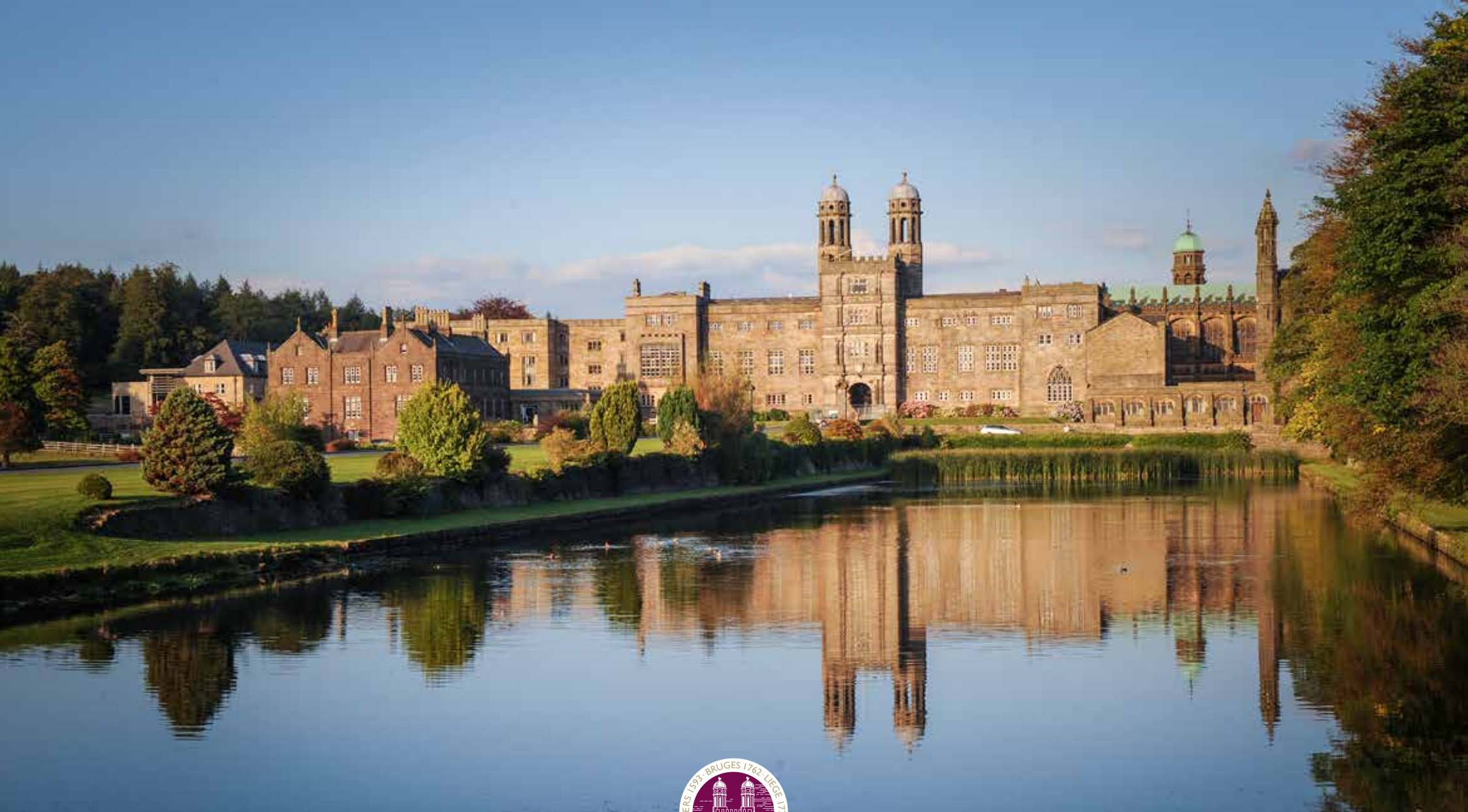
## Accommodation

Suitable homes on the Stonyhurst estate will be provided for the successful candidate.



## Further Questions

If you have any questions or would like to have an informal conversation about this role please contact the Human Resources Department at [recruitment@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@stonyhurst.ac.uk) or telephone 01254 826345.



# STONYHURST

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