

# STONAR



Welcome from our  
Boarding Community



# Welcome to Boarding

We know that joining a new School and boarding house can be a daunting experience and while you may have visited us, you may have watched our videos, follow our social media channels and have read the materials we have already sent you, the best way to learn about what the School is really like is to hear from our pupils.

We hope you enjoy the following collection of messages from our current boarders and we look forward to welcoming you to the School in August and September.

**Stonar Boarding Team**





## Mila, Year 6

I love boarding at Stonar because it brings out the best in me, you get to learn so many life lessons and it feels like you are surrounded by a family, who is always there for you, to grow much brighter.

Staff always appear with a smile and are there to support you. There are many activities at the weekend including hoop camp, stage combat, cooking and fun offsite trips. We also have games in the house every Friday night, which are always good. The yard at school is where I love to spend my free time.

I have now been at Stonar for almost 2 years and it has definitely been the best 2 years of my life.





## Ganbrook House

### Kosi, Year 8

I am a thirteen-year-old pupil at Stonar. I am currently entering my third year at Stonar. I can reassure you that choosing Stonar as my Secondary School was one of the best decisions I have made in my life.

The community at Stonar is extremely welcoming and friendly. There has never been a moment in time at Stonar that I have felt out of place or isolated. Stonar is extremely inclusive and is amazing at making sure everyone is involved. Not only this, but there is never a quiet moment at Stonar. Of course, you are allowed your freedom but there is always something going on. From activities, sports matches and boarding activities like a chocolate fondue night; I never feel bored at school! I feel wholeheartedly that Stonar has the best pastoral care out there! Trust me, there have been so many times where I waltz into Mrs Tilley's office feeling blue or with a genuine problem. I also say with full confidence that there has never been a time where I don't walk back out of the office feeling better. There is just so much support from the pupils and the staff so I always feel happy.

One of my favourite parts of the school is the Yard. I absolutely love horses, I love to spend time with them. My favourite part of my day is going down to the Yard with my best friend and having a lovely conversation through stalls while we groom our ponies. I can always ask for help or talk about what is going on and feel appreciated and loved at the end. To sum it up Stonar is one of the best decisions I have made. I love the environment and all the communities and I am 100 percent sure that you will too.



## Lydia, Year 8

At first when I joined boarding in Year 7, I did not know what to expect.

However, within two days, I was already really enjoying it; the people in the house are all so friendly and the staff are supportive. It is great that you can be around your friends all the time. You always have someone to talk to and Hart is a happy house to live in. In boarding, you have a good routine and I believe this helps you to become independent.

I really enjoy that as well as activities, I also have freedom, for example at the weekend we can walk to Atworth. When you are older you can visit Bath with your friends. I really like the weekends when we have a take away and I can relax with my friends.



## Scarlett, Year 9

Before I came to Stonar, I was nervous and excited at the same time. I had always wanted to go to boarding school and to be able to take my pony was like a dream.

When I first arrived, I was anxious as boarding was a new experience for me. My parents dropped me off and I was paired with a boarding buddy that showed me the routines and how the days worked. After the first few days, I was settled and was enjoying school life and taking advantage of all the opportunities and didn't want to go home.

After boarding for quite a few years now, I can say, it has been one of the best decisions, I have ever made. I think some of the things you learn at boarding school are priceless. You meet so many different people and learn about all the different cultures from around the world, you learn how to stand up on your own two feet and be independent; something you don't normally learn until you are an adult.





## Hart House

### Marc, Year 9

When I first arrived at Stonar, I was so nervous as it was my first boarding experience. I didn't realise that such a wonderful year was waiting for me; I was only thinking about, will I fit among the English people, will they understand my accent, will I make friends or will I be alone?

The first week passed and I met the most amazing staff and people in the boarding house, all my nervousness suddenly disappeared. They were all helpful and very kind, they helped me in everything I needed and explained everything I had to do. Also, I thought the weekends would be boring, but they weren't, activities were planned every weekend to entertain us.

I have made many friends in boarding through these great activities, which have made my boarding experience great. In conclusion, it has been a great year, with great staff and friends. So, I would recommend this to anyone who likes to speak and learn English and to have fun.





## Emmanuel, Year 10

Stonar is one kind of school. When I first got to Stonar, I was in love with what I saw because of the facilities. It has been a very good experience at Stonar and a more lovely experience in Hart boarding house.

Hart boarding house is filled with friendly, nice and loving boys and girls and our houseparent are also really friendly, it is a blessing. Our houseparents are loving people who will want to help you anytime you have a problem, there is no problem that you can't take to Hart houseparent's. Even if they do not know the answer to the problem immediately, they will give you a positive answer and will keep to their word.

The activities in boarding at Stonar are interesting and lively and people want to participate in them. For example, every Sunday we have basketball and badminton, I go to them every time because I am a sporty person but each week, I see new people coming and joining, that shows that everyone is welcome to take part. As a new boarder to a new environment, I have made very strong friendships with lots of people. When you are at Stonar, you don't have any problems because the staff are always there for you. It is like "HOME SWEET HOME".

## Adrian, Year 10

I became a boarder at Stonar in January of this year and this is the first time I have studied overseas.

Everything was new to me so it took a while to learn the new routines. Fortunately, everyone was really kind to me so I have made lots of new friends here. I worried quite a lot before I came to Stonar but I found that I was wrong to be anxious. Whenever I felt homesick, missing home or other friends, I could talk to the house parents. They are always there and will do their very best to help you. The activities at weekends are diverse; I really enjoyed the Chinese New Year festival event. I have had so much fun at Stonar.



## Georgie, Year 10

My experience so far at Stonar has been eventful, full of happiness and joy. At first, I was a bit nervous to board as it was my first time. However, the amazing boarding staff made me feel very welcome and were always there if I needed them.

Over the course of this year, I have met amazing people and made great friendships, some feel like family. I have made some magnificent memories along the way. The weekends are very fun as there are entertaining activities planned for the boarders like baking, sports, indoor games, organised activities outside of school and many more.

Overall, I have enjoyed every moment at Stonar and I am very excited to go back next year.



## Sophie, Year 11

One year ago, I decided to spend a year abroad. When I arrived at Stonar, I felt anxious and very nervous, as it was my first time away from home. At the beginning, boarding was strange but within days, I felt home away from home which sounds weird but that was due to the greatest houseparent I ever had. Mrs. Tilley - our Housemother - follows an open door policy and whenever you have a problem, she has an open ear to discuss the problem.

All the staff have supported me whenever I have needed help and this is a very reassuring part of boarding.

Ganbrook House is very special as all the boarders feel part of a big family. Moreover, Ganbrook has a very good house spirit as Ganbrook has a great tradition to start the weekend off with an evening activity, where everyone is joining in. During the weekend various creative or sports activities are offered and there are also many off-site trips. You never feel lonely or home sick as there is always something to do or someone to chat with. Boarding at Stonar is a great experience and made me a strong, confident and mature individual. I will miss Stonar and I will always keep Ganbrook House and Stonar in my heart.







## York House

# Our Sixth Form Boarders

### Daisy, Year 12

I'm from Surrey in England and I've been a boarder at Stonar since Year 9. When I joined Stonar in 2016, I was only thirteen years old and had never boarded before. My main concern was that I would not make any friends, but as soon as I arrived at Stonar, those worries melted away.

I can remember my first day with such clarity because of the way the staff and current pupils introduced themselves and welcomed me into the Stonar community. Our houseparent spoke to us on the first night and encouraged us to make the most of all Stonar has to offer. That is the best advice I could hope to pass on as I can tell you from my own experience that if you fully embrace all that Stonar has to offer, you will have a great time. Another concern was how was I going to find my way about the school site and I recall asking, what appeared to me as the grown-ups, but were actually just members of the Sixth Form for directions to my next class. They helpfully pointed me in the correct direction and asked if we were ok, as being in the Sixth Form is not just about studying, but also about being role models for the younger years, as you will soon discover.

For A Levels I chose to study Geography, History and Physics. I chose those subjects because staff that inspired me and sparked my desire to learn about the subjects to a higher level teach them. One thing that is guaranteed at Stonar is support. From the tutors who cheerfully greet their pupils in the mornings and who are always full of fantastic life advice. To the subject teachers who I've found always make time to help their students, even if it means staying late. To the Sixth Form team who are so knowledgeable about university choices and applications, and finally, to the house staff in York who are always there when you need them,





everyone at Stonar wants to help you get the best possible experience out of your time in the Sixth Form. Stonar School's main values are respect, resilience and integrity. This means that pupils are encouraged to become people with whom others will want to interact, and these core values govern the way Stonar pupils live and study together. We all have the opportunity to shine, as there is a wide range of opportunities, both academic and extra curricular, to suit our diverse talents. At Stonar no one is forced to do things that they don't want to do, but you are always offered the chance to try to develop your particular abilities, building your confidence in small steps. One major reason why I chose to come to Stonar, and remain, is the yard. I am by no means the best rider but it doesn't matter, I am still supported and encouraged. The yard is where many of my own and my friends' happiest memories have taken place and, even if you do not like horses, everyone is welcome there. The yard staff and Equestrian Assistants make it a welcoming and positive environment in which to spend time.

Deciding to stay at Stonar for the Sixth Form was an easy choice for me in comparison with the one that you have made, especially if you have chosen to come to Stonar from another country, I was still apprehensive as it meant change. I moved from Hart House, which had been my home for 3 years, to York, with entirely new staff and more freedom! There was no need for concern however, because at the end of the first week the whole Sixth Form cohort, both existing and new pupils, had become a great community. It might sound like I'm just saying this, but I can assure you that everyone you meet is genuinely trying to help you navigate the change of going from GCSEs to A Levels. I know from experience it is a great transition to make and those of us already here look forward to welcoming you into York in September. I can assure you that your time at Stonar, like mine, will be full of so much unexpected fun and you will truly find your place amongst your peers. If you have any queries or doubts once you arrive, just ask other students or house staff. We can't wait to meet you and for you to experience all Stonar has to offer. I am sure you will love your time here.



## Göksu, Year 12

I am from Istanbul and I am currently a Year 12 pupil boarding in York House. I have only been in Stonar since September 2019. I can hear some of you say 'Oh, she's actually new too, that's a relief then'. But don't worry!!

There is a nice mix of both new and old pupils at Stonar, and although adapting to a new school might feel hard, the first phase of 'being a new student' will only last a short time after you arrive at Stonar. I can assure you that Stonar School is not just a school, but it is a place where you meet new people and quickly become part of the family. I had many thoughts before I first came here. Who would I sit with at lunch? What was that teacher's name? Should I talk to my houseparents about my questions? What clubs do I choose? Is there something wrong with my English? Have I chosen the right subjects? Now I realise that although I arrived with many questions, the staff and boarders at Stonar showed me the right path to follow and made it feel, in no time at all, like I had always been part of the school.

For my A Levels I am studying History (specific time periods in British and Russian history), Maths and Psychology. I must say that all of my teachers and also my tutor, have been very supportive. A privilege of being at Stonar is that you can get 1:1 help or mentorship, both in and out of class. Every weekday evening we have a duty tutor in York house and they are able to give additional support to you if you feel you need it. Class sizes are also small, so learning and consolidating learning is easy. The staff really do want you to succeed and you should never worry about asking for help. I am thinking of doing a degree in humanities, perhaps PPE, and Mrs Bennett is always on hand as Head of Sixth Form to give support and advice on university applications, as well as offering day to day support all the way through the Sixth Form.

In assemblies Mr Way, the Headmaster, frequently talks about the need to be kind, be known and get involved in every aspect of school life. At Stonar, in addition to academic studies, there is a wide range of activities to keep you busy and content. The staff will encourage you to get involved frequently in extracurricular activities, so that you can have a range of different experiences of your time at Stonar. I have enjoyed being part of the Charity Club as we have planned fundraisers to raise money for our school charity: the Teenage Cancer Trust. I also have been part of the International Society and staff have supported me to create a club in which we could talk about different cultures and eat cultural recipes from around the globe. If we had nothing to eat, we drank British tea!

Boarding in York over the last year has been a privilege. The bedrooms are very nice and in addition to a common room and kitchen there is a recreational room for special occasions (called the Ancient Library Club) and a central quad garden area. There are a combination of single and double rooms and I have been in both. I shared with another new pupil for the first two terms and this allowed us to develop a close friendship and support each as we fitted into the Stonar community. In the later part of the year, I had a room on my own and this helped me to develop my own independence while knowing my new friends were just along the corridor. The staff in the house are lovely: Mrs Noad is the full time houseparent and when she is off duty Mrs White, the relief houseparent, is in house. They are very different but both are kind and have a sense of fun, which makes York a great place to board. The house staff are like our mentors and house mummies! Whenever there is a problem with boarding, the academic life, the food or family and friends, they are always there for you to support you. I have got to know the staff and pupils in York over the last year and now they are like my extended family.

Overall, at Stonar, you can get the support you need, as Stonar is such a great and welcoming place to be.



For further information contact

t +44 (0)1225 701741

e [admissions@stonarschool.com](mailto:admissions@stonarschool.com)



Nursery | Prep | Senior | Sixth Form

w [stonarschool.com](http://stonarschool.com)

address Stonar, Atworth, Wiltshire, SN12 8NT