



STONAR

Welcome to York House

2025/26

House Parent - Mrs Seward

Ambition

Courage

Compassion

Welcome

A very warm welcome from me, Mrs Seward, your York Houseparent at Stonar. You have arrived and are about to start an amazing adventure that you will never forget! As your Houseparent, I am here for you while you are away from home – from making sure you are set for the school day to supporting your weekend plans, equestrian queries (if applicable), and both your academic and pastoral journey. You will see me every morning before school and every day after school. I am here to guide you as you navigate boarding school life, helping you create a healthy balance between your schoolwork and your life outside the classroom throughout the week and weekends.

I am so pleased that you have decided to make York your home. I completely understand the nerves and excitement that go along with becoming a boarder in a new school. Be reassured that feeling anxious about what is ahead is completely normal; you will quickly feel happier and more settled.

York will feel like home very quickly – over the next few days there will be lots of opportunities to become familiar with the school site, meet new friends and get to know the surrounding area too. The first week can be challenging at times but the best thing you can do is talk to your boarding buddy and me about how you are feeling. Talking always helps.

Mrs Seward



House Values

As a House, we are kind to one another; we nurture **ambition**, we have **courage** and **compassion** to ourselves and those around us. We are inclusive and diverse and have patience and time for each other in our shared home.



Fortune favours the bold

Meet the Team

There are lots of other staff that live on site here at Stonar and are all here to make sure you, as boarders, are happy and enjoy your time throughout the school year, weekdays, and weekends. We are your family while you are away from home.

There are three key people who will support you personally and academically through boarding and school life.

Mrs Seward (Houseparent)

Mrs Seward graduated from Chichester University with a BSc and MSc in Sports and Exercise Science and also holds Qualified Teacher Status in PE. She joined Stonar in September 2022 as the York Houseparent and is also a valued member of the PE department, where she teaches academic PE and Games. Mrs Seward has particular expertise in gymnastics, dance, athletics and trampolining, alongside a keen interest in many of the major games.



As your Houseparent, Mrs Seward is acting in loco parentis whilst you are away from home. She lives in accommodation attached to York House with her husband, Chris, their thirteen-year-old son, Will, along with her sociable cat and friendly Labrador, Cass. During the school day, she works as a PE Teacher and, in her free time, enjoys riding her road bike.

You can speak to Mrs Seward about anything that may be worrying you at any time—she will always listen, help, and support you. York is your space to relax and enjoy your free time in the evenings and at weekends. It should feel separate from school, a place where you can truly be yourself.

Duty Nights: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday nights, as well as most weekends.

Miss Small (Assistant Houseparent)

Miss Small is the Assistant Houseparent and also teaches EAL. She loves learning about different cultures through her work and travels, and in her downtime enjoys reading, hiking, and swimming. Miss Small is passionate about making York House a warm, welcoming, and vibrant place to live. She will be there to support and guide you when Mrs Seward is not in the boarding house, and together they work as a team to ensure you have everything you need.



Duty Nights: Mondays, Thursdays and occasional weekends.

Mentors

Every boarder has a mentor to ensure that you integrate fully into school life and get to know our day students in addition to the boarders. This is a member of the teaching staff, who you will see daily and who will monitor your academic progress closely. This is the person that you will spend tutor time with. You should speak to them about any questions or concerns you may have with your timetable or school subjects.

Boarding Induction & Support

On arriving at York, you will be provided with an induction to boarding. This means we will help you learn everything you need to know to be safe and enjoy boarding life. It is important that you ask questions if you are unsure about any of the below.

Our boarding induction will cover the following:

- Introduction to your Houseparent and Assistant Houseparent
- Who to speak to at school if you are unhappy or worried
- The difference between your Houseparent, Assistant Houseparent and Mentors
- Tour of the House
- How to sign in and out of the House at evenings and weekends
- Explanation of daily routines – meal timings and registrations
- When to use the shower blocks
- What to do in a fire
- What to do if something in your room is broken
- How to do your laundry
- How to store your own food in the kitchen. Please remember we are a **nut free** school.
- Expectations for room tidiness
- How to be a considerate roommate
- What to do if you feel unwell in the day/night and much more, so you feel at home
- Information on Sixth Form Life

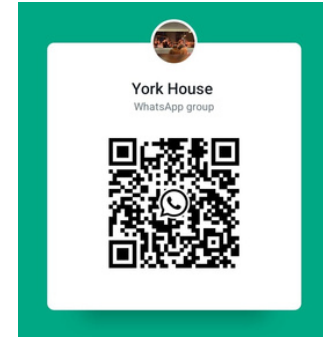
Get packing

- We have limited stock of bedding and some towels you can use, if you want to save space in your suitcase (pupils living in this country are expected to bring their own).
- Make sure all clothing is labelled including socks.
- Bring a small laundry bag for washing your underwear in, as well as some laundry tablets for any personal laundry you may wish to do yourself.
- Bring an alarm clock with you to ensure you can wake up for roll call.
- Do bring some pictures/items to make your space in the dorm feel like home.
- Bedside lamp, if you wish.
- Batteries and extension leads are not essential, but can be helpful items to bring with you.

Communication

WhatsApp

Communication in York is so important to us. You will be added to the York House WhatsApp group, which will be the platform for House notices and information. It will also be a forum to share ideas, reflect on activities and enhance life in boarding.



Other Ways to Communicate

Other methods of communication are email, 1:1 chats, and House meetings each evening.

The most important thing is to COMMUNICATE!

Contact Information

House staff can be contacted using the details below. Put the numbers into your phone!

York office: + 44 (0) 1225 701778

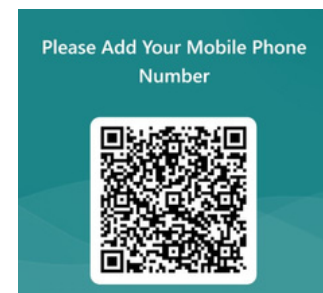
York staff mobile number: + 44 (0) 7718865292

York House email (Houseparent & Assistant Houseparent): yorkhouse@stonarschool.com

Houseparent email (direct): l.seward@stonarschool.com

Your Phone Number

We also ask that you provide us with your mobile number for safety and communication whilst in our care. Please add it here and make sure it is a number that works in the UK!



Arrival

Travel arrangements – action needed!

If you haven't already told us, please let us know what time you expect to arrive (the boarding house officially opens at 2pm).

International pupils: we need to know date of arrival in UK and if flying, your departure and arrival airports plus your flight number along with how you are travelling to Stonar once in the UK.

Please email l.seward@stonarschool.com with this information as soon as possible.

What to do first

If you haven't already, head to the check-in desk in the Common Room. Here you will register and hand in important documents.

Things to hand in

- **Passport/ID card/Resident Permit card** - we keep these safe in the office.
- **Pocket money** - we have a cashless system and ask all students have their own UK bank account to manage their own finances.
- **Medication** - all medication is kept in the office. This includes paracetamol, ibuprofen, vitamins, etc. We keep a range of over-the-counter medication in the office and any other personal medication can be issued by House staff.

You will have a lockable space in your dorm for anything else you want to keep secure. In addition, we can keep valuable items and money in the York office safe.

What to do next

Make your bed. If you need bedding, just let a member of the House team know. Please get yourself settled and unpacked and make your room homely. Feel free to place posters or photos on the pin board but please do not put things on the wall as it damages the paintwork.

Check your school uniform. If something does not fit or is missing speak to a member of the House team and we can help you. If you are only here for one term and need to borrow uniform, please ask a member of the Boarding team.

Be brave and speak to other girls and staff. We are lovely and care for all those in the York and Stonar community – you are now part of our family.

Please come and say hello to the members of the House team. We are really looking forward to getting to know you and I am sure you will have many questions. We have tried to answer some of the common questions in this booklet.

Suitcases should be brought to the suitcase room as soon as possible so we can store them securely. If your suitcase is not labelled ask for a tag from the office. Write your name on it and attach to any suitcases/bags to go in the storage room.

Useful Information

New students will have an induction over the first couple of days– don't worry you will be given everything you need to know but we just don't want to overload you all at once.

House Values: Ambition, Courage and Compassion.

Mobile Phones: Students in Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth are permitted to have these overnight unless intervention is required. Student Wifi is switched off at 11pm and is turned on again at 6am. Year 11 pupils and below hand in their phones 15 minutes before bedtime.

Evening House Meeting: 7.45pm Monday – Thursday and on Sundays. Friday evenings a registration is taken at the start of the social event so timings can vary. Look at the house notice board details each day. Saturday registration is often a 'check in'.

Internet: There is an Academic Meeting at 3.30pm on arrivals day to help you with set up. You will be able to connect your device (laptop, tablet, phone) to the Wi-Fi. See the notice board for the password. Wi-Fi access is not available from 11.00pm-6.00am in York. There are three computers in the house, which are set up for Zoom and Teams (but cameras are deliberately omitted). The Upper Sixth and staff will support your login.

Laundry: Sixth Form are able to do their own laundry in House. School laundry day is Wednesday for uniform, sports and riding clothes, along with bedding if you require. Please ensure that everything is named before it goes in the wash or it makes it very difficult to get it back to you!

Tuck Shop: Available on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday Night after roll call. Card payments only.

Prep: 6.45-7.45pm Monday- Thursday for all pupils. Pupils work in rooms or in the common room.

Tidy Hour: Sunday 6.45-7.45pm. Room checks after roll call.

Weekend Permissions: 'Pink forms' and parental permissions must be completed by Thursday before roll call.

Take Away Food: Allowed (after request from member of staff on duty) on a Saturday or Sunday evening.

Meal times: Students are expected to attend breakfast, lunch and dinner in La Cantina. Students are registered at dinner. At weekends, students can opt to cook a meal in House.

Other Useful information can be found in the **Boarding Handbook**, which is pinned up on the House notice board. The A-Z guide of Boarding has everything you need to know, however, **if you are unsure... just ask!**

Friday Night Club

Stonar and York House are extremely proud to have a fully refurbished social area, which transforms from a beautiful, calming and cosy space in which to relax or study by day, to a sophisticated bar by night. Everybody loves that Friday feeling when the weekend begins, and I am delighted and excited to introduce you to the Friday Night Club. On Friday evenings, Sixth Formers can gather to relax in the bar for nibbles and drinks.

In addition to weather-permitting opportunities to spill out into the courtyard whilst listening to music and being with friends, the pupils will form a committee and arrange their own programme of entertainment and events; a perfect wind down after a busy week.



Itinerary

Tuesday 2 September

2.00pm	New boarders arrive
2.50pm	Houseparent welcome to all families
3.00pm	Tour from staff to parents and parents depart
3.30pm	Academic meeting for new boarders
4.00pm	Returning boarders arrive
5.30pm	Supper
6.30pm	Student inductions continue, after whole house meeting
7.50pm	Returning boarders meeting
8:30pm	Evening routine begins: 8.30pm-9.30pm - Showers
	10.00pm - Students to rooms
	10.15pm - Staff to circulate room
	10.30pm - Lights out

Wednesday 3 September

7.45am	Roll call – Common Room (all pupils must be dressed in their school uniform)
7.50am	Breakfast – all students will walk together to breakfast (La Cantina)
8.20am	Meet in Common Room with Mrs Seward
8.30am	Start of school day and assembly in Buckle Theatre for Sixth Form
4.00pm	School finishes - return to boarding House or go to one of the school clubs
4.15pm	Tea buns available in boarding House or attend school club
4.30pm	House meeting - Common Room
5.30-6.30pm	Supper and registration (La Cantina)
6.45pm	Roll call
10.00pm	In own rooms for wind down and preparing for lights out at 10.30pm

