



and life beyond Stonyhurst, they are fully prepared and confident.

“The social side of boarding is hugely important to pupils. They form friendships that last a lifetime with peers from all over the world. The school has a vibrant international atmosphere that pupils truly enjoy,” says Mr Browne. He recalls a friendship group of three pupils who, last summer, spent two weeks each at one another’s family homes – on the Scottish island of Bute, in Madrid and in Sweden – highlighting the global connections created within the school community.



academic clinics led by teaching staff from each department, providing extra support for those seeking help with specific subjects. The afternoon continues with a diverse co-curricular programme, followed by evening supper. From 7pm onwards, study sessions take place within pupils’ year groups, with teachers available to offer guidance and support as needed.

“While it is calm and civilised, it is an industrious time with a real buzz. Pupils are also incentivised with brags (merits), awards and certificates. We make learning fun,” says Mr Browne.

Following studies, free time is often spent with friends in the boarding house, engaging in community activities like baking, playing board games or participating in sports. Older pupils may also take part in

debating clubs, academic societies, lectures or listen to guest speakers. “While it’s downtime for pupils, they still have plenty of opportunities to learn, socialise and enjoy meaningful experiences,” says Mr Browne.



Stonyhurst offers current day pupils three free nights per year, allowing them to experience boarding life firsthand. This February, prospective pupils will have the chance to discover the unique experience of boarding at Stonyhurst through a ‘Twilight Taster’ event, designed to showcase the magic of life at the College. Mr Browne concludes: “Pupils have everything they need here – the support, the structure, exceptional facilities and incredible opportunities. It truly offers outstanding value.” ■

HOME FROM HOME...

Tailored boarding options at Stonyhurst provide a wonderful balance for families living within a 90-minute drive from this historic Ribble Valley school

As parents, we all want our children to grow up confident, capable, and ready to tackle the challenges of an interconnected, fast-moving world. One of the most impactful ways to help your child develop these qualities is through boarding. Tailored boarding options at Stonyhurst allow for the perfect balance of independence and family life, offering young people the opportunity to develop leadership skills, global awareness, and resilience. With a world-class education set in a unique, centuries-old environment, Stonyhurst is the ideal place for boarders to enjoy the best of both worlds.

Stonyhurst offers tailored boarding options to suit every family’s needs. Choose from Occasional Boarding for ad-hoc stays, Flexible Boarding with pre-determined nights for the term or year, or Weekly Boarding from Sunday to Friday night.

Without the need for a daily commute, children can take advantage of all that the



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College has to offer – from the exceptional on-site facilities, a raft of co-curricular activities and outstanding pastoral care, boarders have everything they need within the impressive, 1,000-acre Stonyhurst estate. Pupils develop independence, form lasting friendships and those who take advantage

of tailored boarding options can still enjoy weekends with family that are more relaxed and quality-focused.

“Stonyhurst may seem imposing but when you come inside it’s like a home from home,” says Stonyhurst’s Headmaster John Browne.

“It’s a community that is located on a single site with nine boarding houses all under one roof. For boarders there are many advantages – the more time they spend here the more they gain from the place.”

For prospective pupils living within a 90-minute commute, weekly boarding is the perfect answer. The 2,000-room Jesuit college set in the Ribble Valley countryside, has recently invested in and upgraded many of its boarding facilities, which are a far cry from what one would expect of a school steeped in history.

Light and airy with a contemporary family feel, the living quarters assigned to boarding pupils are well thought-out on every level – the social areas are relaxed and welcoming while many bedrooms are en-suite.

Houseparents play a central role in boarders’ daily lives, guiding them as they adjust to routines and gain independence: “We ensure that everything is in place to help pupils grow in their independence, so when the time comes to leave for university

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“It gives them a real sense of the world and being connected – that’s part of the magic here. Pupils consistently tell us that what they most value here is the rich diversity of the community.

“We have had links with Hong Kong, Mexico and Spain for many years – all pupils whether they are full time boarders, weekly boarders or day pupils have the advantage of becoming familiar with different cultures.”

While 40 per cent of Stonyhurst pupils come from overseas, representing 32 different countries, some boarders live just a short commute away – many even within a stone’s throw of the College. The benefits for weekly, six-night boarders are numerous and varied, and parents also gain peace of mind, knowing their children are being cared for in a supportive and nurturing environment, surrounded by friends and engaging in a wide range of activities.

For both parents and children, weekends become a cherished opportunity for stress-free, quality family time. All boarders follow a structured after-school routine. After afternoon tea, pupils have access to

TWILIGHT TASTER: BOARDING AT STONYHURST

If your child is interested in boarding at Stonyhurst, but unsure if it is right for them, our free Twilight Taster event on the evening of Friday 7th February 2025 is the perfect opportunity to experience the magic of boarding life.

Attendees will enjoy an evening of activities and socialising with some of our current boarders, guided by our dedicated boarding staff and Houseparents.

The evening will conclude with an overnight stay in one of our newly refurbished, beautifully designed boarding houses.



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