



# GET SET FOR ADVENTURE...

Stonyhurst College's new outdoor Adventure Curriculum helps pupils excel in activities they love, building confidence, resilience and leadership by encouraging them to step out of their comfort zones

An exciting and challenging new Adventure Curriculum and dedicated Outdoor Education Department has launched at Stonyhurst College giving Years 7 and 8 (known as Figures and Rudiments) unique opportunities for self-discovery and personal growth.

With Stonyhurst's expansive 1,000-acre estate as its backdrop, a key element of the Adventure Curriculum is its focus on enrichment beyond academia, aimed at developing life skills such as independence, leadership, teamwork, resilience and problem-solving. A Jesuit education at

Stonyhurst focuses on the formation of the whole person, not only within the classroom but also through experiences that shape character and help young people identify their purpose in life.



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The rich history of Stonyhurst offers a template for an all-rounded education that nurtures personal growth. Rooted in the Jesuit

tradition of exploration, scientific innovation and global travel, the new Adventure Curriculum encourages pupils to engage with the outdoors more frequently, promoting resilience and broadening their horizons.

Charles Tansley, the newly appointed Director of Adventure at Stonyhurst College, is leading the development and introduction of the new curriculum at Aloysius House. Established last September, Aloysius House welcomed Figures and Rudiments pupils as they transitioned from Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall to the main College building, aligning Stonyhurst with other educational institutions.

Figures and Rudiments pupils have embraced the Adventure Curriculum, as has Director Charles, who has taken on his new role with great enthusiasm: "The new Adventure Curriculum allows pupils to explore new activities and hone the ones they are passionate about, helping them become proficient in those disciplines," says Charles, who brings extensive experience working with young people worldwide.

He has worked with students in the UK, Tanzania, Kenya, New Zealand and Nepal on a variety of projects, ranging from conservation to construction, scuba diving and coaching a provincial snowboarding team in northern China: "It's about inspiring young people to explore the world, master new skills and build unshakeable confidence - all while having



an unforgettable, fun experience."

Naming snowboarding, running and rock climbing as his favourite sports, Charles arrived at Stonyhurst in September 2024: "This opportunity allows me to bring together all my experience and skills to create an Adventure Curriculum that is both exciting and enriching for our pupils.



"While Stonyhurst's co-curricular activities are already extensive, we knew there was potential to develop them even further.

"The new Adventure Curriculum focuses on collaborative activities that require teamwork, with safety always at the forefront.

"Quiet pupils find their voice, confident pupils lead - this is a curriculum that enables all pupils to excel at something they love."

With six diverse activities available to each year group, pupils can participate in archery, bushcraft, laser tag, orienteering, campcraft, canoeing, rock climbing, fencing, fishing, mountain biking and a Mission Garden where they grow local produce. Many of the activities take place on the 1,000-acre Stonyhurst estate

which provides an extraordinary backdrop for outdoor adventure.

"Archery takes place in the Jesuit gardens, while bushcraft and campcraft are set in the woodlands. Laser tag - a pupil favourite - spans the entire campus. Orienteering allows pupils to explore the College while developing the map skills needed to navigate the Stonyhurst estate and fishing is enjoyed along the scenic Hodder river," adds Charles.

The Adventure Curriculum also builds on Stonyhurst's longstanding tradition of leadership, helping pupils become 'men and women for others' while developing the skills needed for success in both the workplace and the world beyond.

“ FOR PARENTS CONSIDERING STONYHURST FOR THEIR CHILD AT YEAR 7 OR 8, THE NEW ADVENTURE CURRICULUM PRESENTS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ”

The Outdoor Education Department has been designed with mental health in mind, as Timothy Hanley, Assistant Head Co-curricular, explains: "This is enrichment in terms of mental and physical wellbeing. Our young people are out in the fresh air, away from screens, developing passions for new activities.

"Being outside gives them a connection to the natural world and we all know that this not only improves physical health but enhances wellbeing, helping pupils to build resilience. Nature has a way of bringing people together, breaking down barriers and creating lasting bonds.

"Pupils learn to appreciate their own strengths but also to value the contribution of others."

The Adventure Curriculum forms part of Stonyhurst's respected Co-Curricular Diploma



at bronze, silver and gold level that introduces pupils to activities they can specialise in as their talents and interests emerge.

For parents considering Stonyhurst for their child at Year 7 or 8, the new Adventure Curriculum presents an exciting opportunity for personal growth and development. Pupils who arrive at Aloysius House now have access to a wealth of opportunities beyond the academic curriculum, allowing them to flourish, develop new skills, build confidence and uncover strengths they never knew they had.



Charles concludes: "The new Adventure Curriculum is about sowing the seeds of opportunity, developing confidence and creating an environment where pupils can discover and pursue their passions." ■



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Years 7 and 8  
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