



# The modern MODEL

Why *Stonyhurst College's* approach to boarding is perfect for today's families

**S**tonyhurst's tailored, flexible boarding model ensures that pupils can fully engage with school life while accommodating the busy schedules of families, whether they live locally or further afield.

With its rich Jesuit ethos, tailored boarding at Stonyhurst helps pupils thrive academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

With 37 different nationalities at Stonyhurst, for some boarding is a way of life. However, tailored boarding also appeals to local families and those living

between 45 and 90 minutes away, for whom the daily commute is often impractical. Tailored boarding allows pupils to immerse themselves in school life and spend time with friends, as Reuban Strain, Stonyhurst's Deputy Head of Pastoral, explains: "Essentially a Jesuit education is about learning and living. Learning takes place in the classroom, and living means making friends from other countries and cultures and taking part in the many and varied co-curricular and extra-curricular clubs, sports and cultural activities."

Boarders can take advantage of

early morning swims in the pool, go for a run around the 1,000-acre estate, play tennis in the indoor tennis dome or enjoy a session in the gym before starting school, taking full advantage of the facilities set within the extensive grounds. "Pupils don't want to spend time travelling, they want to grasp every opportunity there is here," adds Reuban.

Working closely with Reuban is Senior Houseparent Marta Gallego, who oversees more than 300 boarders at the College. She explains that boarding fosters a sense of togetherness, where friendships with peers from around the world last a lifetime.

"There is a real sense of community, and everyone contributes to it, supported by the fact that all our boarding houses are under one roof," she says. "The many different nationalities all live and work together, giving pupils a global perspective that enriches their education."

Alongside an unrivalled academic curriculum sits a vast array of mainstream and niche clubs, sports and cultural activities. Higher Line (Sixth Form) pupils have recently launched their own Gastro Club, visiting the many and varied eateries the Ribble Valley has to offer. Other clubs include the Heavy Metal Appreciation Society, MedSoc (Medical Society) for potential medics, Astronomy society and a build-a-go-kart project. An exciting array of opportunities awaits, including a programme of adventurous activities, from climbing and mountain biking to kayaking, led by the College's recently appointed Director of Adventure. "If pupils make a suggestion for a new activity or opportunity, we always like to respond and make it happen," says Reuban. "Pupils are in their element when they've discovered a sport or pastime they enjoy, it allows them to find their place amongst friends with similar interests. They are truly alive when they've found their sense of belonging."

While many local schools end their day by mid-afternoon, Stonyhurst has structured supervised studies (homework) with access to teacher support later in the day. With evenings free from travel, boarders can participate in clubs, sport, music and interline activities.

"Pupils don't want to miss out. The structure of the Stonyhurst day avoids the often-typical family situation whereby children come home from school mid-afternoon and they're on their screens for much of the evening," says Reuban.

Weekends for Stonyhurst boarders

are designed to be adventurous and fulfilling with sporting activities and trips that often have an educational or cultural element. The boarding experience helps pupils develop confidence and responsibility with routines that promote not only academic growth but essential skills that will serve them in later life. "Parents trust us to educate their children, guide them spiritually and culturally. They are in a safe environment, learning independence and surrounded by pastoral care that prepares them for adulthood," says Reuban. Senior pupils have access to their own kitchen and laundry facilities, helping them develop the practical life skills they will rely on at university and beyond.

At the heart of the school's ethos is care, structure and a deep commitment to personal and academic development. Prayer, faith-led activities and regular moments of reflection and gratitude help guide pupils toward becoming well-rounded individuals with a strong moral compass.

Ultimately, Stonyhurst's tailored boarding options are more than just a solution for families with busy schedules. Boarding gives pupils a chance to thrive in a supportive, dynamic environment

that encourages independence and academic excellence, providing a flexible, enriching experience that meets the needs of today's modern family.

Reuban adds: "The Jesuits are known as the educators of Europe, teaching people how to become the best version of themselves, both inside and outside the classroom. At Stonyhurst we believe by giving our pupils a vast array of opportunities, they can develop and grow into men and women who will go on and change the world for the better." 🌟



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