



WHERE SPORT SHAPES THE WHOLE PERSON

At Stonyhurst, sport is a defining part of everyday life, combining high-performance opportunity, academic ambition and personal development within a full, values-led boarding school education

Sport at Stonyhurst is not about choosing between sporting performance and education – it is about excelling in both. With a long tradition of sporting excellence that remains strongly evident today, the school offers pupils an environment where sporting ambition is nurtured alongside an increasingly strong academic offering and excellent examination outcomes, personal growth and a strong sense of community. Here, sport is woven into the rhythm of school life from the earliest years onwards, shaping character, confidence and resilience in ways that extend far beyond the pitch or court.

This philosophy reflects Stonyhurst's Jesuit ethos, which places equal value on intellectual, physical and moral development. Pupils are encouraged to give their best, whether they are striving for national honours or discovering a new sport for the first time. What matters most is progress, commitment and the development of the whole person.

Pupils at Stonyhurst can take part in 18 different sports with regular competitive fixtures. Traditional core sports such as rugby, cricket, hockey and netball form a

strong foundation, complemented by a wide range of additional opportunities including tennis, football, golf, basketball, badminton, athletics and swimming. This breadth ensures that every pupil can find a sport that challenges and inspires them, regardless of experience or aspiration.



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Importantly, sport at Stonyhurst is inclusive without being unfocused. All sports are valued and supported within a clear, coherent programme, ensuring a consistently high standard of coaching,

facilities and opportunity. This approach allows pupils to enjoy both competitive success and a lifelong engagement with physical activity, whether they are representing the school at county level or building confidence through participation.

That commitment is reflected in Stonyhurst's growing national profile across multiple sports. Pupils regularly represent the school at county, regional and national level and teams compete strongly in major competitions. In January 2026, Stonyhurst's 1st XV Under 18 rugby team secured the Lancashire Schools Cup with a decisive 31–17 victory against Scarisbrick Hall at Fylde RFC. The occasion was marked by more than 400 Stonyhurst pupils travelling to support their peers, underlining the strength of community that sits at the heart of school life.

Stonyhurst's Tennis Academy also continues to gain national recognition, having qualified twice in the past two years for the national girls' finals of the LTA Aberdare Cup, finishing eighth and then sixth out of more than 300 schools nationwide. The Academy has also been recognised as one of the top six schools in the UK for tennis provision, reflecting consistent standards and competitive depth.

For pupils with the talent and ambition to pursue sport at a higher level, Stonyhurst offers Specialist Sports Pathways in tennis, football and golf. The Football School of Excellence provides a structured performance environment with UEFA-qualified coaching,

competitive fixtures and individual development planning, alongside links with the University of Lancashire and NCE Soccer, which supports talent development across the UK and US, providing clear and structured pathways for aspiring footballers. The Golf Academy, set against the backdrop of the Ribble Valley, offers year-round coaching, technical support and access to a state-of-the-art golf simulator for data-led performance, alongside championship-standard courses that support progression to county and national level. These pathways provide a clear, carefully structured route for development, combining expert coaching and high-performance facilities with a balanced, academically demanding school experience. Pupils continue to benefit from academic challenge, strong pastoral support and a rich co-curricular life, ensuring sport enhances rather than replaces a holistic education.



External recognition has underlined the strength of this approach. Invited to visit the school by Director of Tennis David Shaw, national tennis coach Judy Murray conducted skill-building sessions with pupils and toured the facilities. Following her visit, she was highly complimentary.

“I have been very impressed,” she said. “To have two courts in an indoor dome allows you to play all year round and put on a really meaningful Tennis Programme which I am sure will go from strength to strength. The kids are very lucky to have the opportunity to train here alongside their academic pursuits.”

Reflecting on the visit, David Shaw noted that recognition at this level matters.

“To have someone like Judy Murray recognise how successful the Stonyhurst Tennis Programme is, is hugely important,” he said.

The visit was significant not only for tennis, but for what it represents more broadly. Such recognition affirms Stonyhurst's belief that high-performance sporting opportunity and academic ambition can and should, go hand in hand.

What sets Stonyhurst apart is the way



sporting ambition is held within a full school education, benefiting both boarders and day pupils alike. Training, study and downtime are carefully balanced, allowing pupils to develop independence, discipline and resilience while remaining fully engaged in academic life and the wider community.

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The school's holistic approach to sport is further supported through a comprehensive Strength and Conditioning Programme, alongside yoga and fitness provision, helping pupils develop physical strength, mental resilience and emotional wellbeing. This ensures young people leave Stonyhurst not only as stronger athletes, but as confident, balanced individuals.

Ultimately, sport at Stonyhurst is about preparing pupils for life beyond school. Through challenge, teamwork and commitment, young people learn how to lead, how to persevere and how to contribute positively to the world around them. This vision is further strengthened through the introduction of the new Lancashire Scholarship, designed to recognise exceptional sporting talent

across the county and to invite outstanding sportsmen and women in rugby, cricket, hockey or netball to become among the first Lancashire Scholars at Stonyhurst at 11+ and 16+ entry. It is this integration



of opportunity, ambition and personal formation that makes sport at Stonyhurst not only successful, but transformative. Families are warmly invited to discover more at one of the school's upcoming Open Days. ■



STONYHURST

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Scan to register for an Open Day