STONAR



Boarding Handbook

2026/2027

STONAR

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Hello and Welcome to Stonar School

Stonar is a traditional British co-educational Independent Day and Boarding School, with boarding at its heart. Whether you are a boarder or a day pupil, each pupil can enjoy the vibrant, multi cultural boarding community with day pupils having the opportunity to stay over and join numerous boarders' trips.

Stonar is set in a safe, rural environment in close proximity to Bath. We are highly ambitious for our pupils and happiness and well being is every bit as important as academic progress. Each boarding house has its own distinctive identity, but all share a homely, inclusive, nurturing family atmosphere where pupils flourish. Pupils develop a strong sense of responsibility, confidence and understand the importance of caring for fellow pupils, their school and the wider world.

We've created this booklet to help you prepare for joining us, as well as being useful in your first few weeks as you settle into our routines. We know that starting in a new boarding house, whether you've boarded before or not, is a really exciting time but it's also quite normal to feel a little apprehensive.

Every new boarder will have a boarding induction on arrival and this continues through the first week. We will help you to settle, support you in making new friendships and learn all about boarding life, so that the transition is as smooth as possible for you.

There are going to be lots of new things and people but you will soon get the hang of things and start to feel at home here. This booklet will give you an idea of what to expect and answer frequently asked questions. We're really looking forward to meeting you soon!

Stonar Boarding Team



Meet the Houseparents

Each house has a dedicated live in Houseparent, Assistant Houseparent, a team of academic Tutors and Resident Assistants to ensure the highest pastoral care and organisation essential to the community and to every individual. In addition, Day Matrons work in Ganbrook and Hart.

Hart



Adam Izzard - Houseparent/ Head of Boarding

Mr Izzard graduated from Chichester University with an upper second-class BA Hons degree in Physical Education with Qualified Teaching Status. He joined Stonar in September 2023 as Hart Houseparent and he is also an important member of the Sports and PE Department, alongside his role as the Head of Rugby. Before joining Stonar, Mr Izzard coached his previous school to four national titles in hockey and a semi-final in the U15 NatWest Vase in rugby, in addition to coaching Kent U18's rugby side for 6 years.

Mr Izzard has worked in both grammar and independent schools and joined us after living in Kent for thirteen years, alongside his wife Andrea who was a Boarding Housemistress for twelve of those years. With vast experience of caring for individuals, Mr Izzard provides an atmosphere in which the pupils feel comfortable to be themselves, to stretch themselves without the fear of failure and to learn to support each other in all of their endeavours, whatever they might be. Hart House has a welcoming, friendly community, so that every pupil feels the benefit of the family environment they are a part of.

Mr Izzard lives in Hart with his wife Andrea whilst their two sons Joshua and Thomas study for their respective degrees at Loughborough University.

Miss Harris supports Mr Izzard in Hart as Assistant Houseparent.



Ganbrook

Elizabeth Addison – Houseparent



Mrs Addison graduated from Keele University with a BSC Joint Honours in Mathematics and Geography. After 15 months working as a Nanny in Outer London and Provence she then completed a PGCE at the University of Oxford. She has held a variety of academic and pastoral roles in schools around Wiltshire and now, when not in the boarding house, she teaches Maths in the Senior School.

Mrs Addison joined Stonar in September 2022 and believes that reliable routines, good communication and laughter are the key to a happy home. She ensures that Ganbrook is a nuturing, friendly, and fun boarding house which allows girls to grow, develop and express themselves as they make a sucessful journey through the school. Her experience of being with pupils away from their home includes taking them to a remote village in Gambia, experiencing some time far from 'normal'. Being able to encourage and guide boarders to be brave and confident; to be the best versions of themselves and sharing in all their achievements is a privilege Mrs Addison cherishes. With great teamwork and a can-do attitude she, and all the Ganbrook staff, create a positive boarding experience.

Mrs Addison lives in Ganbrook with her daughter Amelia. She loves singing with a choir, reading and taking nature walks. Her favourite city is Paris and top of her bucket list places to visit is Iceland.

Mrs Way supports Mrs Addison in Ganbrook as Assistant Houseparent.



York

Lisa Seward – Houseparent



Mrs Seward graduated from Chichester University with a BSc Hons and MSc in Sports and Exercise Science. She joined Stonar in September 2022 and is an integral member of the Sports Department.

Mrs Seward worked in secondary education and lived in Bath for over seventeen years, along with being an experienced Boarding Houseparent, before joining Stonar. She has created in York House a warm, welcoming home from home environment to really get to know members of the House to ensure they feel supported academically and pastorally.

Mrs Seward is passionate about ensuring a good range of experiences for boarders from all over the world to engage in, which creates a real sense of community spirit. She facilitates a balance of academic rigour alongside time to relax, unwind and have fun. This is what makes boarding at York so wonderful in preparing students for transition beyond Sixth Form study.

Mrs Seward lives at Stonar with her husband, Chris, son William, their cat Mog and rather adorable labrador Cass who is always keen for attention and food!

Miss Small supports Mrs Seward in York as Assistant Houseparent.

Contact Information for Parents and Guardians:

Houseparents

Houseparents have overall responsibility for overseeing their boarders' academic and pastoral wellbeing and work closely with each child's tutor.

Houseparents have one full day off during the working week and three weekends off a term. The houses are covered at these times by the Assistant Houseparent. Our Assistant Houseparents are very experienced and communicate regularly to house staff and academic tutors to ensure continuity. Please note that Houseparents also teach and can be hard to reach by phone during the school day, so emailing the house address is the preferable form of communication during this time.

Tutor / Mentor (Sixth Form)

Your child's Tutor / Mentor deals with general academic and pastoral queries for their pupils, but will liaise with the Houseparents to ensure information is shared.

Who to contact

It is important that Houseparents are included in all correspondence. Houseparents and Tutors/ Mentors work very closely as a team to support each child as an individual.

For general academic and pastoral queries: Email the child's Tutor/ Mentor, and CC the Houseparent
For medical queries: Email the Health & Wellbeing Centre, and CC the Houseparent, if appropriate
For boarding queries: Email the Houseparent

School Reception:	**+44 (0)1225 701740** **office@stonarschool.com**
Ganbrook House: House Parent – Elizabeth Addison Assistant Houseparent – Kate Way	**ganbrookhouse@stonarschool.com** **+44 (0)1225 701758 / +44 (0)7918 746327**
Hart House: House Parent - Adam Izzard Assistant Houseparent – Olivia Harris	**harthouse@stonarschool.com** **+44(0)1225 701785 / +44 (0)7918 746325**
York House: House Parent – Lisa Seward Assistant Houseparent – Emma Small	**yorkhouse@stonarschool.com** **+44 (0) 1225 701778 / +44 (0)7718865292**
The Health & Wellbeing Centre:	**medical@stonarschool.com** **+44 (0) 1225 701756**

The partnership between house staff and parents is vital and relies on communication and mutual confidence. If your child rings you and is upset, please encourage them to speak to one of the people mentioned above. We fully understand that it is very difficult to be away from your child, particularly if they have a problem. However, we are best placed to help your child should they need any support whilst at School.

Important people to get to know



Mr Matt Way

Head

Mr Way has been working in boarding schools for over 25 years and lives on site with his family. As the Head he is in charge of the whole school. Mr Way has three children and he enjoys walking and spending time at the beach with the family. Mr Way is a History teacher and he likes reading about history and politics, particularly 20th Century US politics. A keen sportsman, he also loves playing hockey, golf and cricket and following all sports.



Mrs Jo Worrall

Senior Deputy Head

Mrs Worrall joined Stonar in September 2022 and has been working in schools for over 18 years. As the Senior Deputy Head she is in charge of the day-to-day running of the School and overseeing the academic programme, as well as teaching PE. A talented netballer, Mrs Worrall enjoys working with her teams and coaching them to have both fun and success on court. Mrs Worrall is regularly in the boarding houses in the evenings and weekends and often stays onsite. She is a, therefore, a familiar staff member to all boarders.



Mrs Tina Tilley

Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Designated Safeguard Lead

Mrs Tilley has been working in boarding for over 20 years and has worked in boarding at Stonar since 2010. Mrs Tilley oversees the pastoral care of all pupils at Stonar and lives onsite with her family. She can often be found in one of the boarding houses in the evenings and at the weekend. Mrs Tilley is a PE teacher, holding a specialism in netball and athletics. In addition, Mrs Tilley leads the Safeguarding Team. The safety and wellbeing of our pupils is our primary responsibility and one taken very seriously for boarders and day pupils alike. The Safeguarding Team meets weekly to review active and ongoing causes of concern.



Sister Camilla Walter

Head of the Health & Wellbeing Centre and Lead Nurse

The Health and Wellbeing Centre lies at the heart of the School, both geographically and emotionally and is staffed by Registered Nurses with training in all aspects of young people's needs, triage, minor injuries, mental health and practice nursing providing complete professional care to all pupils. Sister Walter lives onsite with her family, her cats and the school therapy dog Snow.

Important people to get to know



Mr Joseph Barlow

Executive Chef

Mr Barlow joined in March 2024 having previously worked with the Royal Air Force, cooking for the soldiers on the ground to cooking for VIPs, including the Queen in 2019. He was deployed to the Falklands twice over the years and his last tour was in Darwin, Australia for a 6-week exercise. He is dedicated to providing healthy, home-cooked meals and exploring different cuisines from across the world.



Mrs Zoe Lang

Director of Stonar Equestrian

Mrs Lang joined Stonar in January 2025. She works closely with pupils, parents and house staff to ensure riding integrates seamlessly with our boarders' busy lives.



Mr Gregg Carter

Lead Caretaker

Mr Carter is the Lead Caretaker whose role within the school is to maintain the buildings and grounds. This includes regular safety checks on the water systems, emergency lights, fire alarms, and swimming pool. There are two Caretakers who live on site.



Mrs Emma Cooper

Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Cooper joined Stonar in September 2024 and in addition to teaching Physics, has a wealth of experience as Head of Sixth Form in her previous School. Mrs Cooper will regularly be found in Hart and York House, supporting the Sixth Form students, and organising plenty of fun social activities for them.

Travel

All travel requests must be made by completing a Travel Request Form, which is emailed from the Travel Co-Ordinator, each half-term, as well as available on the Boarding section of the website. Travel requests received after the submission deadline cannot be honoured.

Please pay particular attention to the start and end of terms. Timings are published in the online School Calendar, on the school portal and the website.

Start of Term

Boarders should arrive no later than 10.00pm, to prevent disruption to other pupils in the House. New boarders should arrive at 2.00pm at the start of the academic year.

End of Term

Boarders can stay on the Friday evening at the start of the half-term holiday, with airport shuttle buses departing Saturday morning. All boarders must depart by 12pm.

(i) Airport Transfer

The School can arrange taxi transfers to Heathrow, Gatwick, Standsted and Bristol Airports. At the beginning and at the end of each term, if there is enough demand, the School will arrange a minibus/coach service. A Travel Request Form will be emailed to boarders' parents for each holiday by the Travel Co-Ordinator. This should be completed in full and returned to the Travel Co-Ordinator. Please note, any travel outside normal holiday dates requires permission from the Headmaster before the Travel Co-Ordinator can proceed with making transfer arrangements. The School recommends that children aged 16 and under travel as Unaccompanied Minors and parents should make appropriate arrangements directly with the airline when the tickets are purchased. Please supply details and paperwork to the Travel Co-Ordinator so that escorted travel to the airport can be arranged; please note all escorted travel is at an additional cost.

Transport that is requested but not used will be charged for.

When booking flights, please remember to allow a minimum of four hours for European flights and five/six hours for long haul flights between when school officially ends and the flight departure time.

(ii) Rail Tickets

The Travel Office can purchase rail tickets at half-term and at the beginning and at the end of term. All tickets requested and purchased must be paid for. There may be an administration fee levied by the rail company, which will be passed onto you if tickets are cancelled or amended.

Use of Day Pupils' Transport by Boarders

Boarders may only be permitted to use Day Pupils' transport if agreed with their parent/guardian, Houseparent and subsequently the Travel Co-Ordinator. Usage will be charged accordingly per trip but only on the basis that there is a seat available.

The A to Z of Boarding

A

Absence

If you are away from School then your parents need to let the School know. Parents will need to contact the Houseparent or Reception and you must complete a pink form for any planned absences from boarding.

Activities

At the weekends the boarding staff will put on a whole range of activities. Boarders in Years 5 to 9 are expected to take part but everyone is always welcome, and encouraged, to join in. The weekend activities, offsite trips and socials for the term are shown in the School's online calendar so you can see what's coming up. There is an evening activity programme too, which is displayed in-house.

Atworth

This is the nearest village to the School and can be reached by the path that leaves the School from near York House. Pupils can go into Atworth as long as they are old enough and in the correct group sizes (as stated in the Offsite Boarders Options, available in the appendix and on display in boarding houses).

B

Bath

Stonar is very near to the beautiful city of Bath. Pupils in Years 5 to 9 can go into Bath when there is an organised trip, which happens most half-terms and can be seen in the calendar. Older years, and Year 9 in the Summer Term, may go into Bath so long as you arrange this with your Houseparent beforehand and complete the offsite form.

Bedding

We have a supply of good duvets and pillows for you as well as a choice of bedding, though pupils sometimes prefer to bring their own. If pupils decide to bring their own bedding, we advise bringing two sets. All beds are standard UK single size.

Bedtimes

Sleep is important! Therefore there are different bedtimes for each year group that get slightly later as pupils get older. Bedtimes are listed on the house noticeboards and at the end of this booklet. You'll be pleased to hear that at weekends bedtimes are slightly later than week nights!

Belongings

All valuables are to be placed in the lockable spaces provided for pupils. Rooms must be cleared of ALL belongings during all school holidays to allow for deep cleaning to take place, and to accommodate occasional holiday lets. Overseas boarders may leave their belongings in the boarding house suitcase store (see Storage).

Boarding Committee

This committee meets regularly and is chaired by the Head of Boarding. Representatives from each house are able to discuss weekend activities and boarding house developments, amongst other issues.

Breakages

We understand that accidents happen so please come and tell us if something breaks. We will ask for any maintenance requests at every house meeting so you have plenty of opportunities to let us know.

Buddy System

You will be given a "big brother" or "big sister" who will act as your buddy and be there to support you not only for your first few days, but for your whole time in boarding. They can provide help when you do not necessarily want to ask an adult. They will keep what you tell them confidential unless, of course, you are someone at risk and they will have to speak to an adult.

C

Calendar

The school calendar is available on the School portal and is an essential source of information, including upcoming trips and weekend activities.

Candles

These are not permitted.

Clothes

Whilst at School you will require school uniform and also home clothes to wear in the evenings and at weekends. Don't forget to bring something smart as well for that unexpected party or School event! Do not bring loads of clothes to Stonar as there is a limited amount of space in the dorms and you really won't need it all. All of the clothes, both uniform and home, must be fully named, with sewn-on name tags.

Computers and Tablets

There are several computer rooms that pupils can use in school. In addition there are computers in the boarding houses. Pupils may wish to bring their own laptop and / or tablet to school. Pupils can access the school internet on their mobile devices in agreement with the School's mobile device policy. Devices need to be configured to run on the school network and this is carried out by the IT Department.

Contact with Home

It is really important to stay in touch with your family and friends. Remember you can contact home after school but not during the house meeting and prep. We would not recommend speaking to family too close to bedtime or it can make you feel homesick and always remember to give good news.

D

Daybook

This is a staff communication and record keeping tool available on the School Portal. Your achievements and any sanctions will be recorded using Daybook.

Day Matron

Day Matrons support the Houseparents in the smooth running of the boarding house and in the day to day pastoral care of the boarders.

Dental and Optician Appointments

It is preferable that you visit your own optician and dentist for regular check-ups in the holidays. Any emergency appointments can be requested through the HWBC.

Discipline

There are always expectations that we have to follow in life and Stonar is no different in that it has a code of conduct and expectations. When behaviour falls short of our expectations or is disrespectful we may use a variety of strategies to support you and help you to learn from your mistakes. Persistent poor behaviour may result in a pupil being placed on the Behaviour Log or given a Gating Card.

Dorms / Rooms

At the beginning of term you will be assigned a dorm by your Houseparent. Sometimes pupils will be in the same dorm all term, but occasionally Houseparents may ask pupils to change dorms more frequently than this. We believe that boarding and communal living together teaches us great life skills and develops life-long friendships. Sharing allows new pupils to immediately form friendships and gain support from the start. Many of our dorms / rooms at Stonar are for two people per room, however we also have some great rooms of between three and six. These are normally used for younger pupils. The Sixth Form pupils will normally be in rooms of two, but there are some single rooms. None of our boarding rooms are ensuite.

E

Electrical Equipment

All electrical goods that you have at School are periodically checked by the maintenance department and a PAT test carried out to make sure that they are safe to use. All items need to conform to British Safety Standards and display the CE safety markings. You may have a bedside lamp, hairdryer / straightener and charger in your dorm. However the use of a mini fridge or cooking appliances in dorms is prohibited. These may be stored in the kitchen only with Houseparent permission. Occasionally, pupils use adaptors in their dorms. Please ensure only slab adaptors are used, no block adaptors are allowed. You are not permitted to have electric radiators or heaters, heated bed blankets, kettles, rice cookers, toasters, sandwich makers or irons.

Emails

Everyone, including staff and pupils, are given a School email address when they join Stonar which typically follows the format of: initial.surname@stonarschool.com.

Employment

Pupils in the Sixth Form are often keen to take on paid employment. Boarders are permitted to find paid employment; following written agreement between Head of Sixth Form and parents / guardian. Boarders must return to their boarding house before it is locked in the evening and must travel to and from their place of work by public transport, scooter / moped or car. Due to the nature of the lanes around Stonar it is not appropriate for pupils to travel by bicycle. Pupils will only be permitted to work if their academic studies remain unaffected. In the event of very poor weather conditions boarders will not be permitted to travel offsite.

Exeats

This is the term given to a weekend away from School. Stonar does not have formal Exeat weekends when the School is closed. You may request to visit family or friends at a weekend, however permission for this is required from your Houseparents, parents and the person you are visiting, with confirmation that a responsible adult over the age of 25 will be there.

- If exeat arrangements change, Houseparents should be informed immediately.
- We do not allow boarders to have weekends away in hotels or bed and breakfasts without the presence of a responsible adult over the age of 25.
- Boarders should ensure they have contact details for their Houseparent. If plans change or if they are unhappy about events, they should contact the Houseparent to make arrangements to return to School. We would rather this than a boarder feels at risk during an exeat.

Equal Opportunities

Stonar is an Equal Opportunities School and is committed to ensuring that it provides equality of educational opportunities that are free from unlawful and unfair discrimination, victimisation or harassment and in particular on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, cultural background, religious beliefs, linguistic background, gender, sexual orientation, special education needs and academic or sporting ability.

As a result, each pupil shall be regarded as an individual of equal worth and importance. Good relationships between all pupils with or without shared characteristics will be fostered.

F

Fire

If there is a fire at School then the alarm will sound and you must not go back into the house until you are told to do so. You will be told all about how to react to a fire alarm in your induction and you will have a fire drill practice each term. (Details of actions to take are displayed around the boarding house and in dorms).

Food

Pupils may like to bring some tuck into School. This is usually a mix of their favourite healthy snacks, as well as some sweets and crisps. This must be kept tidily in the tuck boxes supplied. You are not permitted to have more tuck than fits in the box! Perishable foods must not be stored in dorms. Hot food must only be consumed in the kitchen or common room.

Our Executive Chef liaises closely with the School Nurses about any dietary requirements such as intolerances or allergies. Our school menus are on our school portal, notice boards in the boarding houses and are emailed out to pupils weekly.

Food Allergies

We try to ensure pupils are allergy aware, and we aim to run a **NUT FREE** boarding house and school. Please remember not to knowingly bring in any products containing nuts. This does not guarantee a nut-free environment and therefore pupils with allergies should not be complacent while at School, as traces are found in a great deal of food items. For these reasons, boarding at Stonar may not be suitable for pupils with food allergies, depending on the nature and severity of the condition.

Supplements

Current clinical evidence suggests that the key consideration for young athletes should be their diet, making sure they are eating enough to maintain their training alongside ensuring a healthy balance of carbohydrates, protein, fresh vegetables, fruit and fats in moderation. Therefore, sports supplements are no substitute for a balanced, healthy diet and pupils will gain little from their use if they have not already optimised their hydration, diet, training and recovery practices. Pupils over 16 may only take sports supplements if their parents have filled out and submitted the Sports Supplements Agreement Form to the Director of Sport, indicating what sports supplements the pupil has in their possession. The School strongly discourages the use of caffeine based "energy drinks". These contain potentially harmful levels of caffeine and taurine and their use can have damaging side effects, especially in young people. Energy drinks are not sold in School tuckshops and are not to be consumed or possessed by pupils in Year 10 and below. More details can be found in the Sports Supplement and Energy Drinks School policy.

Food Committee

We run a Food Committee at the School, which enables representatives to share their thoughts on food options and menus with the Catering team.

G

Graduate Resident Assistants (GRA's)

GRA's are members of staff who work in boarding houses to support the Houseparents and work in School during the day. They are usually much younger than your Houseparent and are great people to talk to about anything that may be bothering you. If you have a horse at Stonar you may also meet the Equestrian Assistants who work at the yard during the day.

Green Book

The Green Book can be found in each boarding house book and must be completed before you go offsite for shopping or to restaurants. These books give the house staff all the information about where you are going, with whom and when you will be back. For details of where and when you can go offsite, please see the information included in the Appendix.

Guardians

Everyone whose parents live abroad must have a guardian in this country. This is someone you can go to at short notice if you are ill or need to catch early or late flights, as well as being someone you can spend holidays with if you do not wish to go home. You may also go to guardians in the rare event that there is a problem at School so it's a good idea to make sure your guardian does not live too far away!

H

Health and Wellbeing Centre (HWBC)

All boarders are introduced to our Lead Nurse, Sister Walter, who works in the HWBC. Sister Walter and the Houseparents will ensure all boarders are familiar with the care and services provided in the HWBC, as well as what to do if you are feeling unwell. There is a registered nurse on duty Monday to Friday from 8.15am to 5.30pm, from 8.30am to 12.30pm on Saturdays and on call in the evenings between 5.30pm and 10.00pm. At all other times we have staff on duty who are first aid trained.

All boarders are automatically registered with the School GP, who is based at Bradford on Avon Health Centre. The GP visits the School once a week, boarders can book appointments in the HWBC for the day the GP is in and the nurses can arrange a GP appointment on other days, if required.

Holidays

Term dates are available on the website and the online school calendar. The School is unable to accommodate pupils over the holidays (unless you are joining one of our Short Courses e.g. Stay@Stonar, Residential Riding Camp). We do not allow pupils to seek temporary accommodation away from adult supervision and emphasise that boarders must conform to these requirements.

Homesickness

It's a good idea to talk about this at home before you start the new term. Make a plan about how to deal with it – and let us help you! Some people find it easiest to leave it a few days before ringing home. You won't be the first or only person to be homesick and there are lots of us here who will be able to support you. It never takes long to start feeling like one of the Stonar family!

House Competitions

We expect all pupils to get involved in House Competitions as supporters or competitors. At the end of the year a trophy is awarded to the house that has accrued most points in the House Competitions.

House Shop

All the houses run a shop where pupils can buy tuck, stationery and toiletries. Check the house notice boards to see when the tuckshop is open. Houseparents will stock up on these relevant items, but are not expected to shop for and provide individual, specialist items.

House Meetings

House meetings are a chance to pass on messages and take place every evening after roll call.

House Prefects/ Head of House

The House Prefects and the Head of House help the house staff in the running of boarding houses. They are excellent role models.

I

Insurance

It is important to note that the School's insurance for personal effects is limited to fire and theft only. The School does not accept responsibility for the loss of personal property of pupils and items that are suspected as having been stolen have to be reported to the police to enable you to make a claim against your insurance. Parents are advised most strongly to take out their own insurance cover for personal effects of all descriptions. Sums of money are not covered by the School's insurance policy. We would advise that items of value are not brought to School, and that all personal possessions are marked clearly with the pupil's name so that they may be easily recognised.

Internet

Once pupils have signed the ICT Acceptable Use policy (included in the joining instructions and available on request) you can connect to the school Wi-Fi, though access to the internet is restricted by age. You will be able to access the internet using the school computers, the computers in boarding houses, and your own devices. The internet is turned off overnight!

K

Kitchens

Each house has a kitchen for you to use which is stocked with fruit, bread, butter, spreads, biscuits, milk, tea, coffee and hot chocolate. You do need to tidy up after yourself though!

L

Laundry

The School has a twice weekly laundry service which pupils in Years 5 - 11 can use. Check the house notice boards to find out when the laundry days are, as the laundry service runs on set days each week. Remember to name all items so they can be easily returned. Boarders are excused from wearing a blazer on the day it is being laundered. From Year 10 upwards, all boarders have the option to do their own laundry in the boarding house if they'd like and there's always the chance for everyone to do an emergency wash if you talk to your Houseparent. You can buy detergent from the house shops or from the shop in Atworth. Sixth Formers can use the School laundry service for uniform, bedding and towels if they wish. It is recommended for boarders to bring two laundry bags with them to help with storing laundry in between laundry days.

Lockable

You will be given somewhere you can lock things away. This is particularly useful for things like laptops and tablets.

Luggage

You should bring your belongings in a suitcase, which will be stored during term time and should not be kept in rooms. During the holidays you will need to empty your room so don't bring too much with you! (Overseas students see Storage).

M

Mail

All mail is delivered by the Post Office to the main school and it is then sorted into the different houses. Remember to include the name of your boarding house in the address! You can buy stamps and send mail from Reception. Boarders will open parcels in front of house staff in the office.

Meal Times

We are really lucky and are provided with great meals. Check the notice board or school email for this week's menu! Meals are served in the dining room, La Cantina.

Medicine

Any medication bought to School must be in its original packaging clearly labelled with your name, date of birth and instructions for administration. Boarders need to hand all medication (including homeopathic) to their Houseparent or School nurses. Medication will then be returned to those pupils who have permission to self medicate. All medication, for those who do not have permission to self medicate, will be kept in the locked cabinet in boarding houses and house staff will administer medication when you need it.

Mobile Phones

You are welcome to bring your device to School. You will need to register your mobile phone number with your Houseparent as this is really useful on trips. Phones are not permitted in School during the day, except for Year 11 upwards. All pupils, except for Sixth Formers, are required to hand in their mobile phones to the house staff before bedtime. Phones will be stored safely in the office overnight. If pupils don't abide by the rules their phone may be confiscated for a set period of time. Pupils are responsible for looking after all their devices so it is highly recommended that they are insured.

N

Name Tags

All clothing and belongings that you have at School must be named, ideally with a sewn on name. (The iron on ones come off in the wash!).

O

Overseas Pupils

Stonar pupils come from all over the world and speak many different languages. We ask that, whatever a pupil's first language is, English is spoken in all communal areas and during the school day.

P

Parties

If every pupil celebrated their birthday with large parties during the School year, we would struggle to function! We are not opposed to parties, celebrations or socialising, but hope to work with parents to ensure that the School is able to function and deliver a top-class education for your sons or daughters.

It is advisable that:

- Parties are held in the holidays
- If parties or celebrations occur, they take play in term time at the weekend and not during sports fixture time.
- The School will not support boarders attending parties during the week (Monday to Thursday).
- Adults need to be present at the party.

Passports and Permits

Having sought consent to do so during the admissions process, passports must be handed only to your Houseparent as soon as you return to School from any holidays or trips. Staff are required to keep a register of all passports held in School and also need to check visas for overseas pupils regularly.

Pink Forms (Boarders Absence from School)

These are found in the boarding house and must always be filled out by Wednesday evening before you go away for a weekend. These forms give the house staff all the information about where you are going, with whom and when you will be back. Permission must be given by Houseparents, parents/ parents of the person you are visiting. There must be a responsible adult over the age of 25 present.

Pocket Money

You will need some spending money whilst you are at School for trips, shopping or to buy tuck. You do not need to bring cash with you. Any cash brought to School that is held with the pupil is entirely at your own risk and its safekeeping is your responsibility. We do not allow pupils to use cash to pay for tuck shop purchases and only card payments will be accepted. Should your child not have their own bank account, organisations such as Hyperjar are an excellent option for remote parental money management. Families joining us from overseas should research their local options, but it may be possible to sign up for your own Hyperjar account using the school's boarding house address.

Policies

There are lots of School policies and both pupils and parents should read them to ensure that you all understand things like the code of conduct and School expectations. Key policies are available in full on the School website. If you have any questions, please speak to your Houseparent.

Prep

At Stonar, homework is called 'prep'. Pupils in the Senior School complete their prep every evening (except Friday) and on a Saturday morning. Pupils in Years 7-9 complete prep in a communal area and are supervised by members of staff. Pupils in Years 10 and above work in their bedrooms and are checked regularly by staff. If teachers report issues with the completion or standard of pupils' prep they may be asked to complete supervised prep.

R

Respect

We all live in this community and we must respect each other. Courtesy is expected at all times.

Riders

If you are a rider with a horse on loan or livery then you may need to attend to your horse before and after school. You will need to get to the yard when it opens in the morning at 7.15am. It is your responsibility to get yourself up in the morning to get there on time but don't forget to sign out of your house before you leave. Please see the Equestrian Handbook for more information.

Riding Kit

Riding kit must be purchased by parents and guardians, before riding lessons can begin. You should only wear your riding kit for your riding lessons or when you go down to the stables to look after your horse. At all other times you must wear your school uniform. Riding boots must not be worn anywhere inside.

Roll Call

This is the School name for a formal registration of pupils in the boarding house. All boarders must attend punctually, they are not optional but are a legal requirement to protect you. Roll calls are carried out at different times of the day. Monday to Friday the first roll call is before breakfast. Other roll calls are at supper (in La Cantina) and then during the House Meeting. At the weekends you will have roll calls in the mornings and throughout the day, the times of roll call are displayed on the house notice boards.

S

School Bounds

In the interest of your security, we ask you to respect the School expectations about 'out of bounds'. You should apply common sense when moving in and out of the School. Your safety is most important and we expect you to do the upmost to safeguard it. During your induction, areas that are 'out of bounds' will be made clear to you.

School Expectations

These are important so that we can all live together as a community. The School expectations are displayed on school noticeboards and can be found on the website.

Security

For your security, each house can only be accessed by a code entered into a key pad. This information is shared with pupils and staff but not widely. We know that parents will understand that it is important that they do not ask you for the code, or access the boarding house without being in the company of their child or a member of staff. The houses are alarmed overnight.

Signing In and Out

Whenever pupils leave the boarding house they are required to sign out. Similarly when pupils return to the house they will be expected to sign back in. This is so that the member of staff on duty will know where everyone is at any given time.

Sleepovers

Pupils in the Senior School sometimes have 'sleepovers' with their friends of the same gender in other rooms/boarding houses at the weekend. It's great fun but you must remember to seek permission from your Houseparent and other pupils in the dorm before this can occur.

Storage

At the end of each term and half-term pupils must clear their dorms and take home all belongings. Overseas pupils can store some of their belongings over these periods but space is limited usually only to two boxes / suitcases.

Swimming

We are fortunate to have a swimming pool here at Stonar. During nominated boarding activity slots the pool will be opened and a member of staff will be in attendance to supervise.

T

Takeaways

Sixth Form students may order one takeaway at the weekend, which will be at the students' expense. Hot food must be eaten in the kitchen or common room and not in your dorm.

Tidy Hour

Each house has a tidy hour every week, usually on a Sunday night, when pupils will be expected to tidy rooms / dorm, change bed linen and make the room / dorm ready for the forthcoming week.

Toiletries

If pupils run out of toiletries these can be purchased from the house tuck shops.

Tutor / Mentor (Sixth Form)

Every pupil has a form teacher, known as a 'tutor' or 'mentor'. They are the first point of call for both pupils and parents and will keep an eye on each tutees day-to-day progress at the School. They are the best person to address any issues to and they will be very happy to help.

U

Uniform

All pupils wear School uniform (including School PE and riding uniform). Full details of the uniform requirements can be found in the Uniform Handbook. Uniform must be purchased from www.schoolblazer.com before the first day of term. Delivery can be arranged direct to the School, so that is is available for when you arrive. Houseparents are not expected to order uniform; the responsibility for this is with pupils, parents and guardians. Standards regarding the wearing of uniform are enforced and pupils are expected to know what they can and can't wear to School each day.

V

Visitors – Pupils

As pupils get to know more and more pupils they may want to visit their friends in other boarding houses. Pupils visiting boarding houses must sign into / out of the house on the visitors board. Pupils visiting one another must not go into dorms in other houses unaccompanied but are always welcome in communal areas.

Visitors – Adults

For the pupils' safety adults are only granted access to residential areas of the boarding house and the School grounds with the explicit permission of the house staff, and only until it is time for the youngest year group to get ready for bed. In order to facilitate this, adult visitors to boarding houses are asked to report to the house office on arrival.

What To Do If You Have a Problem

Most people encounter occasional problems so it is important to know what to do if this is the case…

Share it! Don't keep it bottled up because there are lots of people here to help you find the right person to talk to. This might be the people below but if it is another member of staff this is fine; it's good to talk.

Consider the order in which to ring people. Lots of you understandably ring home first, which means your worried parents then call us and then we talk to you about it. However, it is often best to share your problem with a staff member first, as we are with you and able to help immediately.

We will do our best to help - a problem shared is a problem halved! Of course, you are always allowed to phone home when you are upset but please don't forget that there is help available all around you in the School.

Your Tutor / Mentor

They are the first point of call, especially for anything academic. They may refer more serious problems to the houseparent.

Your Houseparent

We know you well and are keen to help. Sometimes your tutor might ask us to help with serious problems but we are also very good at listening and can often solve little issues before they become big problems.

School Nurses

They are in the Health and Wellbeing Centre and are great people to talk to, particularly about anything medical.

Mrs Tilley, Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Mrs Tilley is available in her office during the day and spends time in boarding houses in the evenings and at weekends.

The Pastoral Lead

Mrs Russell can be found in her office or the Pastoral Hub.

Head of Key Stage 3 & 4 (Pastoral)

Mrs Carter teaches English and Drama in Key Stage 3 and 4.

Please also refer to the School's 'who I can talk to poster', which includes details of the School's independent listener.

Boarders' Kit List

Bedding and Laundry

We provide duvets and pillows for all pupils though some pupils sometimes prefer to bring their own. If pupils decide to bring their own bedding, we advise bringing two sets to fit a single bed, which is changed weekly. In addition, there are regular laundry days each week for uniform, towels and casual clothes. Pupils in Year 10 and above also have the option to do their own laundry in house (laundry detergent is available to purchase in the house tuck shop).

What to Bring - all items must be clearly labelled	
Casual clothes (not too much!)	Hairbrush / comb
Underwear	Hairdryer / straighteners (optional)
Pyjamas	Shoe cleaning kit
Bath and hand towels (2 sets)	Torch
Sliders / flip flops / slippers	Alarm clock
Smart clothes for formal events	Electrical adaptors for UK sockets
Dressing gown (optional)	Additional stationery (e.g. folders, post its)
Two laundry bags (optional)	School bag
Wash bag and toiletries	

Tablets / laptops: Pupils may bring laptops and tablets to School. All laptops will need to be registered with the IT Department and may be used in lessons with the teacher's permission. Laptops and tablets can be used in the boarding house and in study periods. For further information please see the IT policy on the School's website.

Medication: Any medication required must be declared on the pupil's Medical Form, provided as part of the joining instructions, and handed in to the Nurse / House parent on arrival, in the original packaging and labelled with the pupil's full name.

Heat pad: This is mandatory for anyone that brings a hair dryer / straightener to School. They are also sold in the house tuck shops.

Storage: At the end of each term and half-term pupils must clear their dorms and take home all belongings. Overseas pupils can store some of their belongings over these periods but space is limited usually only to two boxes / suitcases.

School Uniform: Please see the School Uniform Handbook for full details of the uniform and equipment required. We advise families that only one blazer is needed. However, we encourage 2 sets of kilts / trousers and at least 3 sets of jumpers and shirts / blouses.

Boarders' Week Day Schedule

Time		Activities	
7am		Pupils may leave for stables / pupils wake themselves up.	
7.45am		Roll Call in house and dorm check, as required. Sixth Formers do not have a morning roll call.	
7.45 - 8.15am		All pupils go to breakfast in the dining room.	
The School Day			
4.05 - 5.30pm		Pupils have free time in boarding house, if not in activities.	
5.30 - 6.30pm		Supper in dining room.	
Ganbrook & Hart House		**York House**	
6.30pm	Ganbrook and Hart House meeting to include roll call.	6.30 - 9.00pm	Quiet time to allow for academic study and an opportunity to contact home.
6.45 - 7.45pm	Prep for Senior Pupils. (6.45 - 7.45pm for Year 7) Supervised reading, activities, music practice and relaxing time for Prep boarders.	7.30pm 9.00 - 10.15pm	Roll Call Free time
8.15pm	Bedtime routine starts for younger pupils. Older pupils can take part in activities or spend time relaxing before their bedtime routine starts.	10.15pm	Bedtime routine starts.

Bedtimes

Year Group	**Lights Out: Sunday – Thursday** (Pupils should be in rooms 15 mins before lights out)	**Lights Out: Friday & Saturday** (Subject to good behaviour)
5 & 6	8.45pm	9-9.15pm
7	9.00pm	9.30pm
8	9.15pm	9.45pm
9	9.30pm	10pm
10	10.00pm	In own rooms: 10.30pm Lights out 10.30pm
11	10.15pm	In own rooms: 10.30pm Lights out 10.45pm
12 & 13	In own rooms: 10.15pm	In own rooms: 10.45pm

Appendix

Opportunities for Boarders to Leave School Site for Shopping and Meals Out

Pupils must ask their Houseparent for permission on each occasion and complete the green book. Boarders must sign out from house, and sign back in on their return.

Going offsite is a privilege which may be revoked by Houseparents if they have good reason to do so e.g. gating, behind with work, poor behaviour, parental request.

Boarders are permitted to go out of School with members of their family during the week, for a meal or to go shopping etc, however, if they are returning to boarding they must be in house by 'bedtime' or 10pm whichever is earlier.

	Atworth (& Lowdens at weekends)		Wadswick, Trowbridge, Melksham, Corsham, BOA			Bath (Bristol – 6th form only)
	After school	**Weekends**	**After school**	**Evenings**	**Weekends**	**Weekends**
Prep		Staff run trips only (always with staff)			Staff run trips only (always with staff)	Staff run trips only (always with staff)
Yr 7		T1&2 with staff T3 in groups of 3 Return by 18:00*			(groups of 3) Staff run trips only (always with staff)	(groups of 3) Staff run trips only (always with staff)
Yr 8	(groups of 3) Return by 17:45*	(groups of 3) Return by 17:45*			(groups of 3) Staff run trips only	(groups of 3) Staff run trips only
Yr 9	(groups of 2) Return by 18:00*	(groups of 2) Return by 18:00*			(groups of 3) T1 & T2 Staff run trips only T3 via booked Taxi Return by 18:00	(groups of 3) T1 & T2 Staff run trips only T3 via booked Taxi Return by 18:00*
Yr 10	(groups of 2) Return by 18:00*	(groups of 2) Return by 18:00*	(groups of 2) Friday only via Taxi Return by 18:00*	(groups of 2) Friday only via Taxi Return by 18:00*	(groups of 2) Saturday return by 20:00hrs* Sunday return by: 18:00hrs* Via Pre-booked taxi (or public transport in Term 3)	(groups of 2) Saturday return by 20:00hrs* Sunday return by: 18:00hrs* Via pre-booked taxi (or public transport in Term 3)
Yr 11	(groups of 2) Return by 18:00*	(groups of 2) Return by 18:00*	Friday only via Taxi (groups of 2) Return by 21:00*	Friday only via Taxi (groups of 2) Return by 21:00*	(groups of 2) Saturday return by 21:00hrs* Sunday return by: 18:00hrs*	(groups of 2) Saturday return by 21:00hrs* Sunday return by: 18:00hrs*
Sixth form	Return by 18:00* Also weekday lunchtimes until 14:00hrs	Return by 18:00* Also White Hart Friday & Saturday return by 21:45hrs*	Weekday lunchtimes also permitted until 14:00hrs Sunday – Thurs return by 20:00hrs*		Friday & Saturday return by 21:45hrs* Sunday return by 20:30hrs*	(groups of 2+ in Bristol) Friday evening & Saturday return by 21:45hrs* Sunday return by 20:30hrs*

- Pupils going off site using public transport, foot or bike, must be back on site before time denoted by * or dusk, whichever is earlier (Dusk: is defined as 15 minutes after published sunset times)
- Off-site permissions to Bath and Bristol include 4 hours at the destination plus travelling time
- Pupils are reminded that when they are offsite they are still representing the school and they should dress and behave accordingly
- Senior pupils may only go off-site via motorised transport with the express permission of their Houseparent / Assistant Houseparent, or SSLT

Stonar School Boarding Principles

Our Mission

At Stonar School, our mission is to equip each pupil with the skills and attitudes necessary to thrive academically and personally in a globalised world. Our boarding provision is designed to create a secure, nurturing, and stimulating environment where every boarder can reach their full potential, both academically and personally.

Boarding Structure

Boarding is available for pupils from Year 5 to Year 13, with pupils residing in one of three dedicated boarding houses on Stonar's picturesque rural campus. These houses foster a family-like atmosphere, enabling pupils to feel part of a close-knit community while also belonging to the wider school. Boarders benefit from excellent facilities, the dedication of staff, and a warm, inclusive environment that values respect, camaraderie, and mutual support.

Each boarding house offers a "home away from home," encouraging a sense of responsibility and consideration for others. Boarders gain a strong sense of belonging, loyalty, and companionship. The allocation of new boarders to houses is managed by the Director of Admissions and Marketing in collaboration with the Head of Boarding to ensure an equitable distribution of talents, interests, and nationalities. This process aligns with the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools, ensuring fairness and inclusivity.

Our boarding houses are equipped with modern facilities, including communal kitchens, ICT resources, and inviting common areas with comfortable seating, entertainment systems, and Wi-Fi. Pupils are encouraged to personalise their spaces, fostering a sense of ownership and comfort. While each house retains unique characteristics based on its layout and leadership, all operate under a consistent framework of care and organisation, ensuring equity and shared standards across the community. Accessibility considerations for pupils with disabilities or specific needs are incorporated to ensure inclusivity.

Flexible Boarding

Stonar's flexible boarding approach allows day pupils to stay overnight, fostering integration and strengthening the vibrant boarding atmosphere. Bookings can be made by emailing the Head of Boarding (a.izzard@stonarschool.com), with priority given to pupils participating in school activities or events. This initiative enriches the family-like environment and strengthens connections across the community. A clear and transparent process ensures fairness and prioritises pupils with the greatest need.

Pastoral Care and House Management

Houseparents, supported by Assistant Houseparents and house tutors, provide a welcoming and supportive environment. They uphold the principle that each pupil is an individual and tailor their approach accordingly. House staff lead by example, fostering mutual respect and maintaining a good-humoured, fair, and consistent atmosphere. Clear boundaries ensure smooth operations, with pupils receiving encouragement, rewards, and constructive guidance.

The safety and well-being of all boarders are paramount. Stonar School operates under a robust safeguarding framework, with all staff trained to identify and address any concerns promptly. Clear procedures are in place, ensuring boarders feel safe, supported, and valued. Regular training updates ensure staff are equipped to manage safeguarding concerns effectively, including online safety.

Boarders are actively encouraged to voice their ideas and concerns through nightly house meetings and boarding committee representation. This participatory approach fosters a culture of respect and inclusivity, where pupils feel heard and valued.

New boarders benefit from a structured induction programme, including buddy systems, welcome events, and orientation activities. This ensures a smooth transition into boarding life, fostering a sense of belonging from the outset. Key induction milestones and activities are clearly outlined to ensure consistency and effectiveness.

Opportunities for Leadership and Growth

As pupils progress, they are entrusted with greater responsibilities and encouraged to take on age-appropriate leadership roles within the house and the wider school community. These include positions such as House Captains, Mentors for younger students, and members of the Boarding Committee. Such roles promote personal growth, self-reliance, and confidence, while enabling boarders to contribute positively to the school community.

Activities and Enrichment

An extensive range of sports fixtures, coaching sessions, and evening and weekend activities ensures that boarders can pursue diverse interests. Activities are carefully planned and published in the school's online calendar, allowing pupils and parents to plan ahead. The Equestrian Centre is open on weekends, offering riders opportunities for training and competition at local and regional levels.

Boarders also participate in a variety of activities after school and at weekends designed to promote personal development and well-being. These include mindfulness workshops, yoga sessions, team-building type activities, and life skills activities such as cooking afternoons and financial literacy workshops. Metrics to measure the effectiveness of these activities, such as pupil feedback and participation rates, are reviewed termly.

Pastoral Support Services

Pastoral care at Stonar emphasises a balance between personal responsibility and guided support. The Deputy Head (Pastoral) oversees the Pastoral Care Team (PCT), which meets weekly to review pupil progress and coordinate targeted interventions. Additional pastoral support is provided by the HUB, a professional school counsellor, and a trained Pastoral Intervention Practitioner.

New boarders and their families are introduced to the available pastoral resources, ensuring they feel supported from the outset. Pupils are encouraged to access these services as needed, with the assurance of confidentiality and respect. A regular review of pastoral care provisions ensures they remain effective and meet pupil needs.

Parental Engagement and Communication

Stonar recognises the importance of a strong partnership between school and home. Parents are encouraged to maintain regular communication with their child's Tutor or Houseparent, with direct access to Senior School leaders available for any significant concerns. Parents receive regular newsletters ('Stonar Matters'), boarding reports, and updates on their child's progress. This open and transparent approach ensures a collaborative effort to support each pupil's well-being and development. Opportunities for parental involvement, such as events or committees, are actively encouraged to strengthen this partnership.

Supporting Documentation

This statement should be read alongside related policies and information available on the Stonar website or upon request, including:

- Mission Statement
- Boarding Handbook
- Code of Conduct and Pupil Expectations
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Conflict Resolution Policy (including Anti-Bullying Strategy)

Monitoring and Evaluation

The boarding provision is subject to regular review through pupil surveys, staff feedback, and compliance checks against the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools. Feedback from these reviews informs ongoing improvements to ensure the highest standards are maintained.

For further information, visit the 'Boarding' section of our website or contact the School Office directly.

For further information contact

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