



# HOUSE HANDBOOK

2024-25

A red flag with a white cross on a white background, hanging from a pole. The word "WELCOME" is overlaid in white text. The flag is set against a background of a white balustrade and a wooden ceiling with a circular emblem featuring a cross.

WELCOME

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# WELCOME FROM THE HOUSEMASTER

Welcome to Dale House.

It is an honour for me to have been appointed as Housemaster of Dale, especially as an Old Barnardian and former Dale boy myself. I know firsthand how important your Housemaster is in your Barney journey and it is a privilege for me to support you in this.

As a member of the PE Department, I am passionate about competition and value every boy wanting to represent the House, whether in achieving Merits for academic work or in the various House competitions. My aim for every boy in Dale House is to develop their confidence, resilience and self-belief by stepping out of their comfort zones, working together and encouraging each other.

The Dale House tutors and Prefects are on hand to support you every step of the way in this journey and we are looking forward to welcoming and working with you in the coming years.

Best wishes,

Joe Pickering







## A BARNEY EDUCATION

At Barney we believe in character education. Underpinning our academic and pastoral programmes are four key pillars that we consider to be at the core of a Barney Education. These pillars are supported by twelve values that we consider vital to every young person's journey through Barney.

The language of these values is well-established within the School; you will hear about them in Assemblies, House Meetings and Tutor Meetings from teachers, your own peers and visiting speakers.



## FEEL

*How you feel  
within*

Gratitude

Courage

Resilience



## BE

*Who you are &  
how you behave*

Humility

Integrity

Humour



## SHARE

*How you interact  
with people*

Compassion

Service

Leadership



## GO

*How you learn and  
make progress*

Curiosity

Endeavour

Creativity

## OUR HISTORY

Dale House was created as a result of increasing numbers of day pupils in Teesdale House, which was divided to create Dale and Tees House. Dale House lies towards the rear of the main school building. Pupils are proud to be a member of Dale House. As they progress through the school they certainly see it as their House and strong and long lasting friendships are forged.



# HOUSE TUTORS

Tutors oversee your child's day to day academic and pastoral life and are the first port of call for any queries. Each morning tutors will meet their tutees for registrations, and throughout the week, as part of the Head Space programme, there is a group tutor time, as well as opportunities for individual meetings.

Tutors have regular contact with home through phone calls, emails and parents' evenings. At strategic points in the year, your child engages in regular target setting sessions and reviews with their tutor and you will have an opportunity to discuss these with tutors during parents' evenings. Tutors work very closely with the HSM in order to raise and resolve any issues relating to pupils' pastoral or academic performance. Any repetitive or significant pastoral, behavioural or academic concerns will be dealt with by the HSM.

If your child is absent from school due to illness, please inform the tutor and HSM by 8.40am.



## PUPIL POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Pupils have ample opportunity to take on responsibility throughout their time in the House.

Each year, a member of the Upper Sixth is chosen to be the Head of House. A Deputy (sometimes Deputies) and House Prefects will be chosen to support them. These positions generally go to pupils who are wholehearted, trustworthy, approachable, and who set a good example. These senior pupils are expected to take on responsibility for the organisation of House practices and are expected to be role models for younger pupils.

As experienced members of the House, those in positions of responsibility have a varied role; this could range from being on duty in the House, disseminating information to other pupils or being the first point of contact for a pupil who has an opinion they wish to channel or a problem they feel they would prefer to air with another pupil.

In addition to these senior roles, pupils from across all year groups have the opportunity to volunteer for different committees. These include Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Peer Supporters (Sixth Form), Diversity Focus Group and Food Committee.

Each September hustings are held for pupils who wish to represent their year group on the School Council. A whole School election then takes place and the School Council members for that year are announced in the Headmaster's Assembly.







# HOUSEKEEPING

## **House Subs**

Each pupil is charged £15 once a year to help fund the House. This is put on the School bill. The money is used to help make the common room a more homely environment, and to fund the much loved tutor trips. It is also used for awards and to help provide additional material for House activities.

## **Security**

During your free-time at school you may relax in one of the 3 Common Rooms in Dale House: the Junior Common Room for Years 7, 8 & 9, Senior Common Room for Years 10 & 11 and the Sixth Form Common Room.

All these rooms contain lockers in which you may store your books and other items. They can be secured by a padlock, which you must purchase. If you wish, you may leave the spare key in the Dale House Office in case you forget your own.



# DAY-TO-DAY

## **Registration**

Registration takes place each morning by House tutors and is completed between 8.30-8.45am and then again by teachers at the end of lunchtime. This is recorded electronically in a central School database, an absentees list is produced after each registration session closes, which is after 8.50pm and 1.50pm each day. If a pupil is absent from School, their parents/guardian must ring the House Office or send an email before 8.40am. If a pupil arrives late to School, they should register themselves at the General Office.

## **Wednesday House Meetings**

House meetings are held each Wednesday at 8.55am. The HSM leads the meeting. Each meeting starts with School notices and then there is often a review of the previous week, followed by preparation for the following week. Weekly awards are given to those who have been nominated by pupils and staff. Nominations are for those who demonstrate characteristics such as: kindness, compassion, leadership, selflessness, and for those who have experienced successes both in school and through activities outside of school. Weekly merit prizes are also given to those that gain the most merits in the Juniors, Inters and Seniors categories. Finally, the House meeting finishes with a “Pentatalk” on the weekly theme delivered by one of our Sixth Formers.





# HOUSE EVENTS

## **House Service/Celebration**

This is held biennially to celebrate the pupils of the House, their achievements, our House history and to showcase some of the talents of our current pupils. All members of the House, their parents and former members of House are invited to attend.

## **House Competitions**

House competitions cover a vast array of interests, both sporting and non-sporting in order to encourage as many pupils as possible to take full part. While the majority of House competitions take place internally on Wednesday afternoons throughout the School year, please look out for invitations to certain House events which parents may attend, such as the Barney Run and Sports Day.





## REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

Pupils are awarded merits/distinctions for good work and strong assessments (the very best are given a Headmaster's Certificate) and these are celebrated in House meetings. 'Good Egg' awards are given termly for good conduct and acts of kindness are also given and announced at Nailing Up. Weekly merit prizes are awarded in Dale House. A number of termly and yearly trophies are also awarded in Dale House, some recipients are chosen by the pupils, some by the House Monitors and some by Tutors. House trophies have been donated by departing and former pupils; such gifts are always gratefully received.

If academic progress is below a satisfactory standard, the tutor may instigate an academic report for a short period. This requires teachers to comment upon work and/or conduct on a lesson-by-lesson basis and is to be taken home for countersignature each day. The Tutor reviews the report each day and will contact home if they see the need for more dialogue. More serious infringements of school rules would be referred to the Deputy Head (Pastoral). Parents may also be invited to a meeting to discuss the progress of their son.

Sanctions for inappropriate behaviour in School are not common. Mundane matters are quickly dealt with by House Tutors. More serious matters should be referred to the Housemaster or the Assistant Housemistress. Serious infringements must be referred to the Senior Management Team.

## CONTACT WITH HOME

Routine home contact will happen via assessments, reports and parents' evenings. The Housemaster or Tutors generally make phone calls to address other issues as they arise. Parents are encouraged to call the Housemaster if they have any issues they wish to address. Parents should expect a call from their son's Tutor if they have any immediate concern about attendance, lateness and academic progress. Parents can also contact Tutors to request a meeting in person or on the phone.

There is a direct telephone line to the Housemaster's study (01833 696036) which parents and guardians are encouraged to use freely to discuss any aspect of their child's education. The Housemaster is in the House Office by 8.10am most days, between 4pm and 5pm most days and a member of staff will be there at lunchtimes (1.20pm-1.40pm). The Housemaster can also be contacted by email at **dale@barneyschool.org.uk**. Parents and guardians are welcome to arrange meetings with the Housemaster and/or their son's Tutor at any point throughout the term.

The school sends out a weekly email with any pertinent letters that staff wish parents to read.

**We hope this gives you a flavour of life in Dale House, and excites you as you prepare for life at Barney. The key thing to remember is that there is always someone on hand to help - that is very important to us.**











BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL