

AMDG



STONYHURST ST MARY'S HALL

ABOUT BOARDING AT STONYHURST

INTRODUCTION

To board at SMH is to be part of a big family and we are sure you will soon find it a home away from home. There are lots of questions that you might have and we hope many of them are answered here. It is important to remember that we are a community of people who help one another and who enjoy spending time together, as well as learning to be independent. We know you will be very happy here!

Mr and Mrs Stokes are your House parents. They live with their son **Arthur** and their daughter **Elsie** next to the boys boarding gallery. Mr Stokes can usually be found in the Boarding Office at the top of the main stairs.

Mr Hughes, Mr Flanagan and Mrs Miller are your Assistant House-parents. They can usually be found on the Boarding Gallery.

There is a signing in and a signing out book outside the Boarding Office and there is always a member of staff around to help you. Passports and valuables should be handed in here, together with any tuck you receive. Your name will be printed on your dormitory door and on your bed.

A gap tutor will help you to take all your things to your dormitory upon your arrival on your first day. If you have any worries about uniform, pyjamas or anything else, just ask any member of staff to help you. If you are hungry in the evening you can go to the boarding kitchen for a snack.

If you are worried about your school work or studies or revision before exams, help is always on hand from any of our experienced boarding staff to help explain. If you would like to contact home just ask one of the boarding staff to show you where the computers are for you to e-mail or Skype home. There is a public phone on the boys and girls gallery and your mobile phone will be given to you in the evening after you have had your shower and brushed your teeth.

Some of the things our current International Boarders advise you to be prepared for are:

1. **The weather.** It can be cold and wet in Lancashire—there's no doubt about it! Make sure you wrap up warm — bring a thick coat and plenty of thermal layers — especially for sport!
2. **The food.** We are lucky enough to have some fantastic chefs here and they will usually have a go at cooking your family favourites if you ask for them — but it won't taste the same as at home — enjoy the differences!
3. **The people.** You will be sharing your life with children who are used to doing things very differently to you. We have boarders from many different countries all living under one roof. Be open-minded, tolerant and understanding of the needs of others and they will do their very best to understand you and help you too!
4. **Rules and routines.** At home you're probably used to doing things when you want to. Here there is a routine and you'll be expected to do the same thing at the same time as everyone else. Bedtime might be earlier than you're used to, for example, but the day may start earlier, too.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT AT HOME BEFORE ARRIVING

You will find boarding easier if you've had a chance to chat with your parents or guardian about the following things; Make sure you really understand what you and your family would like you to get from your boarding experience and how they can help you to feel supported and make the most of your time with us:

1. **The need for you to board.** Young people board for all sorts of reasons. You may be boarding in order to learn English, or because Saint Mary's Hall is a Jesuit School and your parents are interested in you growing up with a strong moral foundation in the Ignatian tradition. They may wish to help you become an independent learner, or develop your sporting or academic potential. If you know some of the many things there are for you to gain from your boarding life, you will be happier, and find it easier to achieve your targets.
2. **Communication with home.** It is normal to feel homesick—especially in the first few weeks. If you bring a mobile phone with you, you will be allowed to use it after you have showered and cleaned your teeth in the evening. Some children find it easier to arrange to call home only once or twice a week, so that they can concentrate on joining in with all the activities and getting to know new friends. Others prefer to email or use Skype in the ICT sessions each evening. Make sure you know the time difference when you call home, so that someone will be there to take your call. Remember that usually things feel much better after a couple of weeks, when you have settled in, know the routine and have made new friends.
3. **Academic and other expectations.** Our school motto is "Quant Je Puis" which roughly translates to "As much as I can". There will be a lot for you to adjust to at first. Make sure you have a set of achievable goals you have discussed with your parents—perhaps, to achieve good friendships in the first term, and good results in class in the second. Don't expect to achieve too much too soon.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I bring my own bedding?

Bedding is provided but pupils may bring their own duvet, duvet cover and pillow cases.

What type of belongings can I bring?

Boarders may bring in a few personal belongings, such as teddy bears, toys and pictures of home and family to decorate their dormitories and help them settle in.

How do I make sure my ideas are heard?

It is important to us that you feel you can contribute to how things happen in boarding and that you know your suggestions are valued and will be listened to seriously. We have a boarding committee elected from the boarders by the boarders. There are various ways you can get your ideas heard:

1. Talk to Mr Stokes, Mrs Stokes, Mr Hughes, Mrs Miller, Mr Flanagan or any member of staff about your idea.
2. There is a Comments and Suggestions Box outside the Boarding Office—write your idea down and post it!
3. Raise an idea at one of the general Boarding Meetings— either in the evening at 7.00 pm, or on Saturday afternoons.
4. Talk to one of the Boarding Committee members so that they can raise the idea for you at one of their meetings.
5. Every week you meet up with a boarding gap tutor to discuss issues affecting boarding and explain how your week has gone. Write a comment on your weekly self-evaluation form.
6. E-mail your idea to Mr Stokes at k.stokes@stonyhurst.ac.uk or to another member of staff.
7. Write your idea on a piece of paper and slide it under the Boarding Office door.



Remember that lots of ideas boarders have raised are already in operation at SMH. The boarders' kitchen, new bean bags in the Boys' and Girls' sitting Rooms, permission to change into home clothes on a Wednesday afternoon and pancakes for breakfast all happened as a result of boarders asking for improvements — your ideas can help to make everyone's lives better!

Can I bring my own computer with me?

Rudiments {Yr 8} pupils **only** may bring their own laptops or tablets for their academic work and for use during leisure time. Laptops and tablets should be marked with the pupils' name and school number, carefully looked after and not used after lights out. The ICT suite is available every evening for all boarders to use whether sending an email or speaking to parents via Skype, which we will help to set up. Every boarder will be given a password to access their own personal account. All pupils are expected to read, sign and follow the school's e-safety policy.

What is the evening routine and what time is my bedtime at?

The exact times for activities, shower, quiet reading and lights out at bedtime depend upon age, as follows:

Prep

To showers:	19.50
Quiet reading in bed	20.15
Lights out	20.30

Elements

To showers:	20.00
Quiet reading in bed	20.30
Lights out	20.45

Figures

To showers:	20.15
Quiet reading in bed	20.45
Lights out	21.10

Rudiments

To showers:	20.30
Quiet reading in bed	21.00
Lights out	21.30



When can I wear my home clothes and what should I bring?

Pupils will need sufficient home clothes and shoes for free time in evenings and at weekends. We suggest that you also bring your Pyjamas; a dressing gown; slippers and hand & bath towels for bedtime.

Who does my laundry?

St Mary's Hall provides a laundry service and you will have your laundry collected weekly and returned within two days. It is important that small items are sent in laundry/sock bags and that **all clothes are clearly labelled with your name and school number**. Unmarked clothes can be mislaid and there is no guarantee they will be returned to the owner. Games kit, towels and bedding *must* go to the school laundry. Any dry cleaning or laundry charges for items left at school will be charged to the pupil's account.

Will I need pocket money?

Pocket money is not required at St Mary's Hall. Mr Stokes arranges for all of the boarders to have the same amount of spending money on weekend trips. If any extra is required for sports fixtures or exeats with friends then this can be taken out of the accounts department and added to the school bill. Boarders may keep up to £5 in their lockers from left over trips but any excess money must be handed in and kept in the boarding office safe. The school will accept no liability for any money which is not handed in and signed for.

How can I personalise my room and do I have to keep it tidy?

Pupils are allowed to personalise their dormitories with photos and pictures etc. but these must be attached to pin-boards or wooden surfaces: blu-tack and nails must not be used on the walls.

Boarders must endeavour to keep their rooms tidy and clean and they are expected to co-operate with our domestic staff who work extremely hard.

Every morning and evening each dormitory receives a tidy score out of 5, this score is added up at the end of the week with the winning dorm along with tuck on a Saturday will receive a fizzy drink to enjoy too! At the end of each term the overall tidiest dorm will get to choose an outing of their choice, so it is worth keeping an extra tidy dorm!

Trunks and suitcases can be stored in the attic for when the end of term approaches or alternatively can be taken home.

What are the rules?

The rules in the boarding house are designed to ensure everyone feels safe and stays well and happy. It can sometimes feel difficult to live in a community where people come from very different backgrounds and cultures, so we need to remember to be understanding and considerate of one another.

Although the school rules in the Family Handbook Code of Conduct always apply, we like things to be a bit more relaxed and homelike up in boarding. Stars are given for good behaviour, and every time you get five stars, you get double tuck! You can get a stripe if you break the rules, and lose tuck or get another sanction. Generally the rules to remember are:

1. Please respect one another, showing kindness in words and deeds.
2. Please walk, rather than run, so that you don't bump into others, or fall over.
3. Please try to speak at a reasonable volume, rather than shouting.
4. Please respect the school buildings and facilities, as well as all personal property belonging to others.
5. Please try to be on time for school, snack, showering and quiet reading.
6. Make sure that you are quiet during silent reading and after lights out—people need quiet time and sleep.
7. Please don't leave your bed after lights out or before wake up— (unless you need to use the CP)
8. No tuck in the dormitories —We do get tuck twice a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, as well as on special occasions. Hand in any tuck you get in the post or have left over after a trip out.



What happens on travelling days?

Travelling by car

Parents can collect their child anytime from **4pm** on the final day of term for the start of each holiday. All boarders should be returned back to St Mary's Hall before **6pm** the day before school starts at the end of each holiday.

Travelling on the train

Your parents should send any booking requirements for travelling on the train to k.stokes@stonyhurst.ac.uk in advance of each upcoming holiday. Train tickets can be purchased through the school and the cost can be added to the school bill. Unless accompanied by an older sibling we will send an escort down to accompany you on the train, to wait with you until you are collected by you parent/guardian. There will be an escort charge for this service {cost of return ticket}, however we see this as paramount for your safety on your journey as we are liable for the safety of each child until they are collected by a parent/guardian.

There is a direct train from Preston to London Euston which takes approx 2hrs. This is available at the end of every school term.

Travelling by plane

Parents should send all booking information/flight details/boarding passes to k.stokes@stonyhurst.ac.uk ahead of the upcoming school holiday.

If you are under age and must fly as an **Unaccompanied Minor** then your parent must forward all necessary information/UM forms required as early as possible. We provide an escort service where a linked adult/s representing St Mary's Hall will accompany you to the airport and wait with you until the airline has taken over responsibility. This charge can be added to the school bill.

Your parents can book your flight for you or may wish to book it with Althams Travel Agency, a company that St Mary's Hall has been working closely with for many years now. Contact details can be found below:

David Fielding
Althams Travel Services Ltd
Riverside Offices
Netherwood Road
Burnley
BB102AN
Tel:01282446680
Fax:01282831535
e-mail - business.travel@althams.co.uk

Travelling to Madrid

As we have a number of Spanish pupils travelling together, we provide an escort service where linked adults representing St Mary's Hall accompany the children to the airport and fly with them from Liverpool to Madrid on the outward journey and will be in Madrid to bring the children back to Liverpool and St Mary's Hall at the start and end of each school holiday. It is important that your parents contact Althams Travel to link your name to that of the escort if you use this service. The cost of this service will be added to the school bill.

It is essential that the children's behaviour is at its best at all times of the journey to enable the escort/s to carry out their responsibilities. Poor behaviour from a child may result in the airline refusing service to the group. We will therefore be unable to provide this service to any child who behaves unacceptably.

At the beginning of every term/half term an email will be sent out to all parents with the above information on requesting that replies are received as soon as possible thereafter. This way any late arrangements involving travel can be dealt with at an early stage. If your parents have any problems dealing with your travel arrangements they can contact Kirk Stokes, Head of Boarding. k.stokes@stonyhurst.ac.uk mobile: 07921472160

Can I leave early?

Pupils are not allowed to leave early or arrive late unless in exceptional circumstances, for which The Headmaster's permission must be obtained in advance.

Do I need to sign in and out when travelling?

Day pupils register downstairs in Reception but boarders need to be signed in and out on the form located outside the boarding office. Any adult collecting on behalf of a parent or guardian needs to be authorised by them to do so before the child can be collected.

Can I send a trunk or suitcase ahead of my arrival?

If you wish to send a trunk or suitcase direct to St Mary's Hall, please contact the School Office tel: 01254 827016 or email: t.ashton@stonyhurst.ac.uk

When can weekly boarders go home? When do they need to be back by?

Weekly boarders may go home immediately after school on a Saturday if they are not required for sporting practice or fixtures. If you are required for sport, you should check when your practice or fixture finishes and then may depart, returning either on Sunday evening from 17.30 onwards, or on Monday morning by 08.20. The adult in charge of collecting and dropping off needs to sign you in and out on the form located outside the Boarding Office.