



# STONYHURST

**“Stonyhurst” (Stonyhurst College, Stonyhurst Saint Mary’s Hall) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

## **Teaching at Stonyhurst**

### **What sort of school is Stonyhurst?**

Stonyhurst is a Catholic, HMC (Headmasters’ and Headmistresses’ Conference) independent boarding and day school for boys and girls from 3 to 18. At Stonyhurst College, we have about 460 pupils aged 13-18, over two thirds of whom are boarders. At Stonyhurst St Mary’s Hall, our adjacent preparatory school, there are about 230 pupils aged 3-13.

There are increasingly strong links between the two sections of Stonyhurst, with shared responsibility for the KS3 curriculum. Almost all of the pupils in Rudiments (year 8) at St Mary’s Hall transfer each year into Lower Grammar (year 9) at the College. They make up about half of the 13+ intake.

### **The history of the College**

Stonyhurst has a fascinating heritage, being one of the oldest Jesuit Colleges in the world. It was founded in St Omers, northern France, in 1593, and moved to its present site in Lancashire’s beautiful Ribble Valley in 1794. The original quadrangle at the centre of the College is part of a 16<sup>th</sup> century mansion, donated to Stonyhurst at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Thomas Weld of Lulworth. Throughout the years of religious persecution in England, Stonyhurst educated boys from Roman Catholic families. In 1996, Stonyhurst became fully coeducational, and today we educate boys and girls from Catholic families, and also those of other denominations. Though there is a small community of Jesuits at Stonyhurst, the school has had a lay Headmaster for over 20 years now.

### **What is the Ribble Valley like?**

Stonyhurst is set in stunning countryside, near the Ribble and Hodder rivers and the beautiful Trough of Bowland. Manchester, however, is only about an hour away by road or rail. The market town of Clitheroe is 4 miles away, and we are 12 miles from the city of Preston. The Lake District can be reached in about an hour, and the Yorkshire Dales are even closer.

### **Why work in an independent boarding school?**

Stonyhurst offers a full seven day-a-week programme; opportunities for extra-curricular and pastoral involvement in the life of the school are therefore considerable. This means that the comparatively short terms are intensive and hugely rewarding. There is a true sense of community and relationships between pupils and their teachers are strong. All teachers are expected to contribute to pastoral care and/or the boarding life of the school.

There are also, of course, the particular advantages enjoyed by independent schools and their staff: a disciplined environment, the opportunity for teachers to express their passion for their subjects, good resources, smaller class sizes and greater professional freedom.

**What happens outside the classroom?**

At Stonyhurst, we emphasise the importance of developing the whole person. There are wide opportunities to get involved in the extracurricular programme, and all members of the teaching staff are expected to contribute to it.

**Does Stonyhurst offer the opportunity for staff to develop professionally?**

We hold professional development to be of the utmost importance and have an annual appraisal system and a generous training budget for this purpose. Far from being an out-of-touch rural idyll, we have a finger on the pulse of current methods and materials. Since September 2013, Stonyhurst has offered the International Baccalaureate Diploma alongside A Levels. Many staff now have the opportunity to develop their professional experience by teaching the IB as well as, or instead of, A Levels.

**What makes Stonyhurst special?**

It is the College's Jesuit ethos, and its sense of community, which set Stonyhurst apart. We urge our pupils to do as much as they can for other people following the example of Jesus Christ, 'the man for others'. We believe that the importance we attach to the care of our pupils, and the well-being of our staff, is second to none.

**Does Stonyhurst reward its staff well?**

We have our own teachers' salary scale, and most teachers also receive a Stonyhurst allowance. Teachers at Stonyhurst are members of the teachers' pension scheme. We also offer a fee remission scheme to allow Stonyhurst teachers' children to attend the school. Staff children are, of course, subject to the same admissions requirement as any other prospective pupil. Some of our staff live in school accommodation on site, for the better performance of their duties.