



## Gransha Academy - BHS Junior Challenge Awards “Pony Stars”

*Kirsty Jackson, BHSII, Accredited Professional Coach, is delighted to be offering the BHS Pony Stars scheme through Gransha Academy in 2024!*

Pony Stars is the BHS Junior Challenge Awards scheme helping children to discover, develop and nurture their love for ponies and the outdoors. With over 100 topics for children to explore, Pony Stars will ignite a passion for ponies, build knowledge and cement friendships that will last a lifetime.

*Adventure, fun and friendship starts with ponies!*

As part of the programme, each child will receive their very own “My Challenge” Book to log their achievements. As they progress through the various challenges there will be stickers, badges and rosettes up for grabs too to keep them engaged and motivated.

With four key skill levels, Pony Stars enables long-term progression with a range of activities that will develop knowledge, skills and self-confidence. In each group your child will work through sets of challenges that make up topics within set themes.

There will also be some home study tasks and the themes of Golden Groom, Pet Protector, Junior Jockey, Equine Explorer and Stable Star include important skills such as the Countryside Code, Road Awareness, Fire Safety, as well as horse and pony care, grooming, health and riding skills.

As children progress through the Pony Stars levels, the depth of learning increases to include areas such as farriery, equine first aid, anatomy and basic fence building!

### *BHS Pony Stars at Gransha Academy*

The first group will run as a 5 week programme held at Gransha consisting of a three hour session during which the children will enjoy a riding lesson and a mixture of theory and practical learning covering the topics set in the relevant Pony Stars level. The first block of sessions will be held on:

- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to get the most out of the course, children will need to be of similar ability and able to work through the workbook independently (reading and writing) or with minimal assistance (for the Mini Group). In order to do this, there will be two groups:

- **MINI GROUP** - This is suitable for children aged 7+ with their own pony OR attending lessons Gransha on a weekly basis. They must be able to walk and trot independently, starting to canter independently, and jumping cross poles unassisted.
- **JUNIOR GROUP** - This is suitable for children aged 7+ with their own pony OR having attended lessons at Gransha on a weekly basis for over 12 months. Children must be able to tack up and untack unassisted, mount and dismount independently, trot and canter confidently and jump confidently over 50cms.

\*\*\* Spaces are limited and pre booking is essential! \*\*\*

Fees: The cost of the full structured 5 week programme is £225 (£175 own pony).

A deposit of £100 is payable to secure your place on the programme. The remaining balance of £125 (£75 own pony) should be paid in full no later than 2 days prior to the programme start date (11<sup>th</sup> February 2024).

Please make payments via bank transfer to:

Ulster Bank, K Jackson, Account Number 10095323, Sort Code 98-05-30

Please note: There will be no refund provided for any missed sessions nor will they be transferred over.

- It is possible to book single days rather than block booking, day rate is £50 (£40 own pony).

Children should bring a drink and snack as each session will run from 9.30am – 12.30am. The Gallery Café will be open on these days if children would like to place an order for lunch after the session finishes.

It is our intention to run the next two levels of Pony Stars during the July and August summer holidays.