

BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Boarding is central to life at Denstone and the boarders are at the heart of the College, their presence anchoring the social and cultural fabric of the school. The hallmark of boarding is the provision of a safe, caring and friendly environment offering a wealth of opportunity for personal development. The aim is to provide a home from home. The College operates as a small community with all residential staff helping to provide a positive environment for the nurture of individual pupils.

Boarders:

Boarding helps to develop

- Confidence
- Community spirit
- Independence
- Social skills
- Cultural awareness
- Respect for others
- Self-motivation
- Responsibility
- A wide variety of interests

Boarders feel that they have

- A great social life
- Enhanced education
- A close relationship with their family
- Friends for life
- Greater access to College facilities
- Good working relationships with staff
- A wide variety of activities available

Boarding at Denstone is based on the following principles:

1. All pupils have the right to pursue Happiness, Confidence and Achievement.
2. The development of the whole person and the fostering of good values are vital.
3. Being an open and trusting school, boarding is based on mutual respect for one another.
4. Each boarder has the right to be able to work, play and relax free from abuse, intimidation, harassment, teasing and bullying.
5. There is equality of opportunity and respect for all boarders, regardless of ethnicity, culture, gender or disability.
6. Each boarder and each member of staff is to be treated as an individual and with respect by others.
7. Living in a community, staff and boarders respect the right of each other to privacy.
8. Each boarder has the right to extend his/her intellectual growth in an atmosphere of positive encouragement and in conditions that are conducive to work.
9. All boarders should be able to develop spiritually, culturally, morally and socially.
10. Links with home are seen as a central part of the support and development of boarders at Denstone.

Boarding at Denstone aims to:

1. Safeguard and promote the welfare of each boarder.
2. Develop the whole person to be happy, confident and to achieve in all areas, under the direction of our key values: honesty, endeavour and kindness.
3. Provide an open and trusting ethos in which each boarder is able to approach any other member of the College community for support.
4. Create an atmosphere of trust, tolerance and openness to enable all boarders to thrive.
5. Develop boarders' responsibility for self, for others and for their community.

Boarding Lifestyle

Boarding life is characterised by the formation of enduring friendships. The pupils share joys, successes and disappointments and are encouraged to appreciate the strengths and individuality of others as they develop as people belonging to communities, and establish their own personal goals and visions for the future. The boarding lifestyle represents an integrated and comprehensive package of high quality education together with excellent pastoral care. Whatever their background (overseas or across the UK), boarders encapsulate the

Denstone values of honesty, endeavour and kindness, and understand the relationship these values have with their aims of achievement, happiness and confidence.

Organisation of Boarding

The College aims to create a warm and friendly environment in which each boarder can be happy, grow in confidence and achieve. From the third form, girls' board in the Moss Moor complex; this consists of Endways, Moss Moor and Green Wing (Sixth form girls). Third to fifth form boys board in South House, and Lower and Upper Sixth Form boys board in North House. Our youngest boarders (prep through to second form) are housed in Hartley House. Hartley House has a boys' and girls' sleeping wing, with shared garden and common room facilities. Each boarding area has its own common room where boarders within that area can socialise and develop the strong bonds of friendship that characterise boarding life at Denstone. Provision in each of the Boarding Houses is tailored to meet the needs of pupils within their specific age ranges. That said, a great deal of effort is also put into bringing our full range of boarders together, fostering collective identity, belonging and supportive friendships with a family-feel.

Each Boarding House has its own resident Housemaster/Housemistress as well as an Assistant and team of tutors, and at least one Matron, all of whom share responsibility for the welfare of boarders.

Types of Boarding

Boarding at Denstone offers great flexibility, tailored to the needs of modern family life, ensuring that school and home work together. Pupils can board on a full, weekly, flexi or occasional basis. The key is in taking the best aspects of this system and fitting them to the individual needs of the pupil and their family.

Welfare support services for boarders

The welfare of boarders is of paramount importance and all College staff are committed to the development of a caring, friendly, vibrant and sensibly structured family environment in which boarders can thrive. There are strong and open trusting relationships between boarders and staff. Boarders can discuss issues with any member of staff, all of whom have been trained in Child Protection (Level 1 Safeguarding and Prevent trained) whether it is their Tutor, Head of House, Head of School/Boarding, Boarding Tutor, Matron, Wellbeing Centre Staff, School Counsellor, Chaplain, Deputy Head Pastoral, Deputy Head Pupils, or Head of Wellbeing. Other support services are advertised on noticeboards around College, and in the Student Planner.

Special religious and cultural aspects

As a Christian School within the Woodard family of schools we welcome all other faiths and cultures who are equally encouraged to play a full and active role in all areas of College life. The school Chaplain offers students stimulus and support in their spiritual exploration and discovery.

Day Pupils

To a large extent, these principles and aims also apply to day pupils who are integrated with boarders in the three Schools and each of the eight Houses. Day pupils share many of the benefits of a modern boarding school and many of our boarders started out as day pupils.