

Boarding Principles and Practice

A. Overall Ethos

Through boarding we hope to provide a safe, stimulating, structured and supportive environment in which all young people have the freedom and the opportunities to fulfil their unique potential academically, physically, socially and spiritually. We aim to offer an environment in which boys and girls have a variety of opportunities through which they can learn to be responsible for their education and each other; where they can be supported in their studies and allowed to participate fully in, and make a significant contribution to, the life of the school.

B. Boarding Principles and Practice

Boarding is available to Senior School pupils in the following houses: Martineau's, Kennedy's, Beevor's, McGill's and Paull's. In the Year's 7 & 8 there is a single co-educational boarding house, Martineau's, with its own team of resident staff. From Year 9 onwards pupils join either a boys' or girls' house for the remainder of their time in the School. In general, boarding spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis, but if space is limited preference is given to those who choose to board for a larger number of nights.

Each Boarding House has its own resident Housemaster or Housemistress (HSM), resident tutor(s), non-resident matron, and domestic staff, all of whom have a responsibility for providing a "home from home" for the pupils in terms of comfort, support and appropriate welfare services. These house teams are supported by the School medical centre, including the School Doctor and the nursing team, the School Chaplain, the School Counsellor. The School's Head of Boarding reports directly to the Deputy Head pastoral and is responsible for the compliance of boarding documentation as well as representing boarding issues on the Senior Management Team.

Boarders are either flexi (fewer than 5 nights) or full boarders (5 nights or more). If a pupil's boarding arrangements change, the HSM completes a 'change of status' form. Parents of boarders are expected to give a half term's notice if it is their intention to reduce their number of boarding nights.

There are approximately 207 boarding spaces available in the school:

Martineau's 26

Kennedy's 37

McGill's 48

Beevor's 47

Paull's 49

Boarders cite greater independence, a strong sense of community, availability of facilities, improved relationships between peers and with staff, access to academic support, social integration both vertically and between Houses, structure, routine and reduced commuting time as the main reasons for boarding.

Normally a number of international boarders join the school although, in order to give them the best opportunity for full integration with local students, numbers are limited to 8% of the overall Senior School. International boarders add a cultural richness to the school which is appreciated by all members of the community.

We want our boarders to be happy, healthy and successful individuals with a mature and responsible attitude towards their studies, and to impart the necessary life skills to make a success of their lives beyond the School.