

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
- Close relationship with their family
- Friends for life
- Greater access to College facilities
- Good working relationships with staff
- 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 communication of 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.
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 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 spirit of friendship, commitment and success.

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. The girls' boarding house is divided into three areas, Endways (younger girls), Moss Moor (older girls), Green Wing (Upper Sixth form girls) The boys board in Schools. There are three Schools, Junior School (pre GCSE, forms 1, 2 & 3), Middle School (GCSE, forms 4 & 5) and Senior School (AS & A2 levels, Lower 6th & Upper 6th). Each boarding area has its own common rooms where boarders within that School can socialise. This arrangement allows pupils to socialise and develop within their own age group. Provision in each of the Schools is tailored to meet the needs of pupils in a specific age range. There are no conflicting requirements for study or recreation.

Each School has its own resident Head of School as well as an Assistant to the Head of School, as does Moss Moor. There is also a team of tutors in each School and Moss Moor. Junior School and Moss Moor also have a Matron. The boarding staff are responsible 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 and occasional basis, with Termly Boarding offering day pupils a chance to try boarding for a term. 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 needs of individuals to nurture 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 staff have been trained in Child Protection (Level 1 Safeguarding and Channel trained). In particular boarders may choose to talk to their Tutor, Head of House, Head of School/Moss Moor, Boarding Tutor, Medical Centre staff, School Doctor, School Counsellor, Deputy Head Pastoral, Senior Master, Senior Pastoral Lead, Second Master or indeed any member of staff. 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.

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 six Houses. Day pupils share many of the benefits of a modern boarding school and many of our boarders started out as day pupils.