



## Boarding Policy

Boarders are integrated into the daily routine of the school and the boarding 'ethos' very much influences thinking behind, and functioning of, the School as a whole.

Boarding at Kimbolton School offers boys and girls a comfortable homely environment with full access to all the excellent facilities of the School. In addition the boarders enjoy a wide-ranging package of activities organised for them at weekends. Boarding at Kimbolton is a rich and rewarding experience within a close-knit community and the security of a relaxed family atmosphere in both boarding houses.

The School takes a flexible approach to weekends and full boarders may remain in school or go home after discharging their school commitments. Flexibility is the key to a happy community and ultimately the success of boarding. The provision of a full boarding package includes a busy weekend programme of activities. Not only do we wish to create that 'relaxed family atmosphere' but we also want boarding to be fun. We wish to do all that is necessary to ensure that our boarders are happy.

Weekly boarders' days are flexible allowing pupils to make the most of their five night stay. Extra nights can be offered at flexi rates.

Both boarding houses adopt an identical approach to the weekend and boarders are encouraged, but never compelled, to join in the activities on offer. Full participation in the life of the boarding houses is a vital ingredient in the creation of that family atmosphere from which each individual will gain, but good-humoured persuasion will always be used for those who are sometimes less willing to join in. The cost of all weekend activities is included in the boarding fees, therefore no boarder should feel inhibited from getting involved on grounds of expense.

The importance of boarders' privacy is accepted and boarders are given access to a number of methods of making contact with home (phone books, email etc, in effect, use of mobile phones is the most common conduit). Boarders are encouraged to maintain regular contact with home.

Rooming arrangements allow for a degree of flexibility, depending upon the numbers in each year group. Whilst junior boarders (ages 11-14) may well share dormitory bedrooms, it would be unusual for 5<sup>th</sup> Form pupils (age 15) and above to share rooms with other pupils outside their own age group. Regular House meetings (and indeed Year group meetings) take place in which pupils are encouraged to voice their thoughts, concerns and possible improvements. Many suggestions have subsequently led to reforms and alterations.

Boarders with a permanent residence overseas must have an appointed guardian living in the UK. The school does not provide a recommendation service, although we can provide information on various organisations in this field.

It is Kimbolton School's policy to celebrate and support the various cultural identities of overseas boarders. An example of this in action is the annual celebration of the Chinese New Year.

All school correspondence is sent to home and guardian addresses. Should parents of overseas pupils visit the School, every effort will be made to provide a personalised 'Parents Evening' in which all teachers of that pupil will be available to speak individually with the parents. Houseparents will contact overseas parents on a regular basis, particularly by email.

E.A.L (English as an Additional Language) lessons are available for those requiring additional support.

It is recognised that our boarders come from a breadth of family experience and that each boarder and his or her family will have an individual view and expectation of boarding. We endeavour to draw the community together with a common vision of boarding but never lose sight of the specific needs of each individual.

Reviewed: September 2017