



Students' guide to the Residential experience

Our aim is for you to enjoy and learn from your residential experience.

We will help you develop skills so that you can do things by yourself. This is called “being independent”.

We also encourage you to try new activities and to make new friends.

Routine

At the end of the school day you will come to the bottom floor sitting room to be marked on the fire list and for the staff to explain what is happening during the evening.

On your first evening we will explain the fire drill, allocate bedrooms and give you a tour of the residential area.

There is then some free time when you can get changed into your casual clothes and have a snack and drink.

You may also use the time just to relax, watch TV, play

on the computer, or spend time talking to your friends and the staff.

There is a short homework session that is either with a teacher or with the care staff. If you have been given work during the school day it can be done at this time.

There is then some free time when you can choose from activities offered by the care staff. These may include playing football, cricket, or pool, use of the internet or doing Arts and Craft. In the summer we do more outdoor activities such as cycling.



Photograph of a free time activity showing students and staff playing with water rockets!

We have a light tea, such as sandwiches or jacket potatoes. Students help set the tables for this. You can check the menu outside of the kitchen each week. If

there is something you really do not like, then ask the kitchen staff if you can have something different.

After tea there is a planned activity. These change each term and are run by the care staff. Before your stay you will be sent an activities choice form where you can say which activity you would prefer to do.

The activity finishes at 7.30pm and you return to the residential base (bottom floor sitting room). You can then have time to relax, play games, and watch TV etc.

You may be sharing a room with a friend and can spend time in your room with them or other friends if you want to. You will need to let the staff know where you are and at no time should girls go into boys' rooms or boys into girls' rooms.

At the start of your stay you will be asked to fill in an "All about me" booklet with a member of staff. This helps us know more about what you and can also let you decide if there are particular things that you would like to practice when you are staying.

At around 8pm we have a light supper and a drink if wanted.

At around 8.15pm you will get ready for bed by having a shower, brushing your teeth and putting on your PJ's or nightie. You can continue with your free time activities such as reading or watching TV until bedtime.

Points are awarded during the evening for positive behaviour, the same as they are during the school day. If you earn a "four" you will be given a green token. These can be exchanged for rewards, such as being allowed to stay up slightly longer.

The usual bedtime for Key stage 3 is 9.10pm and for Key stage it is 9.20pm.

You can go to bed earlier than this if you feel tired, just let a member of staff know.

During the night Mrs Follows or Mrs McDermott are on duty. They are here to check that everyone is safe and well throughout the night. If you wake up and feel unwell they can help you. There is also a member of the care staff who will be sleeping in a separate bedroom, one on the top floor and one on the bottom floor. If the night staff is not on your floor and you need help then you can knock on the door of the staff bedroom.

Care staff on duty each day are as follows:

Monday: Miss North and Mr Matthews

Tuesday: Mr Matthews and Miss Smith

Wednesday: Miss North and Miss Smith

Thursday: Mr Matthews and Miss Smith

There is additional support from one LSA each evening.

Medication

If you need medication during your stay then the Care staff will keep this safely and give it to you when it is needed.



Students are encouraged to keep their room tidy!

In the mornings the staff that slept at school will wake you up at around 7.15am. You then have 50 minutes to have a wash or a shower and get ready for school.

We have breakfast in the dining room. There is a choice of cereals and toast is served. You can have both if you want to!

After breakfast it is time to start the school day.

What to do if you have a problem

The care staff understand that some students may be a little nervous about staying away from home. We are here to help you and will talk with you about any problems that you may have.

You can use the school telephone or your own mobile telephone to call home. Ask a member of staff if you need help doing this.

If at any time you are unhappy with something that has happened in residence then you should report this to a member of the care staff who will try and sort out the problem with you. If you prefer you may wish to speak to your tutor or LSA. You can also let your parent/carer know.

The residential service is inspected by an organisation called Ofsted. They regularly come to school to see that we are working with students in a safe and enjoyable way. If you have any problems in residence that cannot be sorted by staff at school you can contact an inspector at Ofsted and speak to them. Their number is:

0300 1231231.

The **Student Voice** group have Residential representatives. Their names are displayed on the residential notice board. You can speak to them if you have any suggestions about residence. For example, you would like to do a particular activity or would like changes to be made to the bedrooms.

Other support is available through:

Childline 0800 1111 and www.childline.org.uk

If you are concerned about your rights you could contact Children's Rights Director 0800 5280731 and www.rights4me.org

General advice

If you bring a mobile phone into school for use in the evenings then this should be handed in for safe keeping during the day. There are lockers available on bottom floor for the safe keeping of valuables.

The Care staff work hard to make sure you have a happy and successful time in residence. If at any time you would like to talk to us about staying over at school or have any suggestions for ways which we can improve what we do, then please come and speak to us!

If you work hard, and show respect to staff and other students then we are sure you will have a good residential experience!



Students in a cooking lesson