

## Statement of boarding principles and practice

### Boarding at Brighton College

Brighton College has a long history of boarding and believes that the community atmosphere of the school is greatly enhanced by the presence of boarders.

Two types of boarding are offered by the college for UK or overseas students. Full boarding, 7 days per week, though pupils can spend time with their guardians or host families at weekends and weekly boarding, five or six nights per week. Weekly boarders go home on a Friday after school or Saturday after fixtures and return on a Sunday evening before 21:00 registration or on a Monday morning. The boarders are housed in six boarding Houses of which three are for boys (Abraham, Head's and School), two for girls (Fenwick and New) and one is a mixed House for Sixth Form pupils (Alexander). In response to the Covid pandemic, we have increased our capacity through the addition of 2 annexes on site to house some L6th weekly boarders. Each house has a dedicated live-in Housemaster or Housemistress, two Deputy Housemasters or Housemistresses, a Matron and a team of tutors, whose pastoral work is essential to maintain the smooth running of the boarding community and to enhance the quality of life of the pupils whilst they are in school. Each has its own building and facilities, identity and ethos - but with a common framework for the pastoral support of the pupils.

The ethos of the school is one of inclusion and support. We are very proud of the high quality pastoral care given to all pupils at Brighton. Pastoral care is provided by the tutor team and specialist boarding staff in each house who themselves are an integral part of the school community. This provision hinges on the excellent working relationships established between staff and pupils to make each pupil feel **supported, encouraged and known**.

### Admissions to boarding

Pupils may apply for boarding places at 13+ (Y9) or 16+ (for 6th form), although on occasion we have spaces available for pupils to enter in other year groups. The pupils are assessed for admission along the same lines as all other pupils in the school; by entry test and (in some cases) by interview. Admissions to the Dyslexia Centre for pupils with specific learning needs are dealt with, as for the day pupils, by the Director of Learning Support. Some scholarships (sports, academic and under other categories) are also available for boarders. The Admissions Office, under the direction of the Registrar, handles all registrations and admissions to the College (for both boarding and day pupils).

### Facilities

The boarding Houses are continually maintained and enhanced by refurbishments, starting with a major refurbishment some 5 years ago. This has been followed by extensions and refurbishments to provide more (and better) accommodation for both girls and boys. New House was built to increase the boarding facilities for girls in 2013 and Alexander House was purchased and converted in 2017 to cope with increased demand for boarding places. We won a BSA Award for our boarding accommodation in 2019.

All Houses have their own separate recreation spaces with kitchen facilities for boarders to use and ICT facilities. The boarding staff provides a programme of activities for evenings and weekends which allows boarders to have access to sports and recreation facilities within the main school campus and also allows them to visit cultural and other facilities off-site (the theatre, paint-balling and go-karting for example). The Simon Smith Building and the new School of Science and Sport provide outstanding social and sports facilities for the boys and girls of all six houses.

### **Welfare**

Pupils are provided with three meals a day when boarding and also have access to the informal environment of the school's cafés. Welfare support is provided through the pastoral teams in the houses, the medical care offered by the Health Centre which operates 24 hours a day, and spiritual guidance by the Chaplain. Boarding at Brighton College is overseen by the Director of Boarding - Jane Hamblett-Jahn. The Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school is Michael Sloan, Deputy Headmaster (Pupils); we also have a Director of Safeguarding, Miss Elizabeth Cody, who works closely with him.

### **Boarding ethos**

The life of a boarder at Brighton College seeks to develop the whole pupil, by addressing what we consider to be the important facets of a rounded education which prepare pupils for life after school. In line with the whole school aims and ethos, we offer activities for pupils which complement and develop their academic life, and which enhance and add quality to the co-curricular. We provide an environment for pupils in which they can achieve at the highest level academically and otherwise, where the differences between pupils are celebrated and where the aim is to ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged. Personal pastoral care and positive staff/pupil relationships provide the support and care to nurture and enhance this. Boarders have access to facilities and opportunities to explore their interests and enthusiasms including sports facilities in the evening, cultural activities such as celebrations of the Orthodox New Year and organising and attending their own charity events such as the Fenwick Fashion Show and 'Boarders Got Talent'.

Boarders are an integral part of the way that the school works and, as they make up a large section of the total pupil population, they have a significant impact on the school. Being close together at the centre of a compact campus, the school belongs to the boarders from 5pm and they contribute much to what is at the very heart and soul of the school.

**Reviewed 21.08.20 by Director of Boarding**