



**ST EDMUND'S
SCHOOL**
CANTERBURY

BOARDING



HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

STEDMUNDS.ORG.UK

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For the Senior School Handbook [click here](#) this outlines all information for pupils and parents

For the Junior School Handbook [click here](#) this outlines all information for pupils and parents



WELCOME

*To Boarding at
St Edmund's School*

I am delighted to welcome you to boarding at St Edmund's! I live in the main school building with my wife, three children and our cat Tom. Between us, we will ensure that your boarding experience is as good as we can possibly make it.

Boarding life is great fun and a real opportunity to become part of a wider community with people from all around the world. I am confident that you will quickly settle into school life, become an integral part of the boarding family, and develop life-long friendships. You will quickly discover that there are responsibilities but also opportunities for leadership and teamwork.

I am aware though that all of this takes time. I understand that you might well be feeling nervous about leaving home and moving into school. However, let me reassure you that we will always be close by if you need a chat. Always feel that you can knock on the door of our flat or indeed the door of any of the other supportive, friendly, and generally brilliant resident staff team in Boarding. There will always be someone, day, or night, who will listen if you are upset or need some advice. Similarly, we love to hear about your successes, and to share in your life more widely.

You will find that there is so much to do and plenty of opportunities to have fun, from the bigger trips to places like rollercoaster theme parks and the sights of central London, smaller trips to local cinemas and theatres, to in-house events like the Christmas Ball, I am confident that you will have a brilliant experience and have lifelong memories of your time here.

We all look forward to seeing you soon.

James Clapp
Director of Boarding



The Aims of St Edmund's Boarding



We aim to create a safe, enjoyable and happy boarding environment by:

- ensuring that the health, safety and wellbeing of our children are of paramount importance to all the adults who work in the boarding house and the school. This is, of course, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability
- providing a stimulating, secure and supportive environment in which each child can flourish, develop and fulfill his/her potential, socially as young people and in their school lives
- staffing the house with resident and visiting adults who genuinely care about the children, who celebrate their successes with them and support them when they feel down
- building a culture in which bullying is recognised to be unacceptable and dealt with swiftly and decisively when it occurs
- promoting an open and trusting ethos, ensuring each child's right to privacy, dignity, independence and individuality
- encouraging high standards of politeness and an awareness of others





Boarding Areas and Houses

Our boarding accommodation spans four distinct areas, ensuring that boys and girls are housed in comfortable and age-appropriate settings. Initial rooming arrangements are made by the Director of Boarding and once term has begun and boarders have settled, those arrangements are reviewed as necessary.

The four areas are:

Owen House

This is the largest boys' house, home to boarders from Lower Fifth to Upper Sixth. The main boys' common room is situated in Owen, as is the Owen Flat where Mr and Mrs Clapp live with their young children

School House

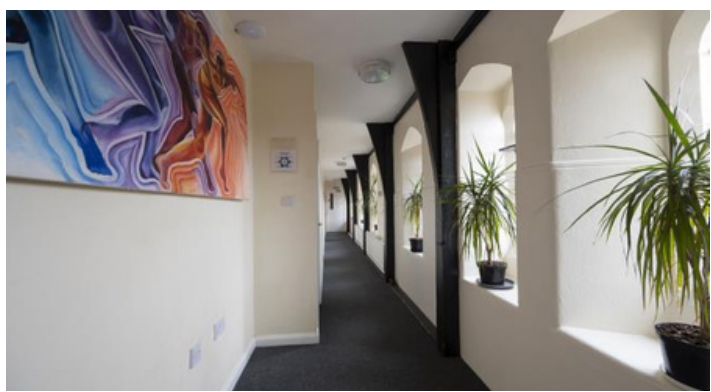
Our younger boys and girls are separately accommodated within a separate wing of the main building. Mr Potts is the resident Houseparent and takes care of the boarders.

New Wing

Older girls live in New Wing, cared for by the Resident Housemistress under the guidance of Ms Harding. The main girls' common room is also located here.

Baker Wing

This is a senior boarders' wing consisting of Lower and Upper Sixth boarders under the care of a separate Resident Tutor.



Communications

Postal address:
St Edmund's School
St Thomas Hill
Canterbury
Kent CT2 8HU

Boarders can use the school computers for email communications.

Useful Contacts

Director of Boarding	Mr James Clapp	Boarding@stedmunds.org.uk
School House (Yrs 7 & 8)	Mr Elliot Potts	emrp@stedmunds.org.uk
School Office	Mrs Shilpa Pithia	schooloffice@stedmunds.org.uk
Matron	Mrs Carol French	cfr@stedmunds.org.uk
Deputy Head of Boys Boarding	Mr Simon Buckingham	sb@stedmunds.org.uk
Deputy Head of Girls Boarding	Ms Lucy Harding	lucyharding@stedmunds.org.uk
Deputy Head of School	Mrs Catherine Shearer	cjs@stedmunds.org.uk
Junior School Office (day)	Ms Yvonne King	juniorschool@stedmunds.org.uk
Chaplain	Rev. Joy Atkins	chaplain@stedmunds.org.uk
Medical Centre	Mrs Alison Hyde	medicalcentre@stedmunds.org.uk

Making a phone call

Boarders are allowed mobile phones. Years 7 and 8 have access to these from the time they return from school in the afternoon until 19:45 (Year 7) and 20:45 (Year 8).

Older boarders are trusted to use their mobile phones appropriately but pupils who misuse mobile phones (e.g. by importing unsuitable images, sending unpleasant messages, using late at night etc.) may have phones confiscated.

There are school telephones available for boarders to use at the discretion of boarding staff.



Typical Weekday Boarding Routine



Wake up time: from 07:00 all pupils are woken by duty staff.

Breakfast: from 07:20 cereals, toast, tea, hot chocolate and a cooked breakfast in the Dining Hall.

Preparing for School: after breakfast individual areas in dormitories are left neat and tidy. Bags are packed with everything needed for the day. Boarders leave boarding by 08:10.

During the day: younger boarders up to and including Year 8 are generally not allowed upstairs to the dormitories without prior permission. Older pupils are allowed to go to their rooms at break, lunchtime and during study periods.

Lessons finish, clubs and free time begins: after school boarders can choose to attend one of the numerous clubs, usually lasting until 17:30. All boarders are encouraged to attend at least two clubs or activities a week. House staff and teachers at school will be pleased to tell boarders more about clubs and activities. This is also a good time for instrumental music practice.

Dinner: from 17:30 all boarders go to the Dining Hall together with residential staff (years 7, 8 and 9 have priority).

School House Prep: from 18:00 homework is supervised by duty staff – they help individuals as well as maintain a quiet and industrious atmosphere.

Senior School Prep: from 19:00 homework is supervised by duty staff in the Library. Responsible pupils may study in their rooms with the permission of the Director of Boarding.

Activities and free time: as Prep time finishes there is a certain amount of free time before the bedtime routines take over. This is a good time for practising instruments, relaxing in the common room, or playing outside; ball games, skateboards, rollerblades, the use of the school gymnasium and so on. In the summer boarders can go swimming or play under supervision in the school grounds.

Snacks: from 19:30, younger boarders who are still hungry can have a snack before going to bed; perhaps toast and jam and hot chocolate. Older boarders from Lower Fifth upwards register in the Dining Hall for Milk, Hot Chocolate, Biscuits and other snacks at 20:45 before preparing for bed.

Getting ready for Bed:

- From 20:15 Years 7 begin to prepare for bed. This involves showering, changing into pyjamas, hanging up uniform and tidying personal dormitory space, with 'lights out' at 21:00.
- From 20:30 Years 8 begin to prepare for bed. This involves showering, changing into pyjamas, hanging up uniform and tidying personal dormitory space, with 'lights out' at 21:15.
- Older boarders in the senior school begin bedtime routines from 21:30 with everyone in their rooms by 22:00.

At the Weekend



Saturday Mornings

We offer an exciting and diverse Saturday morning programme which is popular with all boarders and is attended voluntarily by day pupils. A wide range of enjoyable activities are offered with options changing each half term. Recent options available for younger boarders have included International Cuisine, Mathematics in Practice, Geology, Short Stories and Poetry, Learn to be a Screenwriter, Photoshop Design Project, Open Sport (featuring a range of sports options), Open Music, Open Art, and Research and Personal Study.

Younger boarders additionally enjoy a varied programme of Saturday morning activities either at school or off-site. Recent activities, for instance, have included a K'Nex technology challenge, a trip to a leisure pool, a cinema outing, mountain biking, tobogganing on a dry ski slope, visits to an art gallery and to a farm, and fun on the beach.

Saturday evenings

This is a good time to unwind within our community. Film nights are regular opportunities to socialise and during the winter and spring indoor sports are organised in our Sports Hall. During the summer, barbeques and picnics are enjoyed alongside informal games of football, Frisbee, tennis and cricket.

Sunday activities

Sunday afternoons provide opportunities for cultural enrichment, community bonding and, above all, fun. The activities are optional but carefully chosen and timed to ensure that they are attractive to all. Striking a balance between local, even home-grown, entertainments and journeys further afield, Sunday activities complement the ebb and flow of academic demands across the year.

Accommodation

All boarders are encouraged to bring their own duvet covers and pillow cases, which can be any colour or design. This makes it feel more like home. We also encourage boarders to decorate the area around their beds with posters, photos or anything personal to make the spaces feel more individual.

Younger boys and girls are allocated to dormitories according to age and gender.

Lower Sixth Pupils generally share double rooms, with Upper Sixth boarders having single rooms wherever possible.

There are a range of common areas where boarders can socialise together, including TV rooms, the Activity room and Games rooms. There is also a study equipped with computers in School House and the IT suite and Library in the main building.

Boarding Life



Some advice for first time boarding parents

Many families find it helpful to say the meaningful 'goodbyes' at home before setting out for school on the first evening of the new term. When you leave your child at St Edmund's our advice is to keep the moment of parting as swift as you can; prolonging the moment of separation makes it harder for all parties. Parents generally find it more painful than the children! Be assured that the school will be in contact if there are any problems, and that we will be quick to also share early successes.

Once your child has started at St Edmund's, please keep up the communication with your child. Plenty of cards and cheerful letters are a great help; emails are often a good way to get in touch quickly but children still love to receive a handwritten letter. Of course, there is communication by telephone, but a word of warning here: children, when upset, typically like to unload their problems and then, having achieved the objective of feeling better, the child puts down the phone and resumes normal activities perfectly cheerfully. Unfortunately, parents often put the phone down feeling that their child's world is collapsing. If in doubt please contact a member of boarding staff - we will always be happy to shed a little extra light on a situation.

Please let boarding staff know if your child is likely to be anxious about a problem at home as we can often lend valuable support. This sort of information can also help us to understand a child's behaviour. Indeed, good communication in all situations between home and school (and vice versa) is extremely important throughout your child's time at St Edmund's.

Settling in

There is a chance that all children will be a little homesick at some stage, although not necessarily during the first few weeks. Do try to explain to them how they might feel and explain that feeling homesick is common, that all fellow boarders will have felt this way at some point and that talking about it will always help. Experience shows that homesickness is almost always a short-lived and temporary feeling.

Please do encourage your child to bring in pictures and posters to personalise his or her own bed space, such as favourite photos of family and pets and items of sentimental value such as a beloved cuddly toy.

Health and Medical Arrangements

The school Medical Centre is staffed by qualified and experienced Registered Nurses and the School Doctor visits twice a week.

The Medical and Consent Forms relating to specific medication and medical conditions should be completed and returned directly to the Medical Centre prior to the first day of term or whenever they are issued for the child. In the case of boarders, the National Health Service number should be entered on the School Medical Card, but the NHS Card itself should be retained by parents. The Medical Centre should also be informed of any existing health problem.

SCHOOL VALUES



We Value....

EACH OTHER

Recognise our responsibility to create a caring and supportive community

We Value....

INDIVIDUALITY

Recognise that everyone is different and has unique needs, strengths and aspirations



We Value....

EXCELLENCE

Commit to being the best we can be



We Value....

INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY & CREATIVITY

Love learning & seek to foster creative, critical & lateral learning



We Value....

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Promote the idea that individuals must contribute to the greater good of society