



OLD BUCKENHAM HALL

A leading co-educational preparatory school for children aged 2-13 years



BOARDING GUIDE



Welcome to our thriving Boarding community at OBH - Boarding is great fun!

This guide is designed to give you a flavour of life in the Boarding House. If you have any questions at all, big or small, please ask any member of staff. We are here to help you settle in as quickly as possible

At OBH we aim to have a warm, friendly and caring boarding environment which feels like home.

Our objectives are;

- To ensure that each individual boarder feels genuinely cared for.
- To ensure that each individual boarder feels safe and secure.
- To encourage friendships and develop skills whereby boarders can live together happily and harmoniously.
- To provide a relaxed, family environment.
- To provide facilities that are clean, modern and cheerful.

Merton is the Boarding House for boys and Lodge is the Boarding House for girls. All boarding is under one roof in the main Mansion. There are common rooms in each boarding house filled with games, puzzles and books. Children are usually grouped together in the dorms by age.





Who will look after me?

We have a team of boarding staff who will help you. Our Head of Boarding is Mr Swiney, who is supported by our Matrons Tracey and Debbie. Mr Warrington is our Weekend Housemaster.



Mr Swiney

emma.easdale@obh.co.uk



Tracey

tracey.thornton@obh.co.uk



Debbie

debbie.gooderham@obh.co.uk



Mr Warrington

mark.warrington@obh.co.uk

Boarding - 01449 744788

Medical and Boarding - 01449 744782

The Boarding staff help you get organised for school in the morning, and get ready for a good night's sleep in the evening. They are there to talk to, play games or do activities with. They will help you with everyday life in school and in the boarding house. If you are worried about something we can try and solve the problem with you.

We also have a team of Gap Students (Gappies) who are here to help with boarding house routines like bedtime and wake up. They are here for you to talk to, have fun and play with. You might also see them in Games sessions and some of your lessons.

The Boarding Prefects are also here to listen to you. They can give you advice and help you to become familiar with how boarding works. They meet with Mr Swiney once a term and put forward any suggestions you may have.

During the night there is a night bell that you can press to call for someone to help if you need it. If you are unwell, you will be looked after by the boarding staff. We also have a doctor nearby.



Boarders daily routine

Boarders Supper finishes at 6.30pm. The teaching staff then run activities and clubs between 6.30pm - 7.30pm.

Year	Bedtime	Reading Time	Lights Out
3,4,5	7.30pm	8.00pm	8.15pm
6	7.45pm	8.15pm	8.30pm
7	8.15pm	8.35pm	8.45pm
8	8.30pm	9.00pm	9.15pm

At 7.30pm Years 3, 4 & 5 will be offered milk, fruit and toast with the matrons. All other year groups have milk, fruit and toast downstairs as usual, supervised by duty staff or gappies and are then sent up at the “upstairs getting ready for bed” time.

BELONGINGS AND PACKING

All our dorms are different. You will have a drawer under your bed to keep your clothes in and a bedside table and pinboard for your personal items, pictures and photos. If you are sharing a bed we will teach you how to make up a bed roll so that it is ready for the next person.



If you board 3 nights plus a week we will wash your clothes at school. Flexi-boarders staying less than three nights a week will bring in their clothes each day in an overnight bag and take them home after you have stayed.

DORM PRIZES

We have competitions between the dorms too. Points are awarded for being helpful and kind as well as other things. The points go towards prizes for dorms at the end of a term. Prizes have included chocolate feasts, Ice Cream Sundaes, items for your dorms, movie and pizza night and a (small) lie in!



CONTACTING HOME

At the beginning we will help you to make your first phone calls home. There are plenty of phones around the boarding houses. Please make sure you have a note of your home phone numbers. You will have your own email address which will be your first name.surname for example John Smith would be:

john.smith@obh.co.uk

You can write a letter to family and friends and we will post these for you from the Office.

BIRTHDAYS

If it is your Birthday on a day that you are boarding you will have a special birthday supper table. You will also have a delicious cake afterwards!

ELECTRONICS AND TUCK

You are not allowed to bring mobile phones, Ipods and Ipads etc. to school. You can bring Kindles to read at school, however the internet facility must be switched off. Please make sure both the Kindle and charger are clearly named. You should not bring any sweets or food to school. We will give you tuck on certain days.

EVENINGS AT SCHOOL

There are lots of fun and interesting activities on offer in the evenings. These include cricket nets, swimming, woodwork, sports, e-sports, crafts, baking, pottery, art and many more. There will also be time for you to play, relax and chillout with your friends. We have current newspapers and magazines in the Boarding House which you are welcome to read. We also have games that you can play in the common rooms and in your dorm before bedtime.





EVENINGS AT SCHOOL continued...

We have a bedtime routine which helps you to get a good night's sleep. After supper you can choose an evening activity. This is followed by milk, fruit and toast before coming up to the boarding house for bed. Once you come upstairs you have time to get into your pyjamas, wash your face and brush your teeth. You may also play a game or sit and chat to the boarding staff and/ or your friends. Once it is time for bed, you will have 15 minutes of quiet reading before your lights go out for sleep. There is always a boarding house staff member to look after you overnight.

WEEKENDS AT SCHOOL

The routines and timings can vary at the weekends. Mr Warrington and the gap students run the weekend programme. We often go out on trips; activities have included trips to the beach, trampoline parks, BBQ's, water parks, punting in Cambridge.

BOARDING CODE

We will help to look after each other by being kind and respectful

We will respect each other and not talk after lights out

We will respect each other and not wake others up if they are asleep

We will respect each other's belongings and space

We will respect the boarding house by helping to keep it clean, tidy and safe and by not having food ("tuck") in the dorms.

During the daytime we only enter the dorms with permission





WHAT CAN I DO IF I AM WORRIED OR WANT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT?

TALK TO A MEMBER OF STAFF

You can talk to any member of staff; boarding or teaching. There are posters in all the dorms, classrooms and in your planners signposting you to people who can help. You could write it down and email an adult you trust or put your note into the “concerns box”.

TALK TO A FRIEND

Your friends may be able to help you. The School Prefects and Peer support group are a great resource.

INDEPENDENT PERSON - You can also talk to the School’s Independent Person; Pastor James Martin:

james.martin@brbaptistchurch.com

07710 832444

CALL SOMEONE

You can also call Childline or the NSPCC, or look at their websites.



Call: 0808 800 5000



Under 18: 0800 1111

Talking to someone can help you feel better. They can also help you to find ways to solve the problem.

If you have a complaint, please speak to Mr Swiney or another member of staff. We will write the complaint down and follow it up with you.