

# WELCOME TO KENSINGTON HOUSE

NEW STUDENT  
HANDBOOK  
2024



## WELCOME TO KENSINGTON HOUSE:

House Motto: Ad Vitam. Meaning: For Life.

Kensington House Direct Line:	01276 859710
Kensington Mobile number:	07825 012852
Kensington House email:	<a href="mailto:kensington@gordons.school">kensington@gordons.school</a>

Welcome to Kensington House and Gordon's School. We hope this information will help you to integrate into school life as easily as possible and all the House staff hope you will be very happy here. Kensington will be your base whilst at school and the House staff are here to guide and help you with any questions or issues you may encounter.

Kensington House was opened in May 2000 by the Earl of Wessex. It is "home" to 102 girls aged 11-18. The girls arrive in the morning to prepare themselves for their day, relax during breaks and socialise with their peers. Our House motto is Ad Vitam, which is Latin for "For Life". This means that the qualities we admire and aspire to are not just an essential part of current school life but also qualities Kensington girls aim to carry with them when they leave. Our House colour is purple!

Kensington girls are involved in all aspects of Gordon's life: sport, drama, art and music, just to name a few. They enjoy a variety of social activities including end of term parties, trips and visits and film & pizza nights in year groups and families across the House. We are one of the few Houses with a garden and on Fridays we have a little visiting dog called Tinkabelle who loves hugs and playing. We look forward to meeting you soon.

### Head of House: Ms Kate Connery





## DAILY LIFE

The House is open from 7.45am until 6.00pm Monday to Friday; it is not open on Saturdays. At Exeat the House will close at 4.00pm on Friday. There are common rooms inside the House which are for you to spend your free time in. We also have “Kensington Families” who are a mixture of girls from different year groups and the House runs regular competitions and social events for their families. The House is here for you to relax in and socialise with your friends during breaks.

### Property

Girls in Years 7-11 are provided with a locker and a cage (both lockable). The cage is used for larger items such as PE kit. One medium padlock for each is required and spare keys must be given to House staff for safekeeping. Sixth form students have cupboards in their study rooms which are lockable. **All property must be clearly and permanently named.**

## LOST PROPERTY

Items of lost property may be reclaimed from outside the IT block. Items of sports kit may be reclaimed from the PE Office.

## MOBILE PHONES

Year 7-11 Day Boarders must hand phones into the House Office from entry in the morning until they leave at night. Any student can request to use the House office phone at any time, or request access to their phone to call home if deemed necessary to do so. Sixth form students may have their phones with them in the day provided they are on silent mode in lessons. Students may take their phone from the House to prep at 6.15pm, so long as it is switched off and kept in their school bag.

## BUDDIES

You will be allocated a buddy when you arrive in Kensington. They will help you navigate the day-to-day routines. Your buddy is a girl from Year 8. The memory of starting at Gordon's is still fresh in their minds so they take their role incredibly seriously. Don't be afraid to ask them questions!

## FAMILIES

To encourage unity throughout the house, you will be placed in a Kensington family. These families are run by our older girls and contain students from every year group. The families take part in lots of fun intra-house competitions and there are lots of opportunities for you to win points and rewards for your group.

## **BULLETIN**

A Kensington newsletter, which contains lots of relevant information, is sent out to parents and students weekly and there are noticeboards throughout the House.

## **HOUSE BADGES:**

Each House has a badge that reflects their House colour. Ours is sky purple and are given out at the start of the school year with a House water bottle.

## **HOUSE MEETINGS:**

Every Friday at 8.20am we have a Year 7 House meeting. You will receive notices and reminders about important events. The other mornings you will be in: Assembly (in the Rec), Chapel or with your Form Tutor. It is important that you keep looking at the noticeboard in the entrance for daily notices.

## **PERIOD 7**

Students choose their activities for each term in advance. Attendance at all period 7s including Friday afternoon marching practice and Saturday morning school is compulsory. Sunday parades and Chapel are also compulsory.

**Permission to be absent from Parade practice on Friday, Parades and Saturday Period 7 can only be given by the Head Teacher who should be contacted in advance.**

As a House, we participate in Inter-House activities and competitions which are always fiercely fought across the school. Students are expected to sign up for all competitions.

## **HOUSE HOODIES AND TOPS**

House hoodies are available to buy from school. Please complete your purchase form as soon as possible. House tops are issued to participants for Inter-House competitions.

## **SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS**

Where there are specific concerns relating to students the Head of House puts in place an Individual Welfare Plan which is discussed with the student weekly and reviewed half termly. Parents are informed. Counselling is also made available to students who need it. Professional counsellors meet students in the medical centre.



## **ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

Parents should contact the School on either of the below first thing to report that their child will be absent and the nature of their absence: 01276 858084 Option #1 or email: [absence@gordons.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:absence@gordons.surrey.sch.uk).

Any absence without parental permission will trigger a message home in the morning.

## **ILLNESS IN THE DAY**

Students go to the school office if feeling unwell in the day. The Office will refer Day Boarders to Medical staff to be further assessed.

- a. If Medical staff believe the child is unfit to be in school, parents will be called to come and collect.
- b. If they believe a short 'time-out', some water and a sit down will help them get back into lessons quickly, this can be managed in the Medical Centre

Students are not allowed to miss lessons, events, or activities due to illness unless they have a medical certificate or specific permission from their parents or House Parent or the Head of Sixth Form.

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP ROLES**

Each House has School and House Prefects who represent the House in a variety of Student Voice Committees as below. Younger students will work with these girls in House Families. Students in Years 12 and 10 wishing to become Senior or Junior School Prefects are invited to make an application in the Autumn Term.

## **PARADES**

Parades run throughout the academic year. All main school students, Sixth Formers leading Houses and Pastoral Prefects are expected to attend. The Headteacher's permission is required for absence from parades. All students in years 7-11 march with the House unless they are in the Under The Arches Band or Pipes and Drums.

# ESCAPE HUNT

MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED

NJRC2







## BLUES

Blues are traditional uniforms worn at parades. Students are responsible for the maintenance, care and upkeep of their Blues Uniform, which is issued when joining the school. Blues must be hung up carefully at home when not being worn. A Swap Shop operates at certain times of the year to exchange items of uniform for larger sizes as students grow through the school. Blues must be returned to the school when students leave.

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Harvest Festival Parade & Chapel Service
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Remembrance Parade
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Whitehall Parade (for Y9 and Y11 students) 12.00 pm
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Guildford Cathedral Memorial Service (for all students) 11.30am
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025	Parade & Chapel Service
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Patron's Parade & Fun Day
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Annual Parade & Prize Giving

## DRILL PRACTICE (MARCHING)

This takes place for all main school students on Friday afternoons between 4.00pm and 5.00pm. Students are expected to wear school uniform and permission will be given in colder weather to wear hoodies underneath blazers if necessary. At the start of the year older girls teach younger students drill in lunch and Period 8 times to ensure that they are ready for their first parade.





## **MEALTIMES**

All the girls in Year 7-10 in the House eat together and meal times vary from week to week. Year 11 and Sixth Form go at separate times. We publish the times on the House notice board. Girls in Year 7-11 must go up to the Dining Hall for meals with the House.

Snacks are given out at 3.35pm daily and the house has a tuckshop for break time purchases on Tuesday and Thursday every week. The House has its own kitchen and each year group has a separate toast day when toast is made for them at break. Sixth Form girls can use the kitchen in their study periods.

## **COMMUNAL AREAS**

The House has 3 common rooms and 1 classroom for student use. In the Autumn Term Year 7 are based in the downstairs classroom to enable them to use the changing room and see House staff daily. Common rooms and the classroom have access to Netflix, music, games and space for year groups to relax. The common rooms are used for pizza evenings and parties throughout the year. The kitchen is open for drinks throughout the day as well as toast days. The girls are expected to keep it tidy after use! The garden is used by all Kensington girls in good weather.

## **SOCIAL MOMENTS**

The House holds regular parties, trips and other social events. Within Kensington House we have “Families” made up of girls from all year groups which gives them an opportunity to mix and socialise with each other across each year group.







Kensington House  
Gordon's School  
West End  
Woking  
Surrey  
GU24 9PT

01276 859716  
[kensington@gordons.school](mailto:kensington@gordons.school)

