



Welcome To The New Beacon

Boarding House

Boarders' Handbook

Dear Boarder,

I am delighted that you have chosen or are considering to board with us here at The New Beacon. First and foremost, the Boarding House is a happy community where we all live, work and have a lot of fun together. Over the next few pages I will tell you more about what to expect when you are boarding and I hope you find this handbook useful.

Everybody who boards needs to know the Boarders' code. This is a very simple but very important set of values that we all need to follow to ensure we are all getting the most out of our experience in the Boarding House community.

The Boarding House Code

1. Everyone has the right to go to bed having enjoyed a happy evening.
2. Everyone has the right to a fair share of games and play.
3. Always consider other people's point of view.
4. Respect everyone else in the flat and their property.
5. Treat all boarders and staff as you would wish to be treated.
6. Enjoy your evening and tell somebody if you are not!

Mr Bromwich (Housemaster)

Boarding House Staff

Mr J Bromwich (Housemaster)

Miss J Bibby (Senior Matron)

Mrs J Bateman-White (Assistant Matron)

Mrs E Jackson (House Tutor)

Mr E Yeats-Brown (House Tutor)

Mr J Cronje (Gap Tutor)

Mr R Yeats-Brown (Gap Tutor)

Mrs E Mason (Cleaner)

Miss G Reid (Independent Listener)

The Boarding House staff team is always available for a chat if you ever need one and we are here to ensure you enjoy your boarding experience. It is very important that if you are unsure or unhappy with any aspect of your life as a boarder, no matter how small or trivial it may seem to you, that you come and talk to one of us about it. We will do our very best to try and sort out the issue.

If you wish to speak to someone outside of school then you can contact our Independent Listener, Miss Reid, at the email address below. Miss Reid also comes to visit the Boarding House on different nights and regular intervals throughout each term and she will look forward to meeting you.

nblistener@outlook.com

Please remember that we all have problems, make mistakes, have good days and bad days and there are times when we might need help. Sharing these problems will always make them easier to deal with.

Some of the best ideas that have been recently introduced to the Boarding House have come from the boarders themselves and if you feel you have any ideas then please feel free to put them in the suggestion box which is located next to the phone. We cannot promise to introduce your ideas, but your opinion genuinely matters to us and we are always ready and willing to listen. Some recent suggestions have included amendments to the yummy boarding menu, activity ideas, trips out and changes to the evening routine.

The Evening Routine

As you arrive in school on the morning you are boarding, take your bags up to the Boarders' changing room and leave them there. Please make sure your bag is clearly labelled.

8:20 to 4:00/4:20—in school as normal.

4:00/4:20 - school finishes. You do not need to go to school prep but instead go to the Boarding House where the routine is usually as follows (unless you are in a school activity):

- Leave your prep and contact book in the Library
- Check the noticeboard to see whether you have a duty to do
- Wash your hands and sanitise
- Unpack your bag, make bed and stow everything away
- Change into casual clothes, put school uniform into dirty bag
- Hang up your clean school uniform
- Drink and biscuits
- Short meeting with Mr Bromwich or duty House Tutor, Matron and gap student to arrange the evening routine as it can sometimes vary from night to night.

What is discussed at the meeting?

- Who is on duty and any important messages that need to be given out
- Whether we are going outside before dinner (weather permitting!)
- When prep/music practice will be done
- When and what activity will be available
- Food/drink choices for supper and breakfast the following morning
- After the meeting, dormitories are checked by staff and then prep and reading books are checked in the Library

Dinner – always at 5:45

We are very lucky to have delicious, freshly prepared meals in the Boarding House. There are always two hot main meal options, a pudding and fruit. If you have any particular dietary requirements, then your parents will have informed us in advance and we can cater for all needs. There is plenty to go round and there are often seconds; you won't go hungry!

After dinner we usually go straight into a supervised prep session if it has not been done beforehand. Prep is conducted quietly and you can use the ICT suite in the Library if you need to use a computer (under supervision). If you finish your prep early then you must read a book quietly.

Prep lasts for 60 minutes in Years 7 + 8 and 45 minutes in Years 5 + 6. The only exception to this is on a Wednesday evening when the prep session lasts for 45 minutes for Years 7 + 8 and 30 minutes for Years 5 + 6.

Bedtime Routine

- Bedtime routine begins from 8:00/8:15
- Showers with body and hair washing!
- Hot chocolate and toast
- Chill out in front of the TV
- Teeth cleaning from 8:45
- In bed with a reading book for 15 minutes
- Lights out at 9:00/9:15

It is extremely important when your lights are turned out that you are quiet until you are woken up the following morning. We all need our sleep in order to be on top form the next day. If you cannot get to sleep straight away then it is vital that you do not disturb your fellow dorm-mates will want to get to sleep too. Remember the Boarders' Code and treat everybody with respect; this goes for after lights out as well!

Good night one and all, we hope you have had a lovely evening!

Morning Routine

- **7:15:** Good morning from Matron and Mr Bromwich
- **7:25:** Get dressed, pack your bedding/belongings away and take your sheet off the bed if you are leaving that day. If you are staying for more than one night then you will need to leave your dormitory area neat and tidy
- Once **everything** is done you are free to watch TV until it is time for breakfast
- **7:45:** Breakfast: there is always cereal, toast, spread, jam, fruit, yoghurt, tea and fruit juices as well as your hot option (ordered the night before)
- **8:15:** Brush your teeth in the Boarders' changing room and then come back to the Boarding House to collect your things for the school day and your snack. If you are leaving that day, then you will need to take your boarding bag to the changing room ready for collection at the end of the school day

Boarders' Evening Activities

We are very lucky to be able to offer lots of choices for you during the evening. Sometimes activity choices are staff/weather dependent but, generally, boarders can choose from the following list of evening activities:

- Dodgeball
- Football
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cricket nets (hard ball under direct supervision)
- Wallball
- Swimming (not available every night)
- Tennis
- Computer games
- Board games
- Film nights
- Rounders
- Watch TV
- Table football
- Table tennis
- Pool
- Snooker
- "Manhunt"
- Card games

If you want to do something that is not on the list above then just ask one of the members of staff and we will try and arrange it for you. If it can't be done on that specific evening then we will try and plan for it at a later date.

Matron

We are extremely fortunate to have a Matron (Miss Bibby/Mrs Bateman-White) with us during the evening and if you feel unwell, have hurt yourself or just want a chat, then Matron is always available at any time, day or night. She will administer any regular medication and your parents will have notified us in advance if you need it. If you need any games kit or school uniform washing, then please ask Matron (politely!) when you come into the Boarding House after school, **NOT** just before you go to bed. The Matrons also make amazing drinks/toast to have for supper just before bedtime.

If you have a medical problem during the night, then you can knock on Matron's door which is within the flat and she will help you. If you have any other issues during the night, then you must knock on Mr Bromwich's door which is located next to the living room.

Dormitories

There are three dormitories, Martlet (4 beds), Avocet (6 beds) and Osprey (8 beds) and you will be given a bed where you will sleep for the whole time you are with us in the Boarding House. Boarders are, wherever possible, in a dormitory with boys from their year group but this is not always the case. Boys can ask to swap but permission to do so is only granted in exceptional circumstances.

There is a board in your dormitory near your bed which is a blank canvas for you to stamp your mark on if you would like to do so. You are more than welcome to bring in small posters or photographs from home to put on these boards, within obvious confines.

If there is something in your dormitory that is broken or not working properly, then please tell a member of staff and we will try to fix it for you. **PLEASE DO NOT JUMP ON YOUR BEDS OR HAVE PILLOW FIGHTS IN YOUR DORMITORY!**

Calling Home

All boarders can call home during the evening if they want to. We have a telephone in the Boarding House and if you would like a more private call, then you can use the telephone in Matron's Dispensary. If you can't remember the telephone number, then just ask a member of staff and they will get the number for you. There are strict cut-off times for calling home and these are:

Years 5 + 6: 8:15

Years 7 + 8: 8:30

Your families can contact you in the Boarding House at any time on the following direct dial number: 01732 467296.

Duties

All boarders are assigned duties on a rotational basis and such duties include tidying the library after prep, tidying the sitting room at the end of the evening before quiet time reading and tidying the boarders' changing room. All boarders have the duty of being respectful and keeping the Boarding House and their dormitory space tidy. Clothes should be hung up or put in drawers and boarding bags should be kept under the bed.

Consequences

In the rare incidence that a boarder does not complete a duty properly, or forgets to do a duty, then they may be asked to perform that same duty the following week.

We all sometimes make mistakes and make bad choices and if this occurs during your time in the Boarding House then you may receive a “boarding consequence”. Normal day school sanctions are not applied in the Boarding House and instead we apply “home style” consequences, for example, doing a job for the good of the whole boarding community, losing some activity time, extra time in prep and, in exceptional circumstances, you may be asked to go to bed early! If a boarder’s conduct regularly falls below the high standards we all expect and are capable of, then Mr Bromwich will contact home; this does not happen very often at all!

It is very rare that the boarding staff need to implement these consequences and if you are following the boarders’ code, then you will be making positive choices for the benefit of yourself and the whole boarding community.

Boarders’ Kit List

You will need to bring the following things with you when you come to the Boarding House:

Duvet with cover

Pillow

School uniform and games kit (if needed) for next day

Underwear

Pyjamas/Nightwear

Home clothes

Indoor and outdoor shoes

Towel

Washbag with toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo/shower gel, hair brush/comb and deodorant **(only roll on please - no aerosols)**

Astro shoes/Non-marking trainers for the NBC

Swim kit (Tuesday/Thursday nights)

Slippers for use in the Boarding House

A small named bottle of sanitizer

PPE should be provided by home and is optional

A named bag for dirty clothes

A named water bottle

Reading book

Teddy (optional)

Reasons For Being A New Beacon Boarder

There are many reasons to be a boarder at The New Beacon and outlined below are just a few of them:

- Living in a familiar environment away from home where everybody is treated with respect and feels happy, safe and valued
- Living in a community which values independence and individuality
- Creating long lasting friendships
- Improving organisation and taking ownership of one's own school work, free time and activity choices
- Building and maintaining good relationships with all members of the boarding and school community, far beyond that of a day boy
- Taking an increased sense of responsibility for one's possessions, actions and behaviour
- Incorporating the ethos of Boarding House Code to everyday life
- Helping pupils feel confident in themselves and have positive self-esteem
- Understanding what it takes to live in a community and how to contribute positively to that community
- Preparation and experience of life as a boarder before the move to Senior School (even if you are not going to board at your next school, these are all brilliant reasons to be a boarder at The New Beacon)
- **HAVING A LOT OF FUN**

J E Bromwich (April 2021)

Next review: September 2021