



House & Home

BOARDING AT CHELTENHAM



CHELTENHAM
COLLEGE

"I love the sense of community around College, as this really helps pupils to feel comfortable in their environment and as though it is a home away from home. The extensive opportunities that we are offered here help to keep us busy and develop a wide range of skills and knowledge beyond the regular curriculum."

Current pupil



Houses are at the heart of Cheltenham College life



At the head of each House is a Housemistress or Housemaster, supported by their network of dedicated Matrons, resident and non-resident Tutors. Alongside the co-curricular activities that take place at College, House activities ensure that each child builds strong relationships within their House family, helping them to thrive and develop.

We have 11 Houses at Cheltenham, all located around the perimeter of our beautiful campus, with many Houses boasting generous views over College. There are nine Boarding Houses – Boyne House, Christowe, Hazelwell, Leconfield and Newick House for boys and Ashmead, Chandos, College Lawn and Westal for girls – and two Day Houses – Queen's House for girls and Southwood for boys.

Vertical Structure

Within each House, we have an average of 12 pupils in each year group from Third Form (Year 9) to Upper Sixth (Year 13). Just like a normal family, pupils quickly take on the role of siblings and, as a result, form strong friendships. An entrenched sense of House honour and loyalty is often created across year groups.

Parent Partnership

Parents are an integral part of the community and are actively encouraged to take part in House life. This might be joining us for socials and events or simply keeping up to date with their child's progress, both academically and pastorally.

Community

At the beginning of each year, all Houses choose a charity to fundraise for and support. On average each year, £65,000 is raised for charities through College wide events.

House Competitions

Throughout the year, a range of House competitions (House Pots) take place, in everything from sport to poetry to drama productions. They give each Cheltonian the opportunity to discover their strengths and develop their passions. A College favourite is the House Singing Competition held in our magnificent Chapel. The event creates a real sense of community between year groups and Houses.







Ashmead

Girls' Boarding

Ashmead is a modern, purpose-built Boarding House constructed in the late 1990s, within Boyne House's former apple orchard. It was officially opened by her Royal Highness, Princess Anne in 2000. Ashmead's name was suggested by the College's archivist at the time, commemorating

the famous Gloucestershire apple Ashmead's Kernel. The variety was first planted here in the early 18th century in Clarence Street. There are still two Ashmead's Kernel trees in the grounds of the Boarding House today.



“Pupils acknowledge the important benefits they gain through the support of their teachers. Pupils exemplified this when considering that deselection from a team is seen, not as permanent set-back, but as an opportunity to show determination to win back the place. Pupils further develop their mature sense of independence through their boarding experience where they are well known by the staff as individuals and feel supported as a result. Pupils in Year 9 gain early opportunities to develop their self-knowledge through participation in a boarders’ leadership programme.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2023



The Leach Family

Housemistress, Mrs Ester Leach

I live in Ashmead with my husband, Matt, our twin girls, Zara and Tula and our lovely Bassett Hound Daisy. My family and I are passionate about food, not least due to my husband’s career as a chef. Food is a key aspect of the Spanish culture, and in our experience, any activity in House involving food is always a success!

I feel very privileged to be the Housemistress of Ashmead and I enjoy the warmth, fun and vibrancy that the girls bring to the House. We are joined in House by our wonderful Assistant Housemistress, our Matron; and a team of excellent Resident Tutors. Each evening, we are also joined by a terrific Tutor team who support the girls with their Prep and bring their expertise, care, and passions to the House. Our goal is always to nurture each individual girl so that she can make the most of all areas of College life.

Ashmead girls enjoy the cosy feel of Ashmead and in particular the House families, each named after a different type of Apple, as they get to know girls from different years. The girls’ favourite activities over the weekends are s’mores around the fire pit, cooking, baking and family competitions! On Sundays, in addition to some organised activities, the girls enjoy visiting Cheltenham’s town centre.





Boyne House

Boys' Boarding

Boyne House is the oldest House at College. Founded by Sir Matthew Wood in 1840, it is also one of the oldest Victorian boarding houses. References to the owl within College date back to 1920 with the Owls Dramatic Society, but it was ultimately chosen as Boyne House's emblem after the creation of an owl tie, which was awarded to pupils for their artistic performances in 1973.

Throughout its history, the boys of Boyne House have shown great character. After College, boys have gone off to Oxbridge, gained choral scholarships, attempted to climb Mount Everest and to swim The Channel. There has always been a great diversity of character and talent within the House, and the defining feature has been the closeness of the House community. As somewhat paradoxical as it may seem, the greater the differences that exist between the interests and talents of the boys within the House, the closer they are drawn together.





The Straiton Family

Housemaster, Mr Andrew Straiton

I joined College as an English Teacher and was Head of English until my appointment as Housemaster of Boyne House. My subject passions include the work of William Shakespeare and his contemporaries (we take every opportunity to visit the RSC in Stratford-upon-Avon when time allows), John Keats' poetry, and 20th century novelists like Fitzgerald and Hemingway.

My wife, Megan, is a GP working locally in the NHS and we live in Boyne House with our three children: Freddie, Beatrice, and Annabelle. I am supported in House by a brilliant and experienced team that includes an Assistant Housemaster, Resident Tutor and two Matrons.

Boyne House is a place where each boy is known as an individual and valued for their contribution to College life, be it in the classroom, the orchestra, the sports field, or the stage. Boyne House is also a place of fun and laughter (you'll find me regularly playing yard cricket) that takes the business of academic progress and personal growth seriously. As a team, we ensure that there are always opportunities for boys to take on leadership roles and to demonstrate the values of the House.



Chandos

Girls' Day Boarding and Sixth Form Boarding

Chandos prides itself on being both the oldest of the five girls' houses at College. The original emblem of Chandos was a flower, but was quickly changed by the first Housemistress and keen biologist, Gillian Proctor, to a Ladybird. Chandos was the first House to introduce a House tie, which has since been adopted by all other Houses and is presented to pupils who show significant commitment and contribution to the House.





The Henocq Family

Housemaster, Mr Alex Henocq

I am a passionate and committed teacher of Chemistry with almost 20 years' experience in both the state and independent sector. Prior to my move to College, I spent seven years as Housemaster to a large girls' boarding house in a school in West Sussex. I am a keen sportsman, coaching rugby and basketball, whilst my free time is often spent on the golf course or basketball court. Joining me in Chandos are my wife, Mary, and our son, Luca, who cannot wait to take part in the daily fun that the house has to offer.

Chandos is staffed by committed Resident Tutors, and our Assistant Housemistress. In the day, the House is helped by wonderful and supportive Matrons.

We are committed to ensuring that Chandos is a supportive and inclusive house, where each girl is respected and respectful in a positive and purposeful environment. This is encouraged by ensuring the girls are given plenty of opportunity to spend time with each other across the year groups, whether that be during a movie night, making food together or enjoying a BBQ in the sunshine! The girls are encouraged to take a leading role in designing the social calendar, and there is rarely a weekend when there is not an exciting event planned.





Christowe

Boys' Boarding

Christowe was founded in 1866, under the Housemastership of the Reverend William Boyce, who named Christowe after the village in Devon where he married. In recognition of Reverend Boyce, 'Boyceites' is the name given to all members of the House. Christowe's skull and crossbones emblem is said to have travelled from Reverend Boyce's former House, The Priory (1847-66). The story goes that, after a particularly hard-fought House match, a spectating father was so impressed that he presented The Priory team captain with one of his 17th Laneers regimental cap badges – the skull and crossbones.



“Pupils’ social development and collaboration are excellent. They base their approach on the school’s ethos of curiosity, creativity, character, community and continuous excellence. Pupils demonstrate these qualities aptly through their passionate involvement in various programmes, for example, MUN, DofE and the CCF.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2023



The Paynter Family

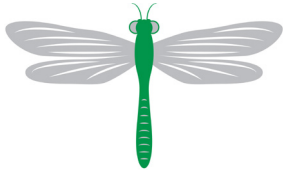
Housemaster, Mr Dan Paynter

I am a teacher of Physics and enjoy witnessing pupils’ eureka moments in the classroom! Outside of work I enjoy Hockey, Cycling, Running and supporting my lifelong Football team, Liverpool. I am joined in House by my wife Harriet who is a Religious Studies Teacher and our son Rory, our baby boy who brightens up the Boarding House.

The Christowe House staff make a very strong team an Assistant Housemaster, Resident Tutor and our excellent Matrons. Their efforts and support ensure that all the boys leave Christowe well mannered, inquisitive, socially comfortable and able to talk about the wider world, not just the things that they have participated in at College.

Throughout its extensive history, Christowe has always been a House where the individual pupil is encouraged to participate across the whole spectrum of College life. Christowe provides an environment in which boys can readily reflect upon and develop their character – we want the boys to be happy and, in turn, truly flourish at College and beyond.





College Lawn

Girls' Boarding

Fronted by two beautiful Regency buildings with further purpose-built accommodation to the rear, College Lawn enjoys stunning views of College Field and Chapel. College Lawn's original two buildings were initially family homes and both owners had links to College: No 1 was owned by OC Minden Badcock, who was awarded the MC in WW1, while No 2 was owned by Thomas Prendergast, an influential figure in the teaching of modern foreign languages, whose four grandchildren attended College. The buildings were then used as offices and nurse training centres by the NHS for many years.

Following College's acquisition of the buildings, a careful process of restoration was undertaken. The two buildings are now connected by a glazed corridor which also gives access to the 16 new ensuite rooms for Sixth Formers and a second Common Room which leads out to a paved quad, with a garden running alongside the house. College Lawn is lucky to combine many beautiful original, homely features with all the mod cons of a 21st century boarding house. The dragonfly emblem was inspired by the carved wooden insect found in College Chapel's Myers Memoria. Every girl in College Lawn is a member of a House 'family', all of which are named after species of dragonfly: Bluetails, Clubtails, Darters, Emeralds, Petaltails and Tigertails.





The Kirby Family

Housemistress, Mrs Caroline Kirby

I joined College as Housemistress of College Lawn and Geography teacher, along with my husband Robert, a teacher of Modern Foreign Languages and a Tutor in College Lawn and our three children; George, Benjamin and Lara. I have a passion for travel, skiing, freshwater lake swimming, walking and I adore cooking and craft activities.

Family is key to the ethos of College Lawn and there is a really strong sense of friendship across the age ranges. We are a House that likes to have a go, celebrate one another's achievements and, above all, be kind and thoughtful. Evenings and weekends in House are lively, whether it is nacho night, baking club, craft activities or playing games. The House is always full of purpose, ambition and laughter and, very often girls are singing and dancing together.

During the school day the girls are supported by Matrons, who work with me and our excellent resident team of an Assistant Housemaster and Resident Tutor. We also have a fantastic Tutor team who support the girls with their academic development and spend time in the House in the evenings, bringing their expertise, care and hobbies to add to the College Lawn fun!



Hazelwell

Boys' Boarding

Established in 1866 by its first Housemaster Mr Green, Hazelwell boys are named 'Greenites' after the founder of the boarding house. Situated in the fabulous Victorian family home on College Road, Hazelwell has a rich history of educating young men. Whilst maintaining some of the great house traditions, Hazelwell aims to provide a modern approach to boarding that seeks to replicate the family atmosphere of a home. Whilst College life builds knowledge, provides opportunities and opens doors, the caring and nurturing environment of Hazelwell builds

confidence and encourages boys to get outside of their comfort zones and participate in what is on offer.

The House emblem is a red dragon. Throughout history the dragon has been a symbol of strength, power and passionate heroism with some cultures associating it with good fortune and spiritual wellbeing. The Hazelwell boys take this 'Dragon Spirit' into all parts of College life. They are balanced all-rounders who are confident to take on challenges and aspire to success.





The Hayes Family

Housemaster, Mr Paul Hayes

As well as being Housemaster of Hazelwell, I am also an English teacher in College and a keen sportsman. I often help to coach boys' Hockey and Cricket.

I live with my wife Alex and four children; Sebastian, Louis, Chloe and Samuel who love their many older brothers in House. Alex works as a manager for the NHS and is a serving Magistrate for the Gloucestershire bench.

In House, we are joined by a fantastic team with an Assistant Housemaster and Resident Tutor. Our incredible Matrons and Tutor team also help us to create a warm and homely atmosphere where the boys respect and support each other across the year groups. Many Greenites return each year for reunions and functions, sporting old House Colours!



Leconfield

Boys' Boarding

Leconfield is a Boys' House situated on College Road and was purpose-built for boarders in 1866 and is currently home to over 70 Boarders. Leconfield boys are known as Porcherites after the Housemaster, W.R. Porcher (1872-93). The House logo of an anchor was first seen in 1918 and has been worn proudly ever since.

“Pupils are keen to help the school move forward with initiatives which support anti-racism and LGBTQ+ issues. Pupils feel that it is only through having an appreciation of each other’s personal experiences that equality and equity can be achieved. They develop their broader understanding of others through finding out about their peers’ countries, cultures, backgrounds and interests.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate 2023





The Evans Family

Housemaster, Mr Daniel Evans

I am a Teacher of History of Art, and coach Rowing and Rugby. Before my career in teaching, I spent nine years running an educational travel company and led residential gap years and school trips in Venice, Florence and Rome. My wife, Becks, is the Head of Higher Education and Careers at College and worked as a Headhunter and Recruitment Consultant in London for 15 years previously. We also have two sons, Hector and Tobias, and our adoring Cockapoo, Juno.

I am supported in House by a brilliant Resident Tutor team, who together with our devoted Matrons, run a happy House where boys are encouraged to fulfil their potential, excel as individuals, and establish the skills needed to forge healthy, happy and ambitious future paths. Our favourite House weekend activities include go-karting and paintballing, but on the quieter weekends, boys play seemingly endless Football or Basketball matches in the yard, enjoy movie nights and cooking marshmallows or steaks on the firepit. Leconfield enjoys fundraising for the House charity through apple juice sales (squeezed from our own orchard), volunteer work and sponsored sport-a-thons.

We enjoy hosting socials with other Houses and have had several returning Porcherites and other professionals, to talk to the boys about the highs and lows of their careers. Representatives from Virgin Galactic, BBC Natural History, Conde Naste and the Windsor Estate to name a few, have passed on their words of wisdom to the House community.





Newick House

Boys' Day Boarding and Sixth Form Boarding

Newick House boys, or Muglistonites, are named after Newick's longest serving Housemaster Reverend John Mugliston (1870-1898). Newick's emblem is a cornflower as, when emblems were being introduced to College, cornflower blue and black were the colours associated to Newick House. The Housemaster at the time commissioned the emblem design which was made by pupil Richard Wentges. The design began as a sprig of three cornflowers that changed into a single flower as it was easier to machine embroider!

Newick House is rich in history, and Muglistonites leave College with a strong sense of who they are and what they stand for in an ever-changing world. They are grounded individuals who have a keen sense of self and are ready to make their mark on the world. It is said that you can go far and wide, bump into a fellow Muglistonite and know that you will have much in common.





The Naylor Family

Housemaster, Mr Alex Naylor

I am a lover of art, the outdoors, hiking and cycling. I live in Newick House with my wife Sophie, who has starred in a number of West End productions. Similarly to me, she enjoys spending time outdoors with our spaniel, Tiki.

Together we look to build and nurture lasting relationships in an inclusive and happy family atmosphere, ensuring that the boys have everything they need to enable them to fulfil their own academic and personal potential.

A favourite feature of Newick is the fantastically equipped decking area to the side of the Boarding House which backs onto a small orchard. It includes a professional pizza oven, fire pit and outdoor kitchen. At the weekends the boys enjoy making pizzas and barbecuing where all the year groups mix together.





Queen's House

Girls' Day

As part of Cheltenham College's 150th Anniversary, the College Council and the Headmaster purchased Linden House, an elegant Georgian building, built in 1847, with a wonderful view across College Lawn to accommodate the increasing number of girls at College. The Queen's House was officially opened by Anne Cadbury in June 1994.

Just before Queen Elizabeth II visited in 1991, she gave permission for the new House to be renamed 'Queen's House' to commemorate her visit. In September 2002, Queen's House found a permanent role in life as College's Girls' Day House, with Steph Chipman as the first Housemistress.



“In the [parent] questionnaires, nearly all parents agree that the school helps their child to develop strong teamwork and social skills. Successful fulfilment of the school’s aims is exemplified in the pupils’ development of skills for a modern world and a commitment to the service of others.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2023



The Bates Family

Housemistress, Mme Wandrille Bates

After graduating from Paris with an MA in English and Media studies, I taught in Kent for three years and then I joined College to teach French. After being a Resident Tutor in Leconfield with my husband Will, a Teacher of Geography at College, I became Housemistress of Queen’s House. With my superb Tutor and Matron team, we promote a strong family spirit and high level of care, ensuring that the girls feel valued and supported. We also have two daughters Eleanor and Eloise, and they adore their many older sisters in House.

As Will and I both teach, run co-curricular clubs and coach games, we understand the busy but rewarding timetable that pupils at College have and we work hard to ensure that the girls get just as involved in College life as the boarders do. Our favourite House events are the Performance Evening, Grandparents’ Cream Tea, board game nights and Family competitions as these are mainly pupil-led and always great fun. We are very proud of how the girls bond across year groups, and we have fantastic Sixth Formers as role models to the younger years.





Southwood

Boys' Day

Originally a private boarding house known as Keynshambury, and home of Reverend Thomas Southwood (1810-1885), Southwood became a Boys' Day House in 1977. College first purchased the land back in 1906, but at that point it was the Principal's house, and on the land commenced construction of, what is now, the current Prep School main building.

The House emblem, the bee, is a symbol of industry and community, both of which are appropriate for a House at College. It is unclear which came first; the yellow and black (hence the bee) or the emblem itself.





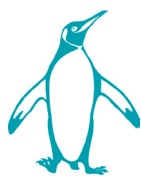
The Orchard Family

Housemaster, Mr James Orchard

I am an English Teacher with a passion for the novels of Waugh, Forster and Tarrt, the Theatre of the Absurd and the poetry of Billy Collins; specialized bicycles; Hockey; Skiing; Liverpool Football Club and all music.

My wife, Emma, worked for Google before answering the call to have a career in teaching History and Politics. We also have two sons, Ellis and Luca. Overseeing the lives of all four of us is our dog, Bertie. Through my teaching career thus far I have also been: Master-in-Charge of Hockey, a Resident Boarding Tutor, a Teacher of GCSE Drama and A Level Theatre Studies, a Housemaster and an Assistant Head.

I am delighted to be a part of the wider Southwood team of Matrons and Tutors, encouraging a well-rounded, home-from-home feel. We ensure that no Day Boy ever misses out on an aspect of College life and is a key member of the College community, we support the Southwood boys in our care to achieve their own considerable potential in the years to come.



Westal

Girls' Boarding

Westal takes its name from the family home of former pupil and notable polar explorer Dr Edward Wilson, who died alongside Captain Scott during the fateful Antarctic expedition of 1912. His intrepid and inquisitive nature is reflected in the way the girls approach College life. Besides being a polar explorer, Wilson was a natural historian and an artist. Endeavouring to record the bird life of the Antarctic region, Wilson painted pictures of several species, including penguins.

Therefore, Westal's first Housemistress and penguin lover Sue Jackson selected the penguin as the House emblem.

Opened in 2013, the custom-designed, purpose-built Westal building provides a contemporary and comfy ambience near to College's excellent sports facilities.





The Rees Family

Housemistress, Mrs Catriona Rees

Along with being Housemistress of Westal, I am also the Head of Floreat (PSHE). I studied Religious Studies at Edinburgh University and trained as a chef before taking up the call to teaching. I retain a love for cooking and it is a regular feature of life in Westal. I live with my husband, Alun, who works as a rural surveyor, and our children, Aelwen, who is at College and Alban, who is at the Prep School. We also have a very spoilt and cuddly cockerpoo called Ottie.

Along with cooking, I have completed a number of ultra-marathons and love board games and the works of Agatha Christie. Westal is a very special, beautiful home, with kindness and belonging at its core. We have wonderful matrons and I am supported by a fantastic Assistant Housemistress and an additional resident tutor. We are a strong team and ensure all girls are cared for and supported throughout their journey at College.



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