

# DAY FLEXI BOARDING

The Options Explained



# INTRODUCTION

Downe House is committed to providing a rich, varied and high-quality immersive education that spans seven days a week during term time. This commitment very much remains our vision for the future of the School because it ensures our girls have the widest possible range of opportunities to grow and develop and so become young women who are well-prepared to take their places in the world beyond Downe House.

In order to recognise the needs of families and also the pressures on some parents, from September 2025, girls will be able to access our full programme in the following ways:

- **FULL BOARDING**
- **FLEXI BOARDING**
- **DAY BOARDING** (for existing day pupils only, not available to new starters)
- **DAY**

The information provided in this booklet is intended to give parents details of what each option includes, and some of the logistical information which you may find helpful.

We fully expect our pupils to remain on their current offering but if you are interested in changing, then a full term's notice is required in writing please.

Information on fees is available on the School website here: [Downe House Fees](#)



# FULL BOARDING

Full boarding lies at the heart of a Downe House education and remains hugely important to us, and we will continue to offer a full evening and weekend programme. We expect the majority of our girls to stay in for weekends and to take advantage of the numerous trips off-site, socials with our partner schools, and plethora of on-site activities.

Full boarders will, as currently, have their own area within a dorm and will continue to share with other boarders in their year group. Ensuring an appropriate mix of full and flexi boarders will be a priority for us.

Lessons on Saturdays will continue to play an important part of life at Downe House, as well as sports fixtures on Saturday afternoons, which we fully expect nearly all our girls to partake in.

We recognise the pressures on families and want to work together to ensure we can be as flexible and accommodating as we can to support you. However, we are absolutely unwavering in our commitment to putting on a very attractive and fun weekend programme to keep our full boarding alive and to keep as many girls in as possible. The message is clear - we want the girls with us as much as possible!

Should boarders wish to go home on Saturday, then, as currently, they are welcome to do so, once lessons have finished and sporting commitments have been met. We encourage our full boarders to return on Sunday evenings, to prepare well for the week ahead, although a Monday return may also be possible, with prior agreement with your daughter's Housemistress.



# FLEXI BOARDING

This option is new from September 2025 and will allow girls to stay for up to four nights a week. Flexi boarders will be housed across the three Lower School, five Upper School and two Sixth Form Houses. Girls will have their own bed and space within a dorm, sharing with other full and flexi boarders.

Flexi boarders will have access to the same opportunities and pastoral provision as the full boarders, including at weekends, and will plan their nights at school, according to their extra-curricular activities and their family needs. There will be a booking system in place and parents and guardians will be required to select their daughter's nights by the Thursday of the preceding week.

## THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES APPLY:

- Any four nights can be booked, including Saturdays and Sundays
- Nights booked do not have to be consecutive
- Nights booked can be varied each week
- Additional nights (beyond the 4 night allocation) can be booked on an ad hoc basis at a cost of £95 +VAT per night
- Unused nights cannot be carried forward

For girls spending nights at home during the week, they may be collected any time after lessons finish or after their commitments end, up until 9pm (or 8.30pm for Lower School). On Saturdays, they may leave after lessons finish at 12pm or after their sporting commitments are met. They should register at School on Monday morning any time between 7.00am and 8.30am.

All meals are included and girls are welcome to join other boarders for breakfast, lunch and supper every day.

The new Downe House bus service has been designed to meet the needs of flexi-boarders and day pupils. Further details are given later in this leaflet.

# DAY BOARDING

'Day Boarder' is the new term for our current day girls in the Lower and Upper School, who will remain on their current arrangement. This option will not be open to new joiners from September 2025.

Day boarders will continue to enjoy the same fully immersive opportunities as our full boarders, but with the added benefit of sleeping at home each night. They will remain integrated and mixed across the Lower School and Upper School Houses and will continue to have their own space within a dormitory, sharing with full and flexi boarders. Space allowing, day boarders will often have a bed, and they will have the option to stay overnight, should they choose. Overnight stays need to be booked via our online system, by the Thursday of the preceding week. Overnight stays will be charged at £95 +VAT per night.

As per the current arrangement, girls may be collected any time after their lessons have finished or after their school commitments are met - this can be any time up until 9pm. They should register at School the next morning between 7.00am and 8.30am. All meals are included, and girls are welcome to join other boarders for breakfast, lunch and supper every day.

The new Downe House bus service has been designed to meet the needs of flexi-boarders and day pupils. Further details are given later in this booklet.

# DAY GIRLS

We have a new day offering from September 2025 which will apply to all day girls joining the School and to all Sixth Form day girls (whether new or current pupils).

Day pupils will benefit from a full boarding education but will benefit from sleeping in their own beds at home. They are fully integrated into all aspects of school life, enjoying an extended day, with the flexibility of starting as early as 7.00am and finishing as late as 9pm in the Upper School and Sixth Form. Day girls will have their own study area with a desk and space to store their belongings. No bed or dorm space will be allocated.

All day girls will be attached to Tedworth House and will play an integral part in House life. They will be housed as follows:

## LOWER SCHOOL

Day girls will have their own area in each of the three Lower School Houses. While they are based in the Lower School, they will represent Tedworth in all House competitions. The boarders in the Lower School will be attached to any of the five Upper School Houses, including Tedworth.

## UPPER SCHOOL

All day girls will be housed in Tedworth, integrated with full and flexi boarders, but with their own dedicated study and changing areas. Tedworth will undergo considerable refurbishment over the summer to accommodate these new areas and to provide new common areas for both day girls and boarders to socialise.

## SIXTH FORM

Day girls will be housed in special day girl areas within York and Willis. New day girls will be attached to Tedworth. Current day girls will remain attached to their present Upper School Houses.

The expansion of our day girl community is hugely exciting for us and we are committed to ensuring that day girls experience the same number of opportunities as our boarders. We will be appointing a member of staff, a Head of Day Girls, to oversee our day community, ensuring communications to and from home are well supported and that every day girl's experience is a fulfilling and positive one.

**DAILY LOGISTICS:** Day girls may be collected any time after their lessons have finished or after their school commitments are met: this can be any time up until 9pm in the evening (8.30pm for Lower School). They should register at School the next morning between 7.00am and 8.30am.

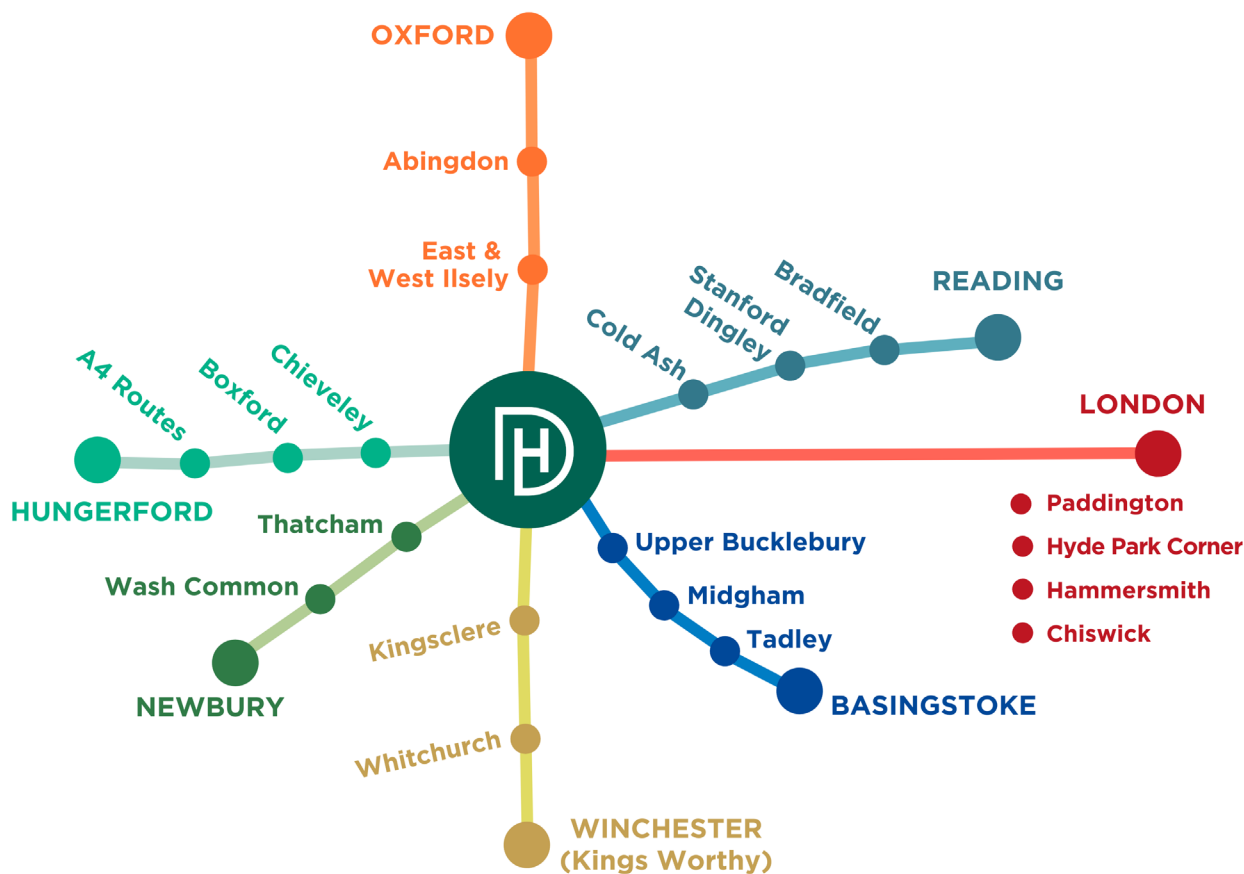
**MEALS:** All meals are included, and girls are welcome to join other boarders for breakfast, lunch and supper every day.

**OCCASIONAL BOARDING:** While we expect day girls to go home every night, we fully appreciate that there may be occasions when day girls may need to stay at school, or they would like to try boarding for the first time. Occasional boarding may be facilitated on an ad hoc basis but this must be requested in advance (by Thursday or the preceding week), and will cost £95 +VAT per night. It is important to note that an overnight stay could take place in any of the Houses within the relevant section (Lower, Upper School or Sixth Form) and could change from one stay to another.

**BUS SERVICE:** The new Downe House bus service has been designed to meet the needs of flexi-boarders and day pupils. Further details can be found on the following page.

# BUS SERVICE

Our new Bus Service launches in September 2025 and is designed to be highly convenient for the families of Day Pupils and Flexi-Boarders who are based locally or in London.



## LOCAL ROUTES

### Daily Service (Monday to Saturday)

We are initially offering 6 local routes, with a number of pick-up/drop-off points on each – these will be finalised, according to demand, by the end of July 2025. All bus drivers on local routes will be Downe House employees. The service will be adjusted to meet the requirements of exeaters and holidays.

**FREQUENCY:** the Local Bus Service will run six days a week, from Monday to Saturday

**MORNING SERVICE:** the target arrival time at DH will be 8.00am

**AFTERNOON SERVICE:** buses will depart DH at approx. 6.00pm (5.00pm on Wednesdays and 4.00pm on Saturdays)

**COST:** up to £120 per week (subject to confirmation of final routes and demand)

**TO BOOK:** bookings will be made on a half-termly basis, with payment in advance, and places subject to availability. You may book as many days as required. Where a booked seat is unused, charges are non-refundable. Ad Hoc booking (on a first come first served basis) will also be available. Bookings will be managed by our transport partner – Vectare – through an online portal and app.

## LONDON ROUTES

Our new London Bus Service will run mid-week and at weekends to meet the needs of Flexi Boarders who wish to return home on Wednesday nights and weekends (with adjustments to meet the requirements of exeates and holidays). Full details will be finalised by the end of July 2025.

### COLLECTION / DROP OFF POINTS:

Paddington; Hyde Park Corner; Hammersmith; Chiswick

### FREQUENCY:

- **Mondays** - London to DH morning service: leaving Paddington at 6.15am to arrive at DH by 8am in time for breakfast
- **Wednesdays** - DH to London afternoon service, departure time to be confirmed - with an aim to reach London destinations between 7 - 8pm
- **Thursdays** - London to DH morning service, leaving Paddington at 6.15am, to arrive at DH by 8am in time for breakfast
- **Saturdays** - DH to London afternoon service, leaving at 4pm

**COST:** up to £100 per week (subject to confirmation of final routes and demand)

**TO BOOK:** bookings will be made on a half-termly basis, with payment in advance, and places subject to availability. You may book as many days as required. Where a booked seat is unused, charges are non-refundable. Ad Hoc booking ( on a first come first served basis) will also be available. Bookings will be managed by our transport partner - Vectare - through an online portal and app.

## INTERESTED IN THE BUS SERVICE?

Final decisions on bus routes and stops will be shaped by demand - it would therefore be very helpful to our planning if all parents who are considering the Bus Service would complete a short survey:

[BUS SURVEY](#)

# WHO TO CONTACT

If you have any questions, would like further information or would like to notify the School of a change in your daughter's current status, please contact the relevant member of staff:

**BUS SERVICE QUERIES:** Mr Alasdair Heath [heatha@downehouse.net](mailto:heatha@downehouse.net)

**DAY & FLEXI OPTIONS:** Mrs Tara Reeve [reevet@downehouse.net](mailto:reevet@downehouse.net)

**TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OF A CHANGE IN STATUS:** Mrs Emma McKendrick, [mckendricke@downehouse.net](mailto:mckendricke@downehouse.net) copying in the Finance Department: [fees@downehouse.net](mailto:fees@downehouse.net)



Downe House

