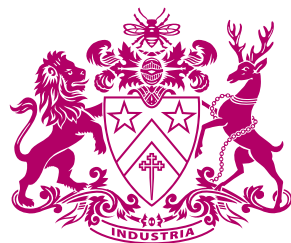


THINKING OF BOARDING?



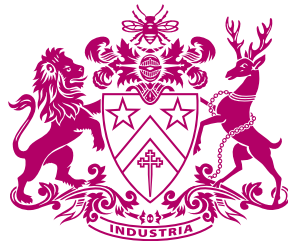
Fettes College



“I look back on the sense of community and togetherness that the House system fostered in each of us, and appreciate how lucky we were to grow up in such a fun and thriving environment.”

INTRODUCTION

As a full-boarding school, we are often asked what it is really like to board. In order to help families get a feel for boarding at Fettes before they visit, we have put together this guide featuring the most commonly asked questions.



Fettes College

What is boarding at Fettes really like?

Each boarding house is like a family, a group of staff and students looking after each other: helping, encouraging and simply being there when needed. Our boarding houses are at the heart of Fettes life; lifelong friendships are made, trust is fostered and loyalty forged. We aim to create a real home-from-home.

As well as the strong bonds made with fellow housemates, it is the commitment of Housemasters, Housemistresses, Tutors and Matrons that leaves a lasting impression. These individuals are dedicated to caring for and encouraging each student. They make it their duty to understand the personality, quirks, talents and aspirations of those in their charge. They regard their role in the students' development as a privilege.

In the College, every member of our full-time teaching staff is connected to a boarding house and does one night of duty in-house per week so all staff are involved in boarding in one way or another.

In Scotland, all boarding schools are inspected by The Care Inspectorate and Fettes is proud to have been awarded the top grade of 'Excellent' for every inspection since March 2012, the only Scottish boarding school to be able to say this. The fact that our care and support has been evaluated as 'sector-leading' is a testament to the commitment and dedication of our staff. All reports are available to view online at www.careinspectorate.com



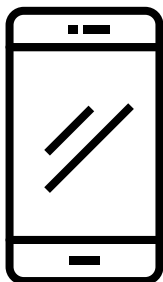
How often will I be able to communicate with my son/daughter?

Prep School

As part of the night-time routine, Prep pupils have an hour to use their electronic devices (after homework has been completed) and they are encouraged to use this time to call home. Sometimes our pupils are so busy having fun that they forget to give family a ring so their houseparents will give gentle reminders if need be! There is also a phone line into each house on which parents can call and a private space where the call can be taken.

College

Although students are allowed mobile phones with them throughout the school day (as they are used as part of our digital learning strategy), they are not allowed when walking round campus or in the Dining Hall. This is because we want our students to look each other in the eye and talk to each other instead of being fixated on a screen. Therefore, although they will have their phones on them, the best times to communicate are at the end of the day once prep has been done.



All Prep boarders and those in 3rd and 4th Form hand in their phones during prep time and at night.

Can I see them during the week/weekend?

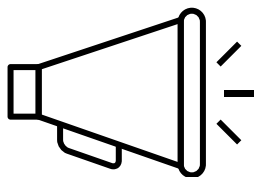
Prep School

Although visits can take place over the weekend, making the most of what we have on offer over the weekend is a key part of the boarding experience, so you may wish to take them out for tea one night instead

Wednesday after games usually works best. There are also two Recommended Leave weekends per term, giving you a lovely relaxed weekend together.

College

As befitting their age, there is greater flexibility so it may be that you could pop in to see them for a coffee when their timetable allows. As a full boarding school, we have lessons on Saturday mornings matches and other activities on Saturday afternoons and a full schedule of events and outings on Saturday evenings students are expected to participate. Sundays are the best time to meet for lunch with family as Sundays in the College have no fixed social activities but instead are set aside for rest and relaxation, starting with a lie-in and brunch.



Parents are very welcome to support their children at sports fixtures as well as attending concerts and drama performances throughout the year.

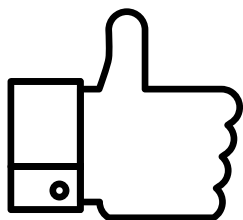
As the parents of boarding students, how are we involved in the house? Do you have social events for parents?

Prep School


Houseparents are in regular contact with parents throughout the term but we also make sure that at each Recommended Leave or Half-Term, we will often have afternoon tea waiting for you so you can meet other boarding parents. You will also be invited to the social events taking place throughout the year at the Prep School.

College

As both day and boarding students are members of a House, there are numerous occasions for parents to come into house and socialise, whether that be a coffee morning, kitchen supper, drinks or an invitation to a large scale event or charity fund-raiser.



You can also keep up-to-date with day-to-day events by following the wide range of Fettes social media accounts which are regularly updated and give a real feel for life at Fettes.



“For any pupil and former pupil the sense of belonging is hard to describe. The friends and memories that you make at Fettes are with you for life.”

Do boarders get any 'down time'?

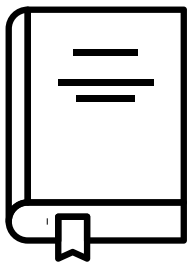
What do they do on a Sunday?

Prep School

Throughout the week, once prep and tea are over, pupils head back to house to spend time reading, watching television, playing games and relaxing just as they would at home. After lessons in the morning, Saturday afternoons allow for free time with many children enjoying movie and popcorn night. On Sundays, there is an in-house breakfast followed by a house trip; a perfect combination of activity and relaxation.

College

Life in The College is very busy but throughout the day time is built in for socialising with friends or simply sitting quietly and chilling out. Whilst there are activities and events that students can take part in on a Sunday such as mountain biking, kayaking or hill walking, for most, this is the one full day of the week that students can relax and decide on the pace that best suits them. Many take this opportunity to head in to Edinburgh for some shopping, a meal or cinema/museum/gallery visit.



No matter what boarding house you are in, there are places where students can go to sit, relax and read a book for a little peace and quiet.

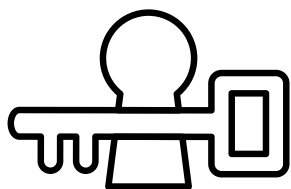
Do I get to choose which boarding house I join?

Prep School

In the Prep School, there is one boys' boarding house, Arran, and one girls' boarding house, Iona, so there is no choice of boarding house within the Prep School, just two very happy families!

College

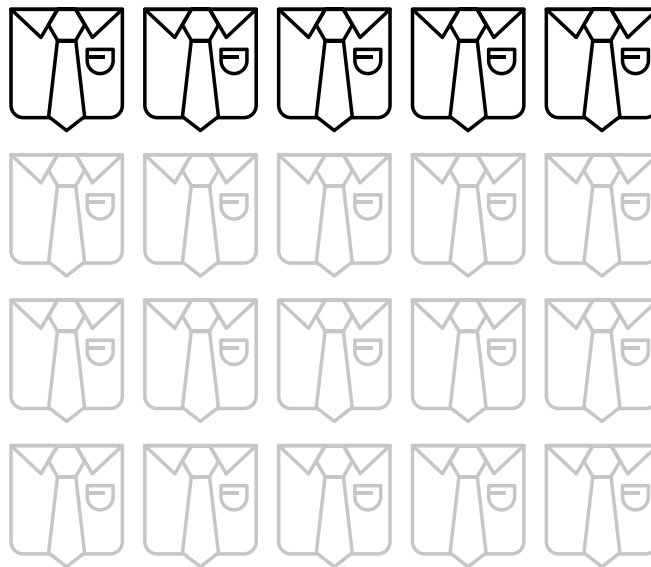
In order to ensure that each of our boarding houses has an appropriate mix of talents, interests and previous schools, the College is responsible for House allocation so individual preferences cannot be guaranteed.



However, the exception to this rule is if there is an existing family connection to that house e.g. you would like your child to join the same house you attended or one a sibling currently attends.

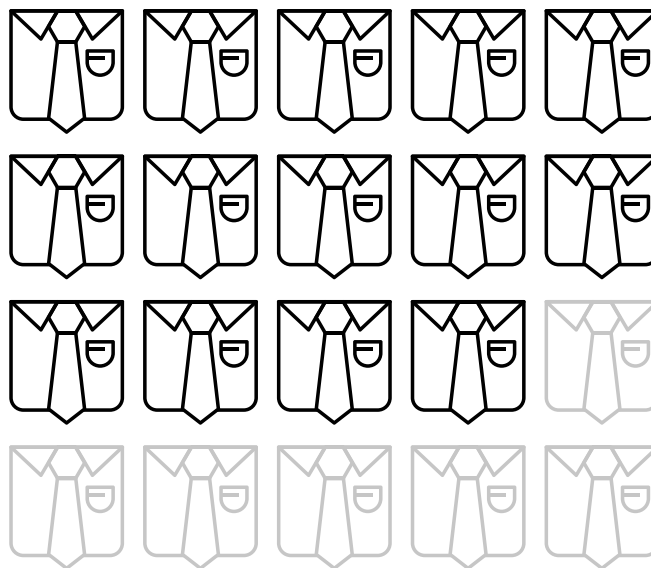
Prep

25% of our pupils board



College

70% of our students board



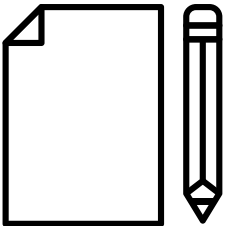
How do you ensure boarders can study quietly and effectively?

Prep School

Homework is always supervised and usually completed before the boarders come back into house. If for any reason there is work to catch up on, boarders can do this at the kitchen table with house tutors and houseparents available to supervise. During the weekend before the exams in the Autumn and Summer Terms, both boarding houses have revision study days.

College

For the younger year groups (3rd and sometimes 4th Forms) Houses may sit students together to undertake prep but students often work in their rooms or studies. These sessions are supervised by tutors and 6th Form helpers. As they progress through the school, independent study is encouraged and boarders can complete their work in their bedrooms or use spaces such as the Library.



Prep is what we call homework which is a little confusing when talking about doing prep in the Prep School!

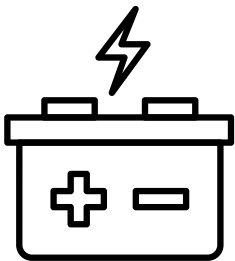
Do boarders get enough sleep? What are the bedtime routines?

Prep School

As with any family, bedtime depends on the age of the child and the same routine is used each night of the week, with Saturday evening being slightly later. A full hour without electronics before lights out aids a good night's sleep so electronic devices are handed in and the children then have a half hour reading in bed to help them unwind.

College

There are different bedtimes for the different age groups and if a particular dorm doesn't settle, they may well have an earlier bedtime the following night! Those in 3rd and 4th Form will hand in their devices before bedtime and we expect the older students to monitor their own use of electronics. We like to ensure that bedtime is a calm, quiet time giving them the opportunity to unwind before sleep.



Boarders regularly receive information about the benefits of a good night's sleep so they understand and appreciate the importance of these bedtime routines.

How many pupils are there in one bedroom?

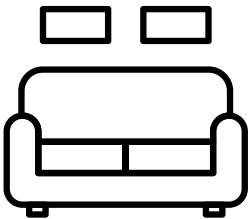
What are the bedrooms like?

Prep School

The number of pupils in each bedroom can vary from 2-8. During their time as a Prep boarder, your daughter/son would not be in a room on their own but have friends around them. Each boarder is encouraged to decorate their space with photos from home, favourite pillows and duvet set, cuddly toys and anything to make them feel at home.

College

The numbers of boarders per bedroom will vary from house to house and is dependent on the number of boarders within that year group. However, by the time students have reached the Upper Sixth Form, the vast majority of boarders will have their own en-suite study bedroom. We want every boarder to feel at home and walking around our boarding houses reveals the myriad of ways in which boarders express themselves and personalise their space.

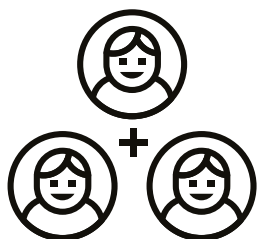


All Houses are homes with welcoming lounges, well-equipped recreation rooms and pantries/kitchen for snacks. They are homely, inviting and a focal point for our warm and welcoming community.

How many resident staff are there and what do they do?

Prep School

Each of the Prep School boarding houses have a housemaster/housemistress who live in the houses, together with their families. In addition, each house also has a resident tutor – another friendly face to help them. There are additional house tutors, chosen from the Prep Staff, who are on duty one night a week, meaning that your child will get to know a variety of staff on a weekly basis. Both houses also have a matron on duty during the day and in the evening, who can help if your child feels poorly, assist with laundry and tidiness or as simply another friendly face to have a chat with.



One of our Old Fettesians described boarding as 'having 50 sisters to share everything with.' A lovely sentiment and still true today.

College

Every boarding house in the College has a Housemistress or Housemaster who lives in the boarding house with their own family. Their key priority is the care and wellbeing of your child and they are fully involved in the day to day running of the house from morning to night. They are assisted by an Assistant Housemaster or Housemistress as well as a team of tutors assigned to that house. Matron is like a second mother to many boarders and is always there for a pep talk, to listen to any worries or simply remind them to polish their shoes! On top of this, every student is allocated a tutor who will take a key role in their wellbeing and academic education as well as supporting them at matches and concerts.

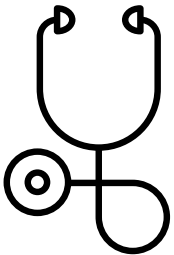
What happens if my child gets ill?

Prep School


If your daughter/son feels unwell they will initially be seen by one of our Prep School matrons for assessment. They will then either have some rest time in-house or be taken to the Medical Centre (which is on-site and operates 24 hours a day with qualified nurses) where they can stay until they are feeling better. If for any reason your child needed to go to hospital, you would be informed immediately and the matron or a member of the medical staff would accompany them and remain with them for as long as necessary.

College

Matron will normally be the first person your child will go and chat to when they are feeling unwell so she will make an initial assessment and very much like the Prep School, they may either rest in house or can be taken to the Medical Centre. There is a daily GP appointment service and the superb Medical Centre is staffed 24 hours a day to deal with any medical issues that may arise.



All boarders will register with our local doctor's surgery for their time at Fettes with the majority of GP visits happening within the Medical Centre.



*“Our son has taken to
Fettes Prep and his boarding
house like a duck to water.
We and he could not
be happier.”*

NEXT STEPS

The care and welfare of our students is fundamentally important to us as we know that only a happy, supported child will truly flourish. It is a huge privilege to look after your children and although it will not always be trouble free and home-sickness may occur in the early days, there is a wealth of experience in the exceptional house staff we employ so you can rest assured that we will take the very best care of them.

If you are interested in coming and visiting Fettes to see what boarding is like first-hand, please simply email **admissions@fettes.com** and the Admissions Team will be able to help arrange a visit or overnight taster stay. If you are a current Fettes family considering converting to boarding, your child can come and board at Fettes (space permitting) for a week in order to experience a weekly cycle within the boarding house.



HOUSES

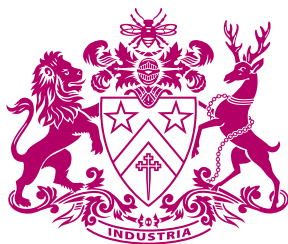
Prep School

Iona House

Housemistress: Burty Scott

Arran House

Housemaster: David Hall



Fettes College

College

Arniston

Housemistress: Rachel Nicol

College East

Housemistress: Lindsay Marks

College West

Housemistress: Sue Bruce

Dalmeny

Housemistress: Kate Fairbairn

Carrington

Housemaster: James Weatherby

Glencorse

Housemaster: James Pillingier

Kimmerghame

Housemaster: Ed Boulter-Comer

Moredun

Housemaster: Henry McCowan Hill

Upper Sixth Boarding House

Craigleith

Housemaster: Charlie du Vivier

Housemistress: Kirsty du Vivier