



WESTONBIRT
— SCHOOL —

BOARDING

HANDBOOK

YOUR GUIDE TO
BOARDING LIFE



BOARDING AT WESTONBIRT

Boarding is at the heart of life at Westonbirt, creating a vibrant, supportive community where pupils feel a true sense of belonging.

We welcome pupils from across the UK and around the world, offering full, weekly and flexi boarding options. Our three boarding houses provide a warm and welcoming home away from home, where pupils are known as individuals, supported by dedicated staff and encouraged to thrive.

Living and learning together helps pupils develop confidence, independence and resilience, while forming friendships that often last a lifetime. Through a rich programme of activities and experiences, boarders make the most of everything Westonbirt has to offer, both inside and outside the classroom.

Above all, boarding at Westonbirt is about community. It is a place where achievements are celebrated, challenges are shared and every pupil is encouraged to become the very best version of themselves.



BOARDING AIMS

At Westonbirt, we strive to create a boarding community where every pupil feels safe, valued and supported to thrive.

We aim to:

- Foster a culture of kindness, honesty, respect and understanding.
- Provide a happy, structured and inclusive environment where everyone feels they belong.
- Encourage confidence, independence and personal responsibility.
- Support the wellbeing, development and success of every pupil.
- Celebrate individuality while promoting a strong sense of community.
- Create opportunities for leadership, collaboration and personal growth.
- Help pupils develop the skills, resilience and character needed for life beyond school.



BOARDING

AIMS



HOW WE ACHIEVE THIS

We support our boarders through:

- Dedicated pastoral care from experienced boarding staff.
- Comfortable, welcoming boarding houses that feel like home.
- A wide range of activities, trips and enrichment opportunities.
- Strong partnerships between pupils, parents and staff.
- High standards of safeguarding, health and wellbeing support.
- Opportunities for pupil leadership and student voice.
- Access to excellent facilities, catering and academic support.



KEY

STAFF



SEDGWICK

HOUSE PARENT: SALLY GOULD
GIRLS & BOYS Y7 - Y9

BEAUFORT

HOUSE PARENT: ANDY HAMILTON
GIRLS & BOYS Y10 - Y11



HOLFORD

HOUSE PARENT: SARA NASH
GIRLS & BOYS Y12 - Y13



SEDGWICK

A warm welcome, I am sure that you are excited to be embarking on your new adventure and I am looking forward to getting to know you.

If you are new to boarding, we would like you to think of the House as a home away from home where we foster a sense of belonging.

The House is a friendly environment where pupils are encouraged to look out for one another, a spirit of goodwill is important, and this is based on trust, tolerance, and respect for one another. As in any community, it is important to adhere to the basic rules and it is hoped that this handbook will act as a useful guide.

I look forward to welcoming you to the House.



**SALLY
GOULD**

SALLY.GOULD@WESTONBIRTSCHOOL.UK



BEAUFORT

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Beaufort Housemaster and welcome you to boarding at Westonbirt School. My name is Andy Hamilton. I have a son who is a Politics graduate and a Law trainee and a daughter who is currently studying Early Childhood Studies at university, and I am to be joined in the house by my wife, Gemma, and our sports-loving son.

After graduating as a Physical Education teacher in 1999, I have taught in selective and non-selective independent and state schools. During the last 11 years, I have worked mainly in Independent boarding schools as a Housemaster and previously as an assistant in a large boys' boarding house and a tutor in a co-educational day house.

As a housemaster, I strive to support students in developing confidence and achieving their aspirations both academically and in co-curricular activities. I believe that a safe, secure, and enjoyable house environment is hugely beneficial for students, through building friendships and providing opportunities to lead and work together with students across the age range of the house. I work closely with teaching staff, tutors, and support staff to ensure that students' academic and pastoral needs are met. I am here to support and guide students to achieve their goals, establish effective study habits, and manage their time efficiently.

Here at Westonbirt, we endeavour to create an environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, which requires co-operation and open communication from us all. Trust of each other, respect for each other, and our environment will enable us to create an inclusive community which is vital for boarding to flourish and for relationships to develop into long-lasting friendships. Additionally, these experiences will prepare students for their future adventures through life.



**ANDY
HAMILTON**

**ANDY.HAMILTON@
WESTONBIRTSCHOOL.UK**



HOLFORD HOUSE

A very warm welcome to boarding at Holford House!

We are delighted to welcome you to boarding at Holford House, a dynamic and supportive environment for our Year 12 and 13 students. This is an exciting stage of your school journey, offering you greater independence, fresh experiences, and the opportunity to take more responsibility as a senior member of the Westonbirt community.

Located off-site and run by a dedicated team of experienced pastoral staff whose sole focus is your wellbeing, safety, and personal development, we are here to support you as you navigate the academic, social, and emotional aspects of Sixth Form life. We're here to help you grow into a confident, independent young adult, ready for life after Westonbirt.

We place great value on open and respectful communication between staff and pupils. We aim to create a home from home atmosphere built on trust, tolerance, and mutual respect. As well as embracing your academic commitments, we hope you will make the most of the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer both within Holford House and across the school.

Living in a shared community comes with both freedoms and responsibilities. As such, we have developed some simple routines and expectations to help us all live and work together harmoniously. This handbook is designed to guide you through those, and to help you settle in quickly and confidently.

We look forward to getting to know you and supporting you in the exciting year ahead.



**SARA
NASH**

SARA.NASH@WESTONBIRTSCHOOL.UK

WELLBEING & FACILITIES

FACILITIES



Our boarding houses provide a welcoming home away from home, with comfortable social spaces, kitchen facilities and amenities where pupils can relax, connect with friends and feel part of the community.

Boarders enjoy access to Westonbirt's excellent facilities and a varied programme of evening and weekend activities. From house events and cultural celebrations to trips, sports and social outings, there are plenty of opportunities to try something new, pursue existing interests and make lasting memories.

Set in the heart of the Cotswolds, Westonbirt also offers easy access to a range of outdoor activities and adventures. Pupils are encouraged to make the most of the opportunities available, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the wide variety of extracurricular activities on offer across the school.

WELFARE

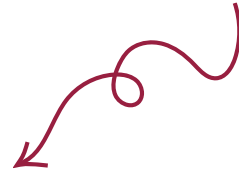


Boarders enjoy three nutritious meals each day, with Sixth Form pupils also having access to the school's café.

The wellbeing of every pupil is at the heart of boarding life. Support is always available from house teams, tutors, teachers, heads of year, key stage leads and the medical team in our health centre. Pupils also have access to counselling services and peer support through our listener programme.

We value every pupil's voice and actively encourage boarders to share their views through house meetings, committees, surveys and regular feedback. For our international pupils, additional English language support is available to help them thrive both academically and socially.

TRAVEL INFORMATION



New pupils to the school need to arrive to the school between 4pm - 7pm on the 1st September and returning pupils need to arrive between 5pm - 7pm on the 2nd September.

Parents or guardians are asked to make travel arrangements for boarders for the beginning and end of term and half term holidays. All travel arrangements should be made to coincide with the school's term dates, which are published a year in advance. All pupils are expected to be in school for the start of each term.

Parents or guardians wishing to make travel arrangements at any other time, please contact our Travel team with the details and they will try to accommodate your request. The transport manager, Ms Clair Wilkinson, can be contacted through the following means, direct line 01666 881329, mobile 07919235410, or at transport@westonbirtschool.uk

- It is the responsibility of parents to book flights well in advance
- Pupils may not return late or leave early unless prior permission has been obtained from the Head
- Where transport is requested for travel to an airport, the return details for travel back to the UK must be provided at the same time.
- Parents are requested to check that Passports, Visas and International Health Certificates are up to date.
- Pupils holding non-British Passports, and who reach the age of 16 years during a term, will require 2 copies of their passport photograph for official registration if required by the Immigration Department. Pupils will also be issued with a letter from the school indicating their attendance at Westonbirt.



LUGGAGE &

BELONGINGS



Trunks

Pupils travelling long distances may leave trunks at school during the Christmas and Easter holidays. Pupils who are resident abroad may leave trunks at school during the summer holidays. Arrangements will be made for clothes to be washed or cleaned and the cost charged to the pupil's account. Trunks must be clearly and permanently named on the end and on the lid.

Suitcases and Hand luggage

Please ensure that your child is aware of the weight limits for airport baggage allowances; any excess baggage charges must be paid by pupils and cannot be charged to school accounts. Pupils using school minibuses will only be allowed to travel with one piece of hand luggage and one suitcase.



TRANSPORTATION

TRAINS

Transport is available by taxi to and from local railway stations at Kemble, Cheltenham, Chippenham, Gloucester and Bristol on request.

FLIGHTS

Pupils will be met as near to their arrival time as possible, at the exit from the customs hall in the terminal at which their flight arrives at the terminal meeting points – so long as the information has been submitted to the school in advance. Pupils must remain at the terminal until the staff escort collects them.

END OF TERM

Please ensure that departures are after 8.30pm where possible. Where school finishes at lunchtime, please ensure that flights are booked no earlier than 4.45pm. Pupils are taken directly to the airport, and the staff escort remains on hand to assist with check-in if needed. To enable us to ensure the safety of pupils, FULL details of arrival and departure flights must reach the school no later than ten days before the end/start of each term. Details should be emailed to transport@westonbirtschool.uk and to the Houseparent.

HEATHROW AIRPORT

Heathrow is the major airport for all international flights to the UK and is only an hour and a half from the school. All information for the airport can be found at www.heathrow.com

OTHER AIRPORTS

Bristol Airport is the closest international airport to Westonbirt School, offering daily flights to a wide range of UK, European and international destinations. Birmingham and Gatwick airports can also be used, although transfer costs are typically higher due to the greater distance and lower number of pupils travelling from these airports.

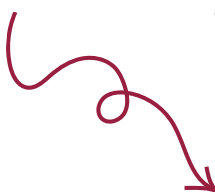
BOARDING

EXPECTATIONS



- The boarding house is run mainly on trust and respect; hence the boarding expectations are simple and straightforward, but it is important that they are followed correctly.
- Boarders need to keep all areas of the house clean and tidy regardless of whether they are communal areas or personal bedrooms. The staff will do regular bedroom checks. The boarders will also be required to join a kitchen rota for tidying away dishes.
- Boarders can only enter another pupil's bedroom when the pupil is present, or they have express permission from the pupil to enter the room.
- After activities/prep (P11), boarders can choose to follow a programme of activities devised for all boarders that includes going to the gym, sports hall, swimming pool etc. This programme is advertised in the house every term.
- Weekend arrangements must be clarified in advance and the correct permission must be sought from both the parents of the boarder, the Houseparent and the parents of the pupils whose house they may be visiting.
- Under no circumstances must any boarder travel in a car, except for their family car, without the express permission of their parents and Houseparent.
- Boarders should ensure that they wash their bedding regularly and maintain their own high standards of personal cleanliness.
- The House signing out book must be used by boarders whenever students leave the school building in the evening or at weekends, e.g., to go to the Sports Centre, the tennis courts or out with parents. Students may only leave the school premises once they have received permission from House staff, and only then in groups of three or more. The main school is locked after supper, and students should then use the clock tower door.

WHAT TO BRING



HOME CLOTHES

- 1 smart outfit for formal occasions
- 2 tops
- 2 pairs of trousers or jeans
- 2 jumpers
- Underwear and socks
- Pyjamas, a dressing gown and slippers
- Clothing appropriate to the term's weather (warm coat, scarf, hat, gloves and boots, waterproof jacket, shorts and trainers)
- Name tapes (extra)

ACCESSORIES

- 1 linen bag for laundry
- 2 mesh wash bags for underwear laundry
- 1 duvet
- 2 duvet covers, visibly named on outside corner
- 2 bath towels
- 2 hand towels
- 1 medium sized 'tuck' box for storing personal items
- 1 small suitcase or bag for weekend travel
- 1 hot water bottle
- 2 plug adapters (overseas students)
- Toiletries (deodorant, shampoo, shower gel)
- 1 hairbrush, a shower cap and hairbands/ties as appropriate
- Family photographs
- Pocket money
- 1 iPad or laptop case (we recommend a bumper case)
- Music instrument and case (insured under your home policy)
- Water bottle (there are several refill stations around the school)
- Stationery, writing paper, pens and pencils, scissors, a ruler, eraser and a glue stick
- Geometry set including a protractor and compasses
- Scientific calculator

Tuck

- A small amount of tuck may be brought to school or purchased from the school tuck shop.

WHAT TO BRING



PERMITTED ELECTRICAL ITEMS

- iPads/laptops and their chargers
- Mobile phones and their chargers
- Personal music players/speakers
- Small clocks
- Hairdryers and hair straighteners
- Small travel adapters

POCKET MONEY

Pupils are encouraged to use their pocket money for purchases in the school shop and tuck shop. The amount varies according to the age and parents' wishes.

The bursary regrets that it cannot provide cash advances to be added to end of term accounts and parents are advised that those who wish their child to have additional pocket money may contact the finance team and pay the money directly into the school's bank account:

Westonbirt School
Sort Code: 30-95-89
Account Number: 54344060

QUESTIONS & CONTACT

Entrusting your child to us at Westonbirt is a profound act of faith. We cherish that trust and are committed to supporting both you and your child throughout their time with us.

We know you may have questions — and we encourage you to ask them.

Our Houseparent's are always ready with guidance, reassurance, and support, so please don't hesitate to get in touch at any time.

We look forward to welcoming you to Westonbirt very soon.







WESTONBIRT

— SCHOOL —

'I chose to attend Westonbirt because both my step-sister and sister had studied here and spoke highly of the school. Since joining, I've found the lessons to be inclusive and enjoyable, and I'm learning a great deal.'

In the evenings, I enjoy spending time in the sports hall and gym with the other boarders. The sense of community and access to the gym are some of my favourite parts of boarding, and I also really enjoy hanging out with my friends in the common room.'

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WESTONBIRT.ORG