

WELCOME TO BOARDING AT ST. JOHN'S



ST. JOHN'S
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL





WELCOME

Welcome to boarding at St. John's!

We are excited that you chose to be a part of our Boarding family. We enjoy being among young people and being able to influence their lives – be a part of their lives. We are passionate in making the Boarding House a safe, respectful and homely environment, ensuring that boarders in every age group feel a sense of belonging and are able to be an individual whether full, weekly or flexi boarding.

Your experience in boarding will offer inspiring and full of new opportunities to you. You will quickly become a part of our family, making new friends, spend time together as a family, with older students offering help and support to those new and younger boarders.

We are committed to making sure that you embrace fully the joy and wonder of school life at St. John's. We will support you with your studies during Formal Study time. Once the studies is finished, we will be able to cater various interests of all boarders, be it arts or crafts, watching movies in the TV room, playing pool, or simply relaxing in the common areas or in the garden.

We foster a sense of independence and expect our boarders to carry out duties and tasks that will equip them for later life.

Being a houseparent is a very rewarding and fascinating experience for us. You will find us willing to help and support you in the best way we could. We are there for you at all the times you need us.

We look forward to warmly welcoming you to our boarding family, and we are sure you will love your time with us.

FERNAN AND ANNAFE MALINAB – HOUSE PARENTS

YOUR FIRST EVENING IN YOUR NEW BOARDING HOUSE

When you arrive, you will be helped to settle in by the duty staff and some of our experienced boarders.

You will have time to unpack, and we will show you where everything goes. Remember to bring some posters, pictures, books, games and any special things you want to have with you. We want you to create your own space and make it feel homely.

You will have a tour of the house so that you know where everything is and a boarding induction to get to know the area, the school grounds, fire assembly points and all the ins and outs of the boarding community. You might be feeling worried about getting lost or forgetting something. Please don't worry - you will have a buddy in the house and school, and they can help with anything you need.

You will also meet your housemates; some could be new too, so you'll have lots in common already. There will also be time for a snack and a chat before you get ready for bed. It might feel strange to be in a new place on the first night, but after such a busy day, you'll soon be fast asleep!



WEEKLY ROUTINE

7:00am - Wake up call, time to wash and dress.
Remember to make your bed and check your bag, sports kits or any other items you might need.

7:45am - Breakfast for boarders in the dining room

8:20am - Off to school

8:30am – 3:35pm - Core school day

4:00 – 6:00pm - After school activities

6:15pm - Dinner for boarders in the dining room.
Sometimes you will be joined by day students that are having dinner or joining us for study time.

6:30pm - Evening roll call is followed by completion of set Prep and then a Revise and Review Time which is supervised by academic/house staff.

8:30pm - A free choice time where regular activities take place in the evenings, for example:

- 📺 TV in common room
- 💻 Tech time
- 🎵 Music
- 🎬 Movie night

9:30pm onwards - Rolling bedtime for boarders in different year groups, your house parents will tell you the times for your year.

MORNINGS AND MEALTIMES

RISE AND SHINE!

Once the lights come on, you get dressed and go to the dining room for breakfast. House staff are on hand to give any medicines you need just before breakfast and to talk through any last minute arrangements before school.

All the boarders eat breakfast together in the dining room. Breakfast is served from 7:45 – 8:15 am.

Get all you need ready for your day at school; this is a good time to straighten up too as your room will be cleaned and vacuumed three times a week. If you look after your space and keep it tidy, the cleaners will be able to keep it clean!

OTHER MEALS

Lunch is available in the cafeteria at school. It is a great place to catch up with friends and find out about all their day so far.

There is a good choice at lunchtime; a full cooked meal if you want, as well as soup and salads, freshly baked bread, fruit and dessert.

Dinner is served for Boarders and those doing an extended Day from 6:15 pm in the dining room. House staff join students for supper so we can have a chat about your day before going back to the house for Prep time.

In the house, we have hot and cold drinks, cereal and toast with a variety of toppings available so that you can have something to eat before bed if you are hungry.

INTOLERANCES AND ALLERGIES

Our kitchen is equipped to provide for students who have a restricted diet or allergies. If this applies to you, your parent will fill in the Sodexo dietary requirement form in your new student pack (or you can get one from your house parents).

AFTER SCHOOL AND EVENINGS

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

There are lots and lots of activities that you can choose from after school. As well as this there are lots of sporting and music practices that go on. You can sign up for what you want to do at the start of each term.

PREP AND REVISE AND REVIEW TIME

At 6:30 pm, following dinner, students assemble in the Boarding house communal area to study together in a calm and relaxed way. Just as it would be at home, this session is supervised. Prep is a quiet time so that you can concentrate and work on your own, although there is always a staff member who can help you if you need it.

We will support you as you learn how to study and revise yourself and provide you with a file to fill building up an excellent additional resource to supplement your core learning.

There are close links between the academic staff, subject teachers, sporting staff, cultural spheres and the boarding community to ensure effective communication. In this way, we can make sure that you can balance your academic and other commitments.

You also have time to do extra prep later in the evening or at weekends if you want to too.



WEEKEND ROUTINE

HERE COMES THE WEEKEND!

SATURDAY

8am – 8:30am - Wake up and roll call

8:30am - Breakfast

9:00am – 12:00pm - Saturday activities

12:40pm - Lunch

2:00pm - Afternoon activity bus departs

5:40pm - Dinner

7:00pm - Evening recreation

Please sign out if leaving the house and sign in again when you return.

SUNDAY

11am - Roll call

11:30am - Brunch

12:30 - 5:00pm - Recreational activities, trips, study or free time

5:40pm - Dinner

7:30pm - Evening recreation

9:30pm onwards - Rolling bedtime for Boarders in different year groups

WEEKEND FUN RISE AND SHINE!

There is always a plan for the weekends that you can be involved in. On Saturday you have matches or activity in the morning, and also have time to do your own thing. Some Saturday afternoons you can go shopping or to the local cinema and sometimes after supper, you go back to the house to watch a movie or play games.

On Sundays, you can spend some time relaxing or doing activity. Weekends are also suitable for spending time with your friends too. There is the option to go on a whole range of exciting trips, and use the facilities on site. We also work closely with you to develop new ideas for trips that you might like.

WEEKEND MEALS

Saturday dinners are always a social affair and sometimes offer a different option to supper in the dining room, for example, BBQ's in the summer or "subway" style meal brought to the boarding houses.

Brunch is served on a Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm allowing for a more leisurely start to the day and a traditional Sunday roast completes the weekend offerings.

WEEKENDS AT HOME OR WITH FRIENDS

We have planned exeat weekends but may sometimes wish to spend time at home with family or could be asked to stay with a school friend. For the exeats (like the ends of term) you leave on Friday at around 4.00pm and come back on Sunday between 5.00pm and 8.00pm.

If you are away from the house on the weekend, other than an exact, your house parents will need to know a couple of days in advance so any catering or other arrangements can be made. You may also be invited to stay with a friend, and your house parents will confirm with both your and your friend's parents that they are happy with the arrangements.

HOUSE OUTINGS

During the last week of each term, you will go on a house outing. Everyone in your house has a vote on some options, and you go on the most popular activity. Sometimes you'll have a treat afterwards and go to a restaurant or have pizza for supper.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

PHONE CALLS, SKYPE AND FACETIME

Boarders can call their family from the house on their mobile phones, and we also have a landline. There are plenty of rooms in which you can find a quiet place to call home.

You can call home every day if you want, although when you first start, your house parents may advise on how often they think is enough - to make sure you have enough time to get involved in all the various things going on.

EMAILS AND POST

You are encouraged to write emails and postcards to family and friends. Your friends and family are welcome to send letters and parcels to you too. It's a brilliant surprise to come home from school and find that a special treat has arrived for you!

LIFE IN THE HOUSE

REWARDS

Taking pride in your house, keeping tidy and helping others means this is a happy place to be. Staff take notice of good behaviour and a willingness to help, and you will be rewarded following the Behaviour Management Policy for the school.

We have a simple rule in our school which governs all aspects of behaviour, and this continues into our boarding community:

RESPECT YOURSELF, OTHER STUDENTS, STAFF AND YOUR ENVIRONMENT.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are always a special occasion for boarders. Even if you are missing home on your special day, everyone will make sure you are having fun and enjoying yourself. The whole house wishes you a happy birthday in the morning meeting and that evening a birthday cake and some special treats are ready for you to celebrate with your friends. Some pupils choose to celebrate by going to a movie with day pupils and fellow boarders and we can help you organise that.

COMMUNAL AREAS AND KITCHENS

We enjoy spending time together as a community and maintain warm and welcoming communal spaces. We expect students to be respectful of others at all times, when using headphones and moving sensibly around the areas.

Our cleaning staff work hard to keep our environment pleasant for us to enjoy so we help them by keeping dirty boots, shoes, sports kit or clothing away from furnishings.

The Boarding house has a kitchen area available to make hot drinks, and snacks. You are welcome to help yourself but please wash up your crockery and leave the area clean and tidy for your housemates.

LAUNDRY

Your laundry will be done in the school laundry if you board on a full or weekly basis. Washing is collected daily and returned clean and pressed ready for you to collect and put away. If you only board for part of the week, then you will take your laundry home with you, or we can help you put it through the washing machine in the house laundry room.

Bedding is done once a week, and you will need to change your bed.

It is essential that all your clothes can be both machine-washed and tumble-dried. We cannot do dry cleaning at school although you can drop your things off at the local dry cleaners and pick it up the following week if you wish to.

All clothing and bedding must also be named; this makes life much easier for all of us.

There is no laundry service on the weekend, but house staff will help boarders to wash their items in the house laundry room.

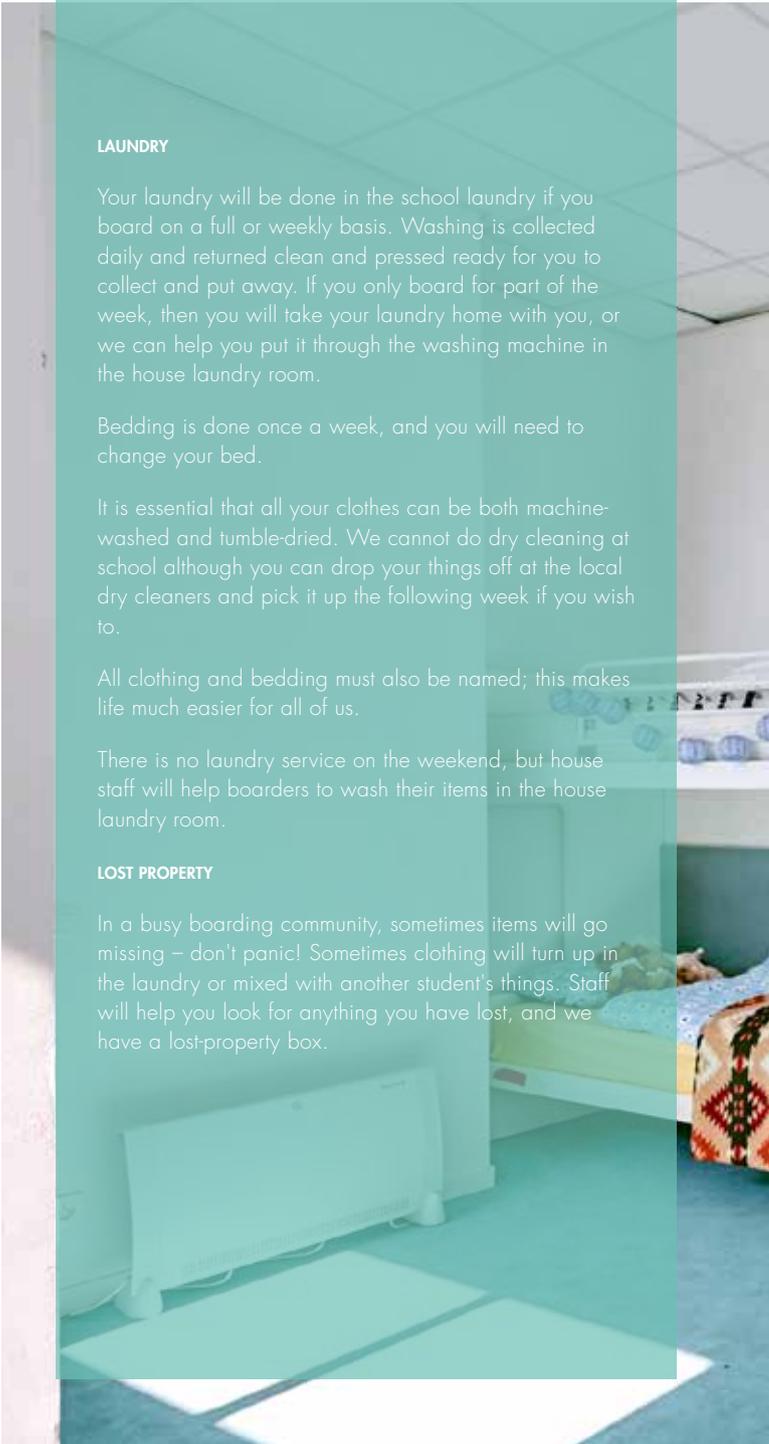
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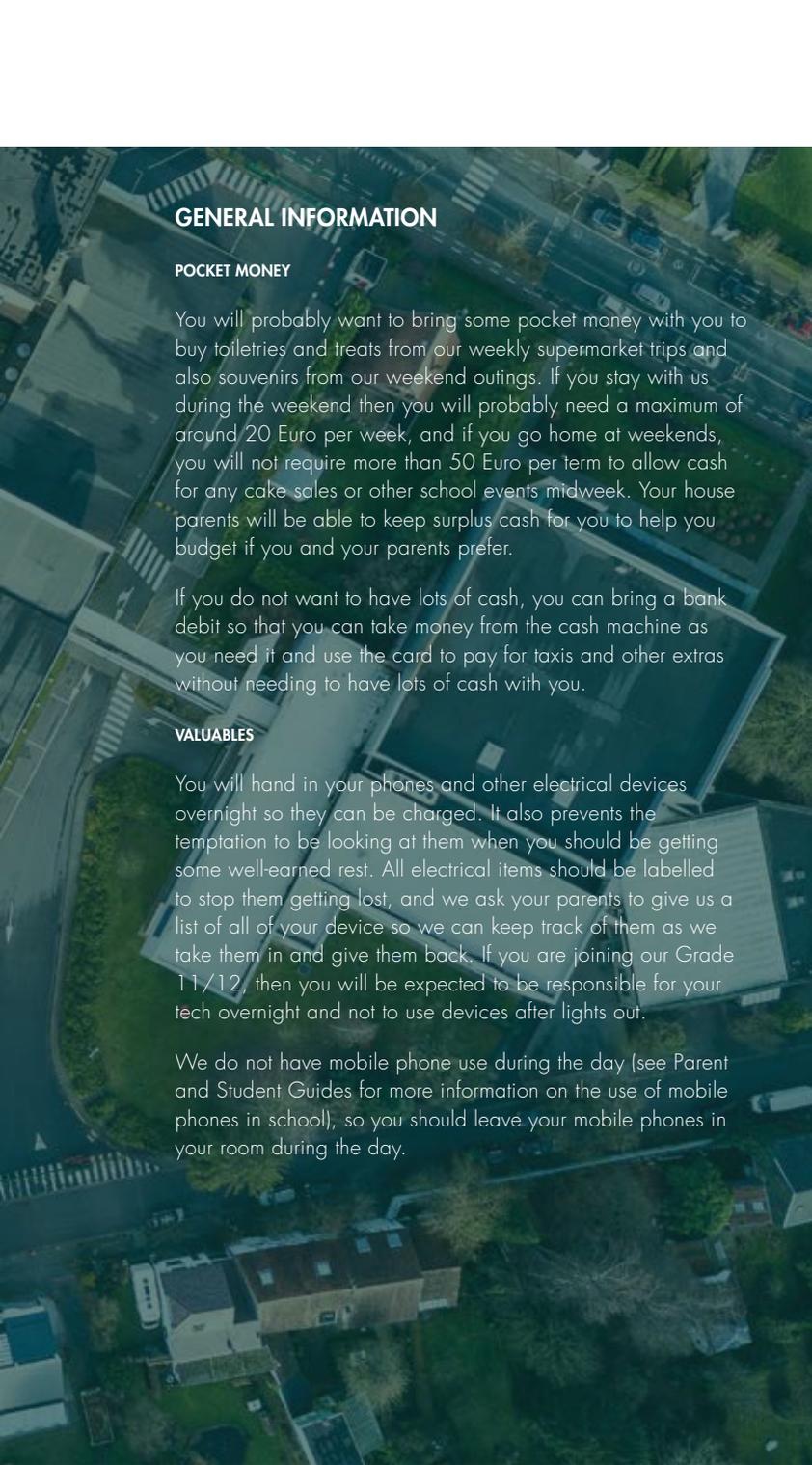
In a busy boarding community, sometimes items will go missing – don't panic! Sometimes clothing will turn up in the laundry or mixed with another student's things. Staff will help you look for anything you have lost, and we have a lost-property box.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills happen every term and are good practice in case there is ever a real one. If you hear a fire alarm and you're in bed, or in the shower, put on your dressing gown and slippers and then move sensibly out of the house as soon as you can. If other people are asleep in your room, then you wake them up before leaving. After you leave the house, you go and meet everybody outside and line up with your housemates in the assembly area. Staff will always check that everyone is out of bed and safe before they leave the house.

Each room is fitted with a smoke detector, and fire extinguishers are positioned around the House. Please get to know all the fire exits in your House, and remember these should never be blocked by furniture or any other item, including litter bins, bags etc. as these could prevent a quick exit.





GENERAL INFORMATION

POCKET MONEY

You will probably want to bring some pocket money with you to buy toiletries and treats from our weekly supermarket trips and also souvenirs from our weekend outings. If you stay with us during the weekend then you will probably need a maximum of around 20 Euro per week, and if you go home at weekends, you will not require more than 50 Euro per term to allow cash for any cake sales or other school events midweek. Your house parents will be able to keep surplus cash for you to help you budget if you and your parents prefer.

If you do not want to have lots of cash, you can bring a bank debit so that you can take money from the cash machine as you need it and use the card to pay for taxis and other extras without needing to have lots of cash with you.

VALUABLES

You will hand in your phones and other electrical devices overnight so they can be charged. It also prevents the temptation to be looking at them when you should be getting some well-earned rest. All electrical items should be labelled to stop them getting lost, and we ask your parents to give us a list of all of your device so we can keep track of them as we take them in and give them back. If you are joining our Grade 11/12, then you will be expected to be responsible for your tech overnight and not to use devices after lights out.

We do not have mobile phone use during the day (see Parent and Student Guides for more information on the use of mobile phones in school), so you should leave your mobile phones in your room during the day.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

WEEKENDS AT HOME AND EXEATS

Our full-time boarders stay on the school campus seven days a week except during holidays when they will either return home to parents or stay with their guardians. If you need transport to and from the airport then we are happy to help you with taxis with enough notice or your parents can book these for you directly.

CARS

If you bring a car to school, then we must have written permission from your parents or guardians. Sometimes, another student may offer to give you a lift, but we must always have permission from your parents or guardians to travel as a passenger with another student driving.

We'll keep your car keys safe, so please hand them to the house parents.

WELLBEING

As this is your home in term time, we want to create an environment where everyone can achieve their best in a nurturing and supportive atmosphere. We expect everyone to show respect and care for other students and staff members.

MEDICAL NEEDS

We have a medical centre on the campus with a trained paediatric nurse and access to dentists, doctors and hospitals in the vicinity.

If you are injured or taken ill during the day, a member of the school staff will help you. If you are unwell in the evening, then the member of house staff will come and help.

We have private rooms available in the house if you are unwell overnight, and we'll contact your parents or guardians to come and collect you if you do not feel better the next day or have something which may infect the rest of the boarding family.

SOMEONE TO TALK TO

Our teachers and house staff are always available to support you when you are in need and are happy to spend time talking through any difficulties.

House staff frequently communicate with your tutors and teachers so we can have a holistic overview of your life, in school and out. When more specialist advice is needed, our school counsellor, or local counselling service, can offer support and out of hours we have an independent listener who is available for you if you are in distress. All of the contacts are listed on your house noticeboard, or the house staff will help you make contact.

If there is anything that worries you before your arrival or during your stay in the House, please let us know. Sometimes just talking about things can make them less of a worry, and often others will be able to help, or at least be some comfort!

There are lots of people you can talk to: friends, peers, an older member of the boarding family, the house staff or any member of staff you like and trust.

Every member of staff that works in St. John's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This means that we will take steps to protect you from maltreatment, look after your health and development, provide safe and effective care and take action to enable you to have the best outcomes.

AND FINALLY...SOME HELPFUL ADVICE FROM OUR BOARDING FAMILY

Get stuck into all of the activities and things that go on in the school and boarding house. The busier you are, the less homesick you will be.

Don't be afraid to ask questions; we have all been new once!

Get to know everybody in your community, be brave and sit with a different person for lunch and supper each day. More faces that feel familiar will help it feel like home.

SHARE YOUR WORRIES.

Work hard and play hard. Make the most of every opportunity; there will be lots of them.

Try something new while you are here.





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