

Queens' House

2016-2017



INTRODUCTION

Queens' is named after Queen Mary I, Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Elizabeth II. During the reign of each queen Gresham's School made significant strides towards the establishment it is today.

In the reign of Queen Mary Gresham's was founded (1555), in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, Gresham's admitted its first pupils (1562), and in the reign of Elizabeth II Gresham's first admitted female pupils (1971). Its predecessor, Britten House, first opened its doors to boarders in 1996, becoming Queens' House in 2016. The future of the house is now an exciting blank canvas.

Queen's House has a very special and beautiful location on the North East edge of the campus, backing onto the School woods and overlooking the playing fields, Chapel, and the Auden Theatre. It has a particularly colourful and cheerful interior and a new Upper Sixth Form wing. It has a warmth and vibrancy which are quite unique and is currently home to 71 girls, including boarders and day girls.

RESIDENTIAL STAFF

The Housemistress is **Mrs Virginia Seldon**

Telephone **01263 714564**



The Housemistress takes overall responsibility for the well-being of the pupils.

Vi arrived to Gresham's 9 years ago as a Spanish assistant, having studied English and Spanish at the University of Valladolid, her hometown, and did her PGCE at Buckingham University.

She was a resident tutor in Britten House for two years before becoming Head of Spanish, a role she will continue to fulfil. She is married to Mark, who is the Director of Studies at Gresham's and they have a little boy, Oliver. Mark has an older son, Harry, who attends Gresham's Prep School.

The House Tutor is **Miss Emma Thornbury**

Telephone **01263 714565**



The House Tutor is the Assistant Housemistress. She is available to help girls with their studies and for pastoral care, and she is an academic tutor.

Miss Thornbury comes from Northern Ireland and joined us four years ago. She teaches PE, as well as coaching girls' and boys' hockey. She is a player of international standard herself, representing her country in both hockey and football.

Miss Thornbury has a flat on the ground floor and helps the Housemistress to run the boarding house, sharing weekend duties, plus one evening a week. She is also a year 11 Tutor.

The House Matron is **Mrs Julie Ward-Simms**

Telephone **01263 711437 / 714582**



Matron has a flat in the House and is responsible for all matters of health. She also looks after the girls' clothing. Matron is available for most of the day, and girls are referred by her to the School Health Centre for all but the mildest complaints. Matron is originally from Sydney, Australia, and has two grown-up children of her own.

Girls can see her if they are feeling unwell during the day. She can also organise visits to the school doctor, or lifts to the dentist. She keeps a supply of basic medicines, sanitary products, school tights etc.

Mrs Sue Holland, Mrs Lynn Bond, Mrs Sue Flanagan and Mrs Mandy Batterham



We are very lucky in our cleaning team, who spend every morning looking after Queens' House and making everything feel like home.

HOUSE TEAM

NON-RESIDENTIAL Evening duty staff

- Mrs Anna Watt – Head of French and Sixth Form Tutor
- Mrs Elizabeth MacNamara – Teacher of Maths and Year 10 Tutor
- Mrs Sanae Nakajima – Assistant Director of Music and Year 10 Tutor

Academic Tutors and other House Associations

- Mr Simon Kinder – Teacher of History, Head of Learning and Teaching and Prep Duty Staff
- Mr Mark Seldon – Director of Studies, Teacher of English and Prep Duty Staff
- Miss Sarah Pink – Teacher of Art and Year 11 Tutor
- Ms Melissa Masters – Teacher of English as a Second Language and Year 9 Tutor
- Miss Maria Cordon – Spanish Assistant, Year 9 Tutor and Prep Duty Staff
- Mrs Louise Futter – Teacher of Drama, Sixth Form Tutor and Prep Duty Staff
- Mr Ben Green – Head of Biology, Sixth Form Tutor and Prep Duty Staff

PREFECTS

The house has a team of prefects who help to organise the smooth running of things. They carry authority but they are also there to help you!

Head of House – Hetty Myers

School Prefect – Kim Sly-Jex

House prefects

- Amy Vlas
- Viviana Trinchi
- Amelia Robinson
- Jessica Amies
- Camilla Salemm Colado
- Marie Wille

All new girls are assigned a 'Big Sister' in the Upper Sixth form. Your Big Sister is mentor, friend and support, particularly in the early weeks. Your big sister has probably contacted you over the holidays, but if she hasn't, don't worry! She probably couldn't find your contact details. Mrs Seldon will point you on the direction of your Big Sister at the beginning of term.

HOW DOES THE HOUSE WORK?

I live in the house, with my family, in accommodation on the far side of the Common Room. I am there for most of the time in the house and available to help with any matter, school or otherwise. I have a study next to the Common Room.

If I am not there I am probably teaching; you can leave me a note under the door, try me later, or find another member of staff to help. You will always know which member of staff is on duty in the house. During the school day, it will probably be easier to find me in the Library Block in my classroom, which you can find upstairs on the left.

The person on duty in Queens' always carries a mobile phone, and the number is available to you all: **07833 206442**

WHAT ABOUT CONTACT WITH HOME?

Most pupils have their own mobile phones. It should be pointed out, however, that they must not be used during lesson times, prep times or after bedtime.

There is Wi-Fi throughout the house and most girls use email or Skype to keep in contact with home. The six house computers all have internet access and you are free to use them in this way, although priority should always be given to girls who are using the computers for work! You will get a BYOD (bring your own device) code on your first day which will allow you to access Wi-Fi from your own personal devices.

CAN MY PARENTS COME AND VISIT?

Parents are very welcome to come and visit. They are most welcome to attend weekend chapel, plays, concerts, competitions, and sports matches etc. It is a good idea for parents to contact me if you are going out, and it is an absolute 'must' if you are taking a friend with you! You will get used to signing in and out at the appropriate times.

Boarders may go home at the weekends if they wish, or they may go to the home of a friend. If you are going to a friend's house, I will always confirm this arrangement with parents and the parents of the friend.

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE A PROBLEM?

You must find me, or someone else you are happy to talk to, and who you trust, and your problem can be addressed. Whatever the problem is, it needs to be sorted out and you must never suffer in silence. My door is always open to you. If you prefer, talk to a Prefect, Matron, Miss Thornbury or another member of staff. We also have special people who you may wish to talk to in confidence, called independent listeners. They include the school counsellor, Rachel, who is happy to see you about anything that is worrying you. Their telephone numbers are by the telephone kiosks in the house.

You will soon find that we are here to help and that the School is an amazing community in which everyone wants you to be happy and to thrive.

ALL THE OTHER STUFF

Lots of activities occur outside the classroom. As well as a wide range of enrichment opportunities that are linked to academic development, there are a huge number of sport, music, art, and drama activities. And anything we don't offer yet, you can always start up yourself. That's how we ended up with basketball, street dance and app development on offer!

There are lots of inter-house competitions, and many of these occur in the first term. We will start practising for the Inter-House Music Competition very early in the term, and there will also be the Cross Country and Hockey competitions. In the Lent term there is an Art competition, Inter-House Netball and Swimming, with Athletics, and Rounders in the Summer Term. There are matches for those in school teams, plays, concerts, choir and Orchestra. Make sure you make the most of what we have on offer.



Queens' House – House Rules

Signing Out

If leaving the house after 6pm, pupils should sign out in the exeat book, and sign in immediately on return. Destination must always be given, and you should never sign for other people. Seek permission from duty staff before leaving the school grounds at weekends, then sign out in the usual way. Pupils should not leave the house before 7am without staff permission.

Prep

Silence is to be observed, and pupils must remain in their studies until the end of prep. Juniors should remember that senior girls are working during late prep and should be considerate. Music may be played quietly by those in single studies, but not heard outside the room. All other pupils should use headphones. Sixth Form study periods follow the same rules as prep.

Television

The television may be watched in free time, not during study periods, prep or hobbies time. Videos must be approved by duty staff beforehand, and videos may only be watched by pupils from within the appropriate age group.

Dress

Pupils should always be respectable when walking around the house.

Normal school rules regarding dress and jewellery should be observed.

Shoes should be cleaned regularly.

Laundry

All except for Sixth Formers should put their dirty laundry in the appropriate baskets in the laundry room, each evening before bedtime. Clean clothes should also be collected from the laundry room at this time and put away. Sixth Formers may use the washing machines at times agreed with Matron.

Boy visitors

Boys may visit the entrance foyer, common room and the house kitchen. Upper Sixth Form boys may visit the Upper Sixth kitchen by invitation only. All other areas of the house are out of bounds to boys.

Food and Drink

Food should not be prepared during lesson times and study periods. Kitchen utensils should be washed and put away immediately by the user and kitchen surfaces wiped clean.

Meals

It is a school requirement that all meals are attended. You should be in breakfast before 7.40am, and report to the duty prefect. Do not sign in for other people.

Games Kit

Boots should be removed before entering the house. Knock off any loose mud outside away from the entrance before carrying the boots inside.

Security and Safety

Matches and lighters are not allowed.

Nothing should be placed over bedside lights or touching overhead lights.

Self-closing doors should never be propped open.

School electrical safety instructions

Plugs should be fitted correctly – Do not do this yourself. Private electrical equipment should not be brought into school (kettles, toasters etc.)

Valuables

It is not advisable to bring valuables into school. If expensive items are needed for some reason, they should be left with Mrs Seldon. You are advised not to keep large amounts of money in your possession.

Return to House

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
21.00	21.15	21.45	22.15	22.30

Bedtimes

21.30	Year 9 in bed, music off, Duty Staff/Prefect present
21.45	Year 9 lights out, Year 10 in bed, music off etc.
22.00	Year 10 lights out, Year 11 in bed, music off etc.
22.15	Year 11 lights out
22.30	Lower Sixth in bed, music off etc.
22.45	Non-prefect Upper Sixth Formers in rooms
23.00	Non-prefect Upper Sixth Formers lights out

Medical

When medical attention is needed, see matron before 0800 hrs, or after evening roll call.

When Matron is off duty, please see Mrs Seldon or Miss Thornbury. In an emergency, or during the night, you may find Matron, Mrs Seldon or Miss Thornbury.

NO medicines may be kept in your possession. Hand them to Matron. NO medicines may ever be shared with anyone else.

