

Queens' House

2017-2018





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.

Queens' 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 unique and is currently home to 70 girls, including boarders and day girls.

RESIDENTIAL STAFF

The Housemistress is **Virginia Seldon**

Telephone **01263 714564**



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

Vi arrived to Gresham's in 2008 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. They have two young children, Oliver and Mia. Mark has an older son, Harry, who attends Gresham's Prep School.

The Assistant Housemistress is **Miss Mary Bradley**

Telephone **01263 714565**



Miss Bradley is Queens' Assistant house mistress and is also a French and Spanish Teacher.

She has previously worked at a big boarding school in Oxford and has also lived and worked teaching in Spain. She loves travelling, being in the outdoors and learning new languages.

Miss Bradley is looking forward to living and working in Queen's and ensuring all the girls enjoy their time in the house and do the best they can in all their commitments be they academic, sporting, drama, music and more.

The House Matron is **Mrs Carol day**

Telephone **01263 711437 / 714582**



Matron is the first person to go to if you are in the house and feeling unwell, and will help with all health matters. She will also arrange and take you to appointments, and help you manage your laundry. She will always be there for you if you need a chat, and is good at problem solving and finding lost items!

Matron has had a very varied career. She has previously worked as a Matron at Gresham's in a boy's House. She has two grown up step sons, a daughter who was a day girl in Oakeley House, and has just become a grandma again.

Miranda Starling, Monica Howard, Lynn Bond, and 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 duty staff

- Mrs Anna Watt – Languages Coordinator
- Mrs Elizabeth MacNamara – Teacher of Maths
- Mr Simon Kinder – Head of History, Head of Learning and Teaching and Prep Duty Staff
- Miss Sarah Pink – Teacher of Art
- Ms Melissa Masters – Teacher of English as a Second Language
- Miss Maria Cordon – Spanish Teacher
- Mrs Louise Futter – Teacher of Drama and UCAS coordinator
- Ms Miriam Zechiel- Teacher of German as first and second language

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 – Lucy Anthony

Deputy Head of House – Tany Saad

School Prefect – Taylor Skerritt

House prefects

- Naomi Crame
- Quitterie D'Harcourt
- Anne Rich
- Jenisa Kitbancha
- Iona Stubbs
- Fidan Hayijeva
- Lily Hepburn
- Ellie Bridgeman

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, Ms Bradley, Mr Seldon 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 counsellors, Rachel and Duncan who are happy to see you about anything that is worrying you.

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.

There are many 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.

Day girls MUST sign out at the end of the day when they go home on the Day Girls 'signing out book. All visitors Must sign in and out of the house too.

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 Mr or Mrs Seldon or Ms Bradley. In an emergency, or during the night, you may find Matron, Mr or Mrs Seldon or Ms Bradley.

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