



Queens' House

# QUEENS' HOUSE HANDBOOK

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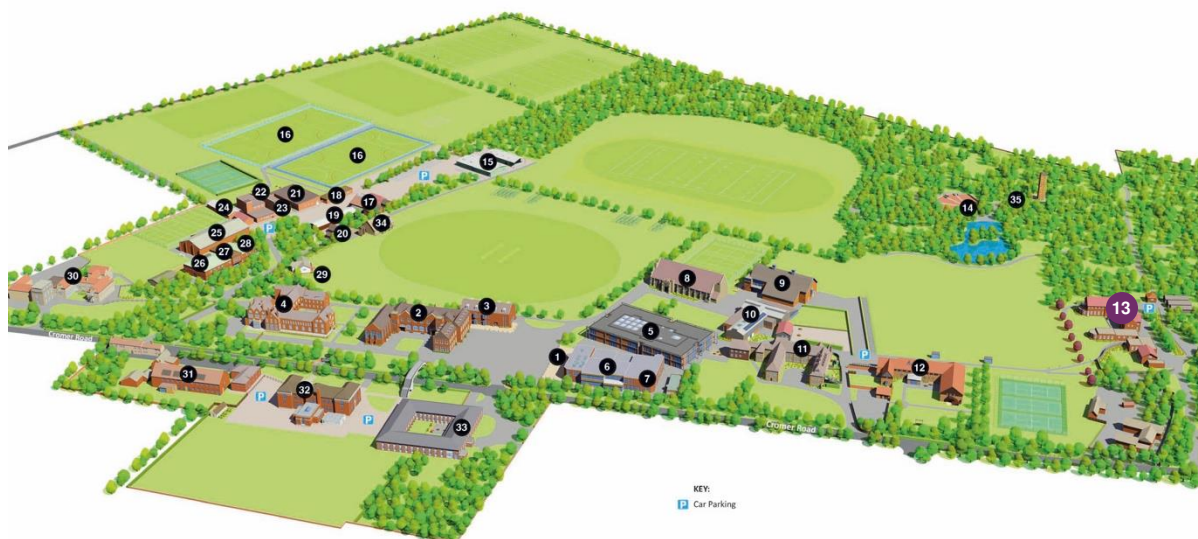
2025 / 26



GRESHAM'S  
ESTD 1555

## LOCATION OF QUEENS'

See map number 13.



- |                  |   |                     |   |
|------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| 1 Reception      | 10 Britten Building                     | 18 CCF Headquarters | 27 Arkell House                             |
| 2 Big School     | 11 Farfield                             | 19 Shooting Range   | 28 Dave's                                   |
| 3 Reith Block    | 12 Edinburgh                            | 20 REME Shed        | 29 Old Pavilion                             |
| 4 Howson's       | 13 Queens'                              | 21 Swimming Pool    | 30 Woodlands                                |
| 5 Dyson Building | 14 Theatre in the Woods                 | 22 Performance Gym  | 31 Oakeley                                  |
| 6 Dining Hall    | 15 Facilities                           | 23 Squash Courts    | 32 Library                                  |
| 7 Health Centre  | 16 All Weather Pitches and Astro Courts | 24 Studio           | 33 Tallis                                   |
| 8 Chapel         | 17 CCF Stores                           | 25 Sports Hall      | 34 Sports Pavilion                          |
| 9 Auden Theatre  |   | 26 School Shop      | 35 The Bourdillon Tower and Activity Centre |

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 identity of the House has now been established by the girls who have lived and worked here during the first two years of Queens' House, and we hope that every girl that passes through here will leave their mark on the place.

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, the Britten Building, and the Auden Theatre. It has a particularly colourful and cheerful interior and a new Upper Sixth Form wing. It has a unique warmth and vibrancy and is currently home to 85 girls, including boarders and day girls.



## WELCOME FROM MRS SELDON

*Welcome to Queens'. If you've got your hands on this booklet, you are officially part of the Queens' family. Hopefully it will give you a little insight into life in Queens' and, will clarify some things that might be causing some – very normal – nerves. In Queens', we pride ourselves on making the boarding house your home, our home. Values we really thrive on are empathy, kindness, honesty and sisterhood – and we make sure we implement these in the day-to-day life in the house and in the broader school community.*

*We look forward to welcoming you into our Queens' family, where, I have no doubt you will make memories you will treasure forever.*



## R E S I D E N T I A L   S T A F F

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### H O U S E M I S T R E S S

Mrs Virginia Seldon  
Telephone **01263 714564**  
[vseldon@greshams.com](mailto:vseldon@greshams.com)



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

I arrived at Gresham's 15 years ago as a Spanish Assistant, having studied English and Spanish Literature and linguistics at the University of Valladolid where I come from, and I did my PGCE at Buckingham University. I originally came to Gresham's for one year, but I completely fell in love with the school. After my PGCE I became Assistant Housemistress of Queens' for two years which I left to become Head of Spanish for 6 years before becoming Queens' Housemistress.

I got married in the school chapel to my husband Mark who is the Director of Studies – avid beekeeper and Newcastle United's number 1 Fan. I have a stepson, Harry, in the Senior School and Mr Seldon and I have Oliver and Mia in the Prep and Pre-Prep.

Although I share duties with an incredible team of Tutors, I am pretty much in Queens' all day and night – my house is attached to the house through the common room making it very accessible for girls to come and have a chat.

### A S S I S T A N T   H O U S E M I S T R E S S

Mrs Esther Philpott  
Teacher of Biology  
[ephilpott@greshams.com](mailto:ephilpott@greshams.com)



I am very excited to be starting as a non-resident assistant housemistress in Queens' this year having been part of the house as a tutor for the last four years. I am a Biology teacher and so when I am not in Queens' I can be found in or around my lab in the Dyson building. I am also a mum of five children; Jemima who is 11, Ezra 13, Noah 15, Jude 17 and my eldest Joel (who is at university) is 19.

I have a degree in Genetics from the University of Leicester and did my teacher training at the University of East Anglia. I had my first teaching job in Gorleston and then after a career break to have children I resumed teaching in Sheringham before joining Gresham's. Despite my science background, I particularly enjoy being creative and like to do a variety of crafts for fun. To keep fit I like to run and can often be seen running home at the end of the day.

## RESIDENT HOUSE TUTOR

Lynne Roberts  
Telephone 01263 714584  
[Lroberts@greshams.com](mailto:Lroberts@greshams.com)



Ms Lynne Roberts joined in Queens' in January 2020.

She has worked at Gresham's as the Director of Music in Prep School and is involved in many concert and musical events. She has previously been Assistant Housemistress in Edinburgh; hence she has a lot of experience in boarding!

She enjoys music, taking care of her plants, and having a chat when she is on duty! She helps the team on weekends and is on duty one day a week.

## RESIDENT HOUSE TUTOR

Nick Coleman  
[ncoleman@greshams.com](mailto:ncoleman@greshams.com)



Mr Nick Colman joined Queens' in September 2024. He has watched his daughter thrive in Queens' over her five years and leapt at the chance of joining the best House in Gresham's School!

A Secondary Education graduate from Exeter University and a former officer in the Royal Artillery, Mr Colman has had a varied career before returning to teaching over a decade ago at Town Close House School, Norwich, and the specialist autism school The Wherry School, Norwich. He then joined Gresham's Prep in 2019. He works across all three schools; Outdoor Wildlife & Learning School (OWLS) in Pre-Prep and Sport, CCF and DofE in Prep and Senior School, so he has the advantage of being a familiar face to a lot of the Year 9 students when they arrive.

Away from school life his passions are hockey ("Yes" I still play at my age!), DIY and his family: his wife Susan, daughter Sophia and pets Auggi and Maleki.

## HOUSE MATRON

Mrs Allison Manders  
Telephone: 01263 711437 / 714582



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

Allison has worked here at Queens' for the past 18 months. Allison's background was working in London within the staff office for the British Transport Police before moving to Holt 30 years ago to live and run a bed and breakfast. She then began to work as a volunteer coming into boarding houses to do crafts and cooking with both the boys and girls which they really enjoyed.

Allison is married to Chris the school's Health and Safety Officer who has been at the school for over 8 years. In Allison's time away she enjoys crafting, making clothes and cake baking which occasionally make their way to the house for snacks.



## HOUSE MATRON

Mrs Samantha Leaman

Telephone: 01263 711437 / 714582



Hello, my name is Samantha and I am the Matron on duty Monday to Thursday. My role is extremely varied, but my main area of interest is the welfare and happiness of the girls in Queens'. I can arrange appointments and drive you to outside appointments. I am always available for a chat, a shoulder to cry on or just to bounce ideas off. Joining a new school can be daunting but I am here to help you find your feet and get the most from your time in Queens. It is an amazing House with lots of activities and laughter.

I have worked in education for 25 years and have had various roles from teaching, to invigilating exams, to being a Mental Health Champion, the list goes on. I have worked with all age groups from Reception through to Further Education in colleges. I am also first aid trained!

I really enjoy seeing students succeeding and being happy. I have five grown up children of my own and five grandchildren, a dog named Hetty, a gecko named Keith, and a red-tailed shark called Fluffy.

I nearly forgot, I also keep bees, who are not named.

## R E S I D E N T I A L   S T A F F C O N T A C T   D E T A I L S

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**D U T Y   M O B I L E :   0 7 8 3 3   2 0 6 4 4 2**

Please use this number from 7:50 to 22:30 to contact a member of staff in the House. This phone is also for emergencies. If you are poorly in the middle of the night, please do come and ring our doorbells! We are here to help.

### H O U S E   T E A M   –   D U T Y   S T A F F

The following members of staff are the visiting Tutors for Queens' and will be responsible for the running of the House between 17:00 and 23:00. They will be contactable during this time on 07833 206442 Each member of staff below will routinely check on you during Prep, asking about your day and what work you are completing. Make use of them while you have them in the House! Ask them for help and guidance as you see fit. If you wish to leave the House during Prep sessions, it is their permission which you must seek, and it is to them that you must report for roll call. Guests in House will need to make themselves known to the Duty Staff also and this responsibility falls to you as host.



Mrs Anna Watt

Head of Languages

[awatt@greshams.com](mailto:awatt@greshams.com)



Mr Simon Kinder

Head of History, Head of Learning and Teaching

[skinder@greshams.com](mailto:skinder@greshams.com)



Miss Sarah Pink

Teacher of Art

[spink@greshams.com](mailto:spink@greshams.com)



Mrs Melissa Masters

Teacher of English as a Second Language Head of EDI

[mmaster@greshams.com](mailto:mmaster@greshams.com)



Mrs Annie Sizer

Teacher of Learning Support and Assistant SENCO

[asizer@greshams.com](mailto:asizer@greshams.com)



Mrs Emma Whittle

Head of Psychology

[ewhittle@greshams.com](mailto:ewhittle@greshams.com)



Mr Mark Seldon

Director of Studies  
[mseldon@greshams.com](mailto:mseldon@greshams.com)



Mrs Lucy Worrall

Games Teacher  
[lworrall@greshams.com](mailto:lworrall@greshams.com)

## **A C A D E M I C   T U T O R S**

You will also be appointed an Academic Tutor from the list of staff mentioned above who will work closely with me to monitor academic performance. They will contact your parents in the first week of Term to introduce themselves and will meet with you at least twice a week, either in the House or in their teaching rooms (they will arrange this with you). It is your Tutor who will discuss Reports with you and set academic goals based upon your performance. It is also your Tutor that will liaise directly with your parents throughout the academic year. They should be your first reference point for any academic concerns, or any issues with regard to managing/organising your studies. Tutors are also there to address pastoral issues with you and to offer advice with regard to post-16 study/adventures/careers. In addition to the above Tutor Periods, you will be able to catch your Tutor while they are on Duty in the House or of course you may make an alternative arrangement to speak with them via email. As a House Team we meet every Monday to discuss you all!

## **C L E A N I N G   S T A F F**

The House cleaning team are Jane, Emma and Cristine. They are here Monday to Friday in the mornings. They do a fantastic job and we are very lucky to have them! Help them by keeping your rooms as tidy as possible and by putting all litter in the bin! Respecting your rooms and furnishings and keeping an orderly room is fundamental to creating a purposeful learning environment and a home of which you and we can all be proud.



## **P R E F E C T S**

The House has a team of Prefects. Whilst they carry authority, their main role is to help and support you. They are also there to help lead discussion in Tutor sessions and House Assemblies and to galvanise the House behind competitions and events. They will help drive initiatives in the House and are an extension of my authority within the student body. I would encourage all girls to seek the guidance of the Prefects with regard to social dynamics before involving House Staff.

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.



## **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, 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 downstairs on the right.

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. 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. You can also use my office or Matron's phone if you need to contact home.

## **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, 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, Elliot and Kate 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.

If a pupil needs to speak to a residential member of staff then he/she must ring the doorbell of their residence and await a response. They must not enter the accommodation uninvited and will be granted access only to the HSM study if they do enter.

## **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.







## BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

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The boarding experience at Gresham's aims to meet and develop the holistic needs of each individual within a community that places the highest possible value on mutual respect, tolerance and personal endeavour. By joining us in boarding at Gresham's School we aim to:

- Help to develop confidence, independence and teamwork.
- Develop a sense of community and belonging.
- Encourage respect for others and their property.
- Teach pupils how to be mentally and emotionally healthy.
- Provide pastoral and academic support to enrich lives and enhance learning, and to guide pupils through times of difficulty.
- Develop and deepen supportive relationships between pupils, parents, and staff.
- Widen cultural experience and foster good relations and tolerance.
- Provide access to and encourage participation in a wide range of activities.
- Provide opportunities to develop leadership skills and to contribute to the wider community.
- Foster an environment where bullying and harassment are not tolerated.
- Support pupils in times of difficulty.
- Be attentive and responsive to the wishes of pupils, involving them in decisions made about the boarding environment and practices.
- Allow boarders to feel able to share the good things in their lives while also able to turn to others for advice, counselling, and support.
- Provide levels of care and safeguarding that protect pupils from risk in line with the Department for Education's aim to help children achieve more, and National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools.

### Practice

In the first Term of the new academic year, parents will receive an interim report before the Half Term on the progress of their child; a subject report for each pupil is written by the Subject Teacher with further comment from the Tutor and the Housemistress.

There is a programme of weekend activities for boarders each Term, with such activities taking place most weekends. We recognise that Sunday should be a day of rest and relaxation after a busy week but wish to provide a structure for the day in which boarders may socialise, with spiritual needs met through Chapel or House-based services. These services can be formal, or very informal in nature.

We believe boarding encourages independence, consideration for others, responsibility and a spirit of camaraderie that will stand boarders in good stead throughout their lives. The friendships made will last a long time, often a lifetime.

Resourcefulness, resilience, and self-reliance are gained through boarding and through the opportunities provided by the Prefect system, CCF (including outward bound activities), the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Shooting, Drama, Music and the myriad other activities at Gresham's. These will also stand all boarders in good stead in the future, as that sense of responsibility will be the key to success in almost all future employment.

We actively stress the equal rights of all individual pupils, whatever their age, gender, sexuality or race. Although the School has a Christian foundation, and although we expect all pupils to attend Chapel, no force at all is exercised to evangelise those of a non-Christian faith.

We believe that there are many virtues inherent in boarding at Gresham's, and we strive to provide a full, stimulating, friendly but exciting atmosphere in which pupils flourish and which they miss deeply when they leave.

## Q U E E N S '   H O U S E   -   H O U S E   R U L E S

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### S I G N I N G   O U T

If leaving the House outside of lesson time, pupils should sign out in the exit 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.

### R O L L   C A L L S

| D A Y     | M O R N I N G | A F T E R N O O N<br>( R O L L I N G ) | E V E N I N G | L A T E<br>E V E N I N G<br>R O L L C A L L |
|-----------|---------------|--|---------------|---|
| Monday    | 08:10         | 13:20-13:50                            | 17:30         | 19:30-19:45<br><i>Curfew night</i>          |
| Tuesday   | 08:10         | 13:20-13:50                            | 17:30         | 19:30-19:45                                 |
| Wednesday | 08:10         | 13:20-13:50                            | 17:30         | 19:30-19:45                                 |
| Thursday  | 08:10         | 13:20-13:50                            | 17:30         | 19:30-19:45                                 |
| Friday    | 08:10         | 13:20-13:50                            | 17:30         | 19:30-19:45<br><i>Curfew night</i>          |

|          |       |             |       |       |
|----------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Saturday | 08:10 | -           | 18:30 | 21:00 |
| Sunday   | 10:45 | 16:00-16:30 | 18:30 | 21:00 |

Please be punctual, correctly dressed and prepared for wherever you need to be next.

Rolling roll calls happen on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime. You will need to present to a member of staff, usually the HSM, who will register you. Be punctual, appropriately attired in the correct and full uniform, and ready for the next event/activity/Prep. If you are late then you will need to locate, apologise and provide good reason, to the member of staff on Duty and then sign in at Reception if it is morning registration. 17:30 roll call will be done in your studies.

### **P R E P**

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.

### **T E L E V I S I O N**

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

### **D R E S S**

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.

### **L A U N D R Y**

All boarders put their dirty laundry in the appropriate baskets near the laundry room each evening before bedtime. Clean clothes should also be collected between 21:00 and 22:00 and put away tidily. Please keep to this timing. Clean laundry is delivered on a Tuesday and Thursday. Matron can organise for the cleaning of individual items or for you to manage your own laundry, just ask. She will also manage dry cleaning, label sewing and repairs for you.

### **F O O D   A N D   D R I N K**

Food should not be prepared during lesson times and study periods. You should wash it and put away immediately by the user and kitchen surfaces wiped clean.

### **M E A L S**

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.

### **S E C U R I T Y   A N D   S A F E T Y**

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.

No medicines may be kept in your possession unless you have spoken to Matron about the self-medication form. If in your possession, it must be securely locked away with no potential whatsoever for others to have access. If you arrive with new medication, please go straight to Matron so we can organise things. The self-medication form allows you to self-medicate certain medicines if you are deemed competent to do so. No medicines may be shared with anyone else. Medicine can be administered by all staff as mentioned above.

As a House we are committed to meeting the dietary, medical and religious needs of all in our care. Such needs can be made clear to the Housemistress and Matrons by parents or the pupils themselves at any stage during the academic year.

## **ADVOCACY**

Pupils can always expect me, their Tutor or an adult of *their* choosing to advocate on their behalf. I will be present in any meeting between them and the Deputy Head Pastoral for instance or indeed any meeting with an outside agency should they consent for me to be there.

## **GUARDIANSHIP**

All overseas pupils must have an appointed Guardian. This is someone who should live within a two-hour driving distance of the School and who assumes the responsibilities laid down by the School's Guardianship Policy. I will be in regular contact with your Guardian to ensure that they are invested in your education and wellbeing and will ensure that any arrangements they make for your care over holidays and Home Weekends are suitable and in line with your needs. I will also ask you about your relationship with your Guardian and your experience of any time spent with them, or with a host family, so I am confident of the level of care you have been afforded.

## **HAVE YOUR SAY!**

We want your ideas, thoughts and opinions as to how to make your Boarding House and your time here at Gresham's even better! Likewise, we want to hear any concerns, anxieties or complaints you might have so that we can address them.

You can air your opinions, thoughts or complaints at any time (you do not need the permission of your parents) by going to talk to, or emailing:

|  |
|--|
| Your Academic Tutor                                      |
| Your Assistant House Master/Mistress or a Resident Tutor |
| Your House Master/Mistress                               |



|   |
|---|
| Mr Cox (Head of Boarding)                 |
| Miss Fielding (Director of Pastoral Care) |
| Mrs Alexander (Deputy Head Pastoral)      |
| Mr Atkinson (Deputy Head Co-Curricular)   |
| Mr Robb - (Headmaster)                    |

You could also raise the above with the Head of House, the Assistant Head of House, the Senior Prefects or any other House, or School Prefect. Year 9 students might also speak to their assigned Year 13 'Big Brother/Big Sister.' We also have representatives for: The Overseas Pupils Forum, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Weekend Activities, the Dining Hall Committee and the School Council who will seek your views and insights.

There are also plenty of informal opportunities to air your feelings on the House or School, e.g. over lunch, in the Common Room before and after roll calls, after Supper etc.

In the event of a complaint being made you should expect an acknowledgement within 24 hours of it being raised and a timeframe by which you can expect a more detailed/considered response – allowing opportunity for full investigation. Your complaint will be held in confidence insofar as no-one is at risk of harm or if such confidence would hinder a proper investigation of the issue.

If you are then unhappy with the outcome, or with how the complaint has been handled, then you should raise this with Mrs Alexander.

## **HOME VISITS**

Please ensure that, when invited to someone else's home during the weekend, I have received explicit permission, in writing, from the host's and guest's parents. All such notice is expected by the Thursday of any given week so that I have sufficient time to ensure I have the relevant permissions. This must clearly state that the host takes full responsibility for your wellbeing and let me know what time you will be leaving and when you will be back. You are expected to fully abide by these conditions. I have to be assured that your needs will be met and that you will be well-looked after. Only once the above is all met to the satisfaction of the Housemistress will consent be given. Any abuse of these conditions will result in future permissions being denied. If you are not on top of your work then any such requests are likely to be denied.

## **L A P T O P S / T A B L E T S**

Most pupils have personal devices which are connected to the network. They must be registered with the IT department and can use wireless around the House and the School. Misuse of your personal electronic devices (e.g. watching a film in prep/after lights out/in lesson time) will result in their removal for 1 day. If misused again, removal is for: 2 days, 3 days, 1 week, 2 weeks then 3 weeks. If you are dishonest expect a longer period of remedial action. Misuse around School is discussed in the Pastoral Care Handbook. You must label all such items and put security codes on them (do not share these with others). Ensure you are sensible with these devices and do not leave them logged on and unattended. Be smart when online and always consider what you are sharing and with whom. Do not make yourself vulnerable in any way! All pupils agree to an 'Acceptable Use Policy' and will face appropriate sanctions for inappropriate use of technology. Be aware that a full internet report is available to Pastoral Staff on a daily and weekly basis. This tells us precisely which sites are being

accessed, when and how long for. All devices brought into the House must be disclosed to the Housemistress and must not contain harmful or offensive content.

## **W E E K E N D   A C T I V I T I E S**

Weekend arrangements are shared with the pupils via the Gresham's Weekend Activities Team, House Team and also in the House on display boards.

### **Saturday**

Supper on a Saturday is at 17:30. Weekend food is chosen by the Boarders from each of the Houses on a rotational basis and more often than not is had in the CFB, or in the Cairns Centre which offers pupils an informal dining experience. Every Saturday evening, if there is not a structured activity, there is an informal social, usually in one of the Boarding Houses, led by the Prefects. This is open to all pupils and usually runs from 7pm to 9pm. This is a low-key social and usually takes the form of a quiz, a movie, a pool competition, use of the fire-pit etc.

### **Sunday**

The Performance Centre and Gym is open in the morning (usually between 9am and 10am) and all boarders have the option of joining a 9am Boarders Run with Mr Cox. Brunch is at 11am usually and then the activity for the day tends to leave at 11:30. Supper in the CFB is then at 17:30 in the evening before the School comes together for Chapel at 18:00. The Swimming pool is also available to pupils for a nice evening swim to see out the weekend at 19:00.

There is also a structured activity organised for the Sunday. Pupils sign up using forms shared directly with them via Microsoft Teams. This triggers an alert to their devices. Whilst the onus is on them to sign-up, conversation will be had with the Housemistress and them as to whether you would benefit from getting off-campus and as to how you otherwise intend to use your time. We ask that pupils sign-up by midday Wednesday so that we can make judgement on the viability of the trip and have the necessary paperwork, risk assessments and staffing in place. The choice of activities is led by conversation between Mr Liberman (Weekend Activities Co-Ordinator) and the Weekend Representatives appointed by the Houses. All pupils have opportunity to speak to these Reps, to Mr Liberman or to their Housemistress should they wish to see something different offered. The full range of weekend activities and timings can be found by pupils in House and on the 'Weekend Activities Teams' page to which all Boarders have access.

Pupils may also visit other Boarding Houses or go into Holt across the weekend.

## A D V I C E   F R O M   Q U E E N S '   G I R L S

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*Joining Year 9 can be scary. You are thrown into a new environment where you may not know many people. However, speaking from my own experience, you will make friends for life and never want to leave the Queens' family. The older girls may seem scary, but I promise you, all they want to do is help you to enjoy your time at the Senior School as much as they have. If you're worried about getting lost (don't be!) there are always people around to ask for help and even some maps around School. In Year 9 have fun, get to know as many people as you can, get yourself involved in as many activities as you can but don't forget to work hard as well!*

E S T H E R O .

*Queens' was definitely one of my favourite years at Gresham's, along with one of the most nerve-racking. My main piece of advice is to get to know all your Queens' Year 9's, even if you already have friends from the Prep School - as some people don't. Also, travelling as a 'pack' to chapel and lessons is ESSENTIAL, as it is usually easier to find classrooms and doesn't leave anyone having to travel alone. Finally... keeping organised is a must - especially with being in Queens', as this means you must always leave 2-3 minutes earlier than any other house. Although people complain about the walk, it's lovely when it's nice and warm outside as you get to be in the sun! Make sure to complete your prep on time, just to avoid any de-merits and so that you don't get overwhelmed all at once! Year 9 in Queens' is amazing and the whole house will make sure to look after you.*

M A T I L D A L .

*When you join Queens' in Year 9, you will get an amazing welcome from lots of lovely people! My advice would be to try and get to know everyone and have fun. You will of course feel nervous, but once you settle in, you will feel a part of the Queens' family. You can always come and speak to us for advice, or just a general chat - we want to get to know you all!! Enjoy your time in the Queens' family because trust me, it will go quickly, and you will want to be back at the start again. Enjoy every second and take every opportunity that comes your way. Work hard, be kind, and embrace it all!*

R U B Y C .

*Firstly, I would say to bring your own mug for the kitchens as normally they're in the dishwasher and get used up quickly. Also, to bring your own tuck box with a lock because food can disappear quickly in a dorm of girls. I would also keep your prep room tidy because otherwise things get lost easily. In addition, to make sure that you are on time for all your lessons, leave five minutes early. At the start, it is easy to get lost and it takes quite a while to get places if you're in Queens'. I would also suggest on your first day using the map*

*on the back of your prep diary or asking one of the older pupils for advice on how to get places because it can be hard for the first few lessons.*

**M I R A N D A   H - S .**

*Queens' is the friendliest house that you'll be in, we are a close-knit group of girls and everyone gets along. We are a long way away from the main classroom, so always leave for your lessons earlier than you think. Make sure that you are on top of all your work in Year 9, or you will regret it later! Trust me. If you think your tests in class don't mean anything, think again. Make revision cards as the year goes on so that you are already prepared for your exams. The older girls in house are super friendly and will always make you feel comfortable. Don't be scared to approach them, they are not as scary as they look! My main pieces of advice would be to stay organised, make memories and don't be late!*

**L O T T I E   B .**

*Don't be scared to talk to older people in the house, we all treat each other like family, and everyone will help you if you have a problem. Also, one of the things I was most worried about was chapel and lunch because that's when everyone is together, but I quickly realised that it's not bad and no one is judging you.*

**I S S Y   S .**

*I started Gresham's in Year 9. I was worried as I didn't know anyone, however I quickly discovered that there are so many lovely people in Queens' to talk to. All the girls in each year are so friendly so don't be afraid to speak to older girls. Mrs Seldon is also so good to speak to if you have any worries. Overall, I think that if you are starting new in Year 9, just have fun and make the most of everything Gresham's has to offer!*

**H E N   H .**

*I joined Queens' in Year 11 and honestly, I did not know what to expect. Of course, I knew a bit about boarding before, but not a lot. I would say now though after being here for about two years already, I have experienced the most and memorable events. I would really say not to be scared or anything because everyone is super friendly here and open to talk to. This especially helped me get settled in quite quickly. As a reminder it is not only staff here to talk to, all the girls in house are also there to talk to. Enjoy the first few days when you join to get settled in, but then you will quickly realise a lot of work is coming at once, don't be scared for that if you stay organised it will not be a problem.*

**C L A R A   G**



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