

WELCOME TO KENSINGTON HOUSE

NEW STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2026



WELCOME TO KENSINGTON HOUSE:

House Motto: Ad Vitam. Meaning: For Life.

Kensington House Direct Line: 01276 859710

Kensington Mobile number: 07825 012852

Kensington House email: kensington@gordons.school

Welcome to Kensington House and Gordon's School! We hope this booklet provides a useful introduction to House life and answers many of the practical questions that arise when joining the school community.

Kensington House serves as the base for approximately 100 girls aged 11-18 throughout the school day. In addition to the Head and Assistant Head of House, students are supported by a team of House Tutors who provide pastoral guidance and are available to assist with any questions or concerns.

Opened in May 2000 by The Earl of Wessex, Kensington House plays an important role in supporting students' wellbeing, personal development and participation in the wider life of the school.

The House is fortunate to have its own garden space, which is enjoyed by students throughout the year. We are also regularly visited by Tinkabelle, our House dog, who is a popular member of the Kensington community!

We look forward to welcoming your daughter to Kensington House and supporting her throughout her time at Gordon's School.

Our House motto, Ad Vitam ("For Life"), reflects the values that underpin House life. We encourage students to develop qualities such as resilience, integrity, kindness and confidence, which will support them both during their time at Gordon's and beyond.

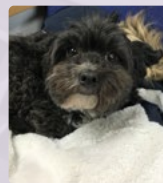
Kensington students participate fully in all aspects of school life, including sport, music, drama, art, leadership and community events. Alongside these opportunities, the House offers a range of social activities throughout the year, helping students build friendships across year groups and develop a strong sense of belonging.



Ms Kate Connery
Head of House



Mrs Laurie Glimmerveen,
Assistant Head of House



Tinkabelle,
House dog

WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR 7 GIRLS (2026-27)

Rose Charles-Jones

Phoebe Cooper

Margot Headley

Lucy Holliday

Charlotte Knight

Noemie Lefevre

Zadie Lowe

Maisie MacDonald

Nia Marsh

Margot Middleton

Shanaira Mishra

Georgia Moore

Rose Moran

Eleanor Simons



Last year's new Year 7 Girls (2025-26)

DAILY LIFE

Kensington House is open from 7.30am to 6.15pm, Monday to Friday. During the school day, students use the House as a base to prepare for lessons, store belongings, relax during breaks and socialise with friends.

The House provides a range of facilities, including common rooms, study spaces, recreational equipment and a kitchen area for drinks and snacks. Year 7 students are based in the downstairs common room, along with Year 8 and 9, to support their transition into school life and ensure regular contact with House staff.

Within the House, students are organised into Kensington Families, which bring together girls from different year groups so they can get to know each other better. We regularly hold fun events and activities in the Family groups, such as netball shooting competitions, or 'Hunt the Heart' treasure hunts for Valentine's Day.

The House garden is available for students to use during suitable weather and the House is equipped with a variety of outdoor games and sports equipment – swing ball is particularly popular!

Parents receive a weekly Kensington House newsletter containing House updates, key information and upcoming events. The House Instagram account also shares highlights of House activities and achievements ([@kensington.girls](https://www.instagram.com/kensington.girls)).

PROPERTY

Students in Years 7–11 are allocated both a locker for books, and a storage cage for larger items such as sports kit. A padlock can be used for both if desired, and a spare key should be provided to House staff for safekeeping.

All personal belongings, including clothing and equipment, should be clearly and permanently named.

LOST PROPERTY

Named lost property will be returned to House and can be collected by students during the school day. Items of sports kit are held separately and can be reclaimed from the PE Office in the Sports Hub.

HOUSE HOODIES AND TOPS

House hoodies are available to purchase through the school. Information regarding ordering will be provided at the start of the academic year.

House tops are issued to students representing Kensington House in Inter-House competitions.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If a student is unable to attend school, parents should notify the School by 9.15am at the latest on the day of absence using one of the contact methods below:

Telephone: [01276 858084 \(Option 1\)](tel:01276858084) Email: absence@gordons.school

Where possible, notification should be provided in advance of any planned absence such as a medical appointment, via email to:

absence@gordons.school and kensington@gordons.school

ILLNESS IN THE DAY

Students who feel unwell during the school day should report to the School Office, where staff will assess the student and determine the most appropriate course of action. This may include a short period of rest in the Medical Centre or contacting parents to arrange collection if the student is considered to unwell to remain in school.

MEALS AND SNACKS

Students in Years 7-10 attend meals together with the House, while Year 11 and Sixth Form students attend at separate allocated times. Meal schedules vary and are published weekly within the House.

Afternoon snacks are provided daily, and the House tuck shop operates twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday. The House kitchen is also used for year-group toast days throughout the week at morning break. New students are given a House water bottle to use throughout the day.



Kensington Junior Prefects (2026-27)

MOBILE PHONES

Students in Years 7–11 are required to hand mobile phones into the House Office upon arrival each morning. Phones are returned when students leave the House at the end of the day.

Students may request access to their phone during the day if required, and the House Office phone is available for students to contact home when necessary.

Sixth Form students may keep their phones during the school day, provided they are used in accordance with school expectations.

Tablets are used for learning and prep; mobile phones should not be used during lessons.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

In addition to the items listed in the School Handbook, personal electrical items and aerosol sprays are not permitted in the House.

All medication, including over-the-counter medicines such as hay fever tablets and paracetamol, must be handed to the Medical Centre on arrival at school.

STUDENT SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

The wellbeing of students is central to House life. House staff work closely with parents, tutors, teaching staff and the Medical Centre to ensure students receive appropriate support when required.

Where additional pastoral support is needed, an Individual Welfare Plan may be implemented and reviewed regularly in partnership with parents.

Professional counselling services are available through the school, and students may also receive support through the Learning Support Department where appropriate. Junior Prefects represent student views through Student Voice meetings and other leadership opportunities.



Sports Day 2026

INTER-HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Inter-House competitions are an important part of life at Gordon's School and provide opportunities for students to participate in sport, music, drama, art, academic challenges and other activities throughout the year.

Kensington House encourages all students to become involved and contribute to House events wherever possible. Successful teams often celebrate their achievements through House rewards and social events; pizza evenings are a favourite!



Year 8 Inter-House Cricket Team



Inter-House Football 2026



Inter-House Hockey 2026

PERIOD 7

Students select their Period 7 (4-5pm on weekdays, and also Saturday mornings) activities in advance each term. Attendance at all allocated Period 7 activities is compulsory, including Friday afternoon marching practice and Saturday morning school commitments. There is a huge range of activities to choose from, from art to board games and everything else in between!

Sunday parades and Chapel services also form part of the school's programme. Permission for absence from parades can only be granted by the Head Teacher.

DRILL PRACTICE (MARCHING)

Marching practice takes place on Friday afternoons for students in Years 7-11. Students are expected to attend in school uniform and permission will be given in colder weather to wear PE jumpers underneath blazers if necessary, or coats in case of rain.

Throughout the year, students participate in a number of formal school parades. Attendance is expected unless permission for absence has been granted by the Head Teacher. Older students provide support and guidance to younger year groups as they learn drill and parade routines during their first year at Gordon's.

PARADES

Parades run throughout the academic year. All main school students and Sixth Form students leading Houses are expected to attend. The Headteacher's permission is required for absence from parades. All students in years 7-11 march with the House unless they are in the Under The Arches Band or Pipes and Drums.

PARADE DATES 2026-27:

Sunday 11 October 2026 - *Harvest Festival Parade & Chapel Service*

Sunday 8 November 2026 - *Remembrance Parade*

Saturday 16 January 2027 - *Whitehall Parade for Y9 and Y11 students 12.00pm*

Sunday 17 January 2027 - *Guildford Cathedral Memorial Service 11.30am*

Sunday 21 March 2027 - *Parade & Chapel Service*

Saturday 12 June 2027 - *Patron's Parade*

Saturday 3 July 2027 - *Annual Parade & Prize Giving (the Parade starts at 2pm)*



Patron's Parade (2026)



Guildford Cathedral (January 2026)

BLUES

Blues are traditional uniforms worn at parades. Students are responsible for the maintenance, care and upkeep of their Blues Uniform, which is issued when joining the school. Blues must be hung up carefully at home when not being worn. A Swap Shop operates at certain times of the year to exchange items of uniform for larger sizes as students grow through the school. Blues must be returned to the school when students leave.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP ROLES

Each House has School and House Prefects who represent the House in a variety of Student Voice Committees as below. Younger students will work with these girls in House Families. Students in Years 12 and 10 wishing to become Senior or Junior School and House Prefects are invited to make an application in the Autumn Term.



Darcey Bailey
Head of House



Kate Brazendale
Deputy Head of House



Jemima Lighting
House Prefect



Jess Dickinson
House Prefect



Holly Fernandez
House Prefect



Ella McCormick
House Prefect



Frankie Prior
House Prefect



Jasmine Sinclair
House Captain



Aadya Goswami
House Sergeant



Neela Iyer
Right-Hand Marker



Maya Sinclair
Right-Hand Marker



Inéz Schilbach
Drill Sergeant



Aadya Goswami
Senior School Prefect



Kate Brazendale
Senior School Prefect



Darcey Bailey
Senior School Prefect



Anaiya Patel
Senior School Prefect



Jasmine Sinclair
Senior School Prefect



Isabella Clutterbuck
Junior School Prefect



Amber Oshiga
Junior School Prefect



Megan Rollason
Junior School Prefect



Inéz Schilbach
Junior School Prefect



Kimberley Sutton
Anti-Bullying Ambassador



Immy Moore
Anti-Bullying Ambassador



Darcey Bailey
Anti-Bullying Ambassador



Victoria Ray-Hill
Student Governor

SOCIAL MOMENTS

The House holds regular parties, trips and other social events. Within Kensington House we have “Families” made up of girls from all year groups which gives them an opportunity to mix and socialise with each other.



Inter-House Drama



Year 10 Trip to the Escape Rooms June 2026



Kensington House Trip to Guildford Lido June 2026



Christmas Ice Skating Trip to Hampton Court Palace - 2025



SIXTH FORM PRIVATE STUDY

Sixth Form study requires a high level of independent learning beyond timetabled lessons. Students are expected to manage their time effectively, balancing academic commitments with extracurricular activities and any part-time employment.

All Sixth Form students are provided with access to private study rooms, offering a quiet space for independent work. Larger common rooms are also available for collaborative study and social time when not in use by younger students.

Visitors from other Houses are welcome but must sign in using the visitors' book located outside the downstairs common room.





Sixth Form Dance-Off Competition 2025









Kensington House
Gordon's School
West End
Woking
Surrey
GU24 9PT

01276 859716
kensington@gordons.school

