

WELCOME TO KENSINGTON HOUSE

NEW STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2025



WELCOME TO KENSINGTON HOUSE:

House Motto: Ad Vitam. Meaning: For Life.

Kensington House Direct Line:	01276 859710
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Head of House: Ms Kate Connery

Assistant Head of House: Mrs Laurie Glimmerveen

Welcome to Kensington House and Gordon's School. We hope this information will help you to integrate into school life as easily as possible. The House staff hope you will be very happy here. Kensington will be your base whilst at school and, as well as the House staff below, we also have 5 House Tutors who are here to guide and help you with any questions or issues you may encounter.

Kensington House was opened in May 2000 by the Earl of Wessex. It is "home" to 100 girls aged 11-18. The girls arrive in the morning to prepare themselves for their day, relax during breaks and socialise with their peers. Our House motto is Ad Vitam, which is Latin for "For Life". This means that the qualities we admire and aspire to are not just an essential part of current school life but also qualities Kensington girls aim to carry with them when they leave. Our House colour is purple!

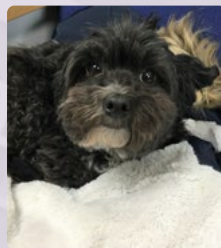
Kensington girls are involved in all aspects of Gordon's life: sport, drama, art and music, just to name a few. They enjoy a variety of social activities including end of term parties, trips and visits and film & pizza nights in year groups and families across the year. We are one of the few Houses with a garden and on Fridays we have a little visiting dog called Tinkabelle who loves hugs and playing. We look forward to meeting you soon.



Ms Kate Connery
Head of House



Mrs Laurie Glimmerveen,
Assistant Head of House



Tinkabelle,
House dog



Year 7 2024-5, Buddies to Year 7 2025-6

DAILY LIFE

The House is open from 7.30am until 6.15pm Monday to Friday; it is not open on Saturdays. At Exeat the House will close at 4.00pm on Friday. There are common rooms inside the House which are for you to spend your free time in. We also have “Kensington Families” who are a mixture of girls from different year groups and the House runs regular competitions and social events for families to enjoy. The House is here for you to relax in and socialise with your peers during breaks.

We are very lucky to have lovely facilities for you to enjoy during your time here. We have common rooms where you can relax and enjoy your free time. There are TVs, Netflix, wireless speakers, musical instruments as well as Nintendo Switch, Just Dance, games and books. In the Autumn Term Year 7 are based in the downstairs common room to enable them to use the changing room and see House staff daily. The common rooms are used for pizza evenings and parties throughout the year. The kitchen is open for drinks throughout the day as well as toast days; girls are expected to keep it tidy after use!

The garden is used by all Kensington girls in good weather. There is also a wide variety of sports equipment for the girls to use outside, including netball posts, swingball, balls, bats, and skipping ropes.

The Kensington House newsletter, which contains lots of relevant information, is sent home weekly. The House has an Instagram account which is periodically updated with photos and snippets of recent House events.

PROPERTY

Girls in Years 7-11 are provided with a locker and a cage (both lockable). The cage is used for larger items such as PE kit. One medium padlock for each is required and spare keys must be given to House staff for safekeeping. Sixth Form students have cupboards in their study rooms which are lockable. **All property must be clearly and permanently named.**

LOST PROPERTY

Items of lost property may be reclaimed from outside the IT block.
Items of sports kit may be reclaimed from the PE Office.

HOUSE HOODIES AND TOPS

House hoodies are available to buy from school. Please complete your purchase form as soon as possible. House tops are issued through the House for participants in Inter-House competitions.

MEAL TIMES

All the girls in Year 7-10 in the House eat together and meal times vary from week to week. Year 11 and Sixth Form go at separate times. We publish the times on the House notice board. Girls in Year 7-11 must go up to the Dining Hall for meals at the designated time with the House.

Snacks are given out at 3.35pm daily and the house has a tuckshop for break time purchases on Tuesday and Thursday every week. The House has its own kitchen and each year group has a separate toast day when toast is made for them at break.

MOBILE PHONES

Year 7-11 students must hand phones into the House Office from entry in the morning until they leave at night. Any student can request to use the House Office phone at any time, or request access to their phone to call home if deemed necessary to do so. Sixth Form students may have their phones with them in the day provided they are on silent mode in lessons. Students may take their phone from the House to prep at 6.15pm, so long as it is switched off and kept in their school bag. Tablets are used in prep and lessons, not mobile phones.

FORBIDDEN ITEMS

In addition to items identified in the school handbook as forbidden items please remember that personal electronics and sprays are not allowed in the House. Sixth Form students should not bring in additional items for study rooms without getting them PAT tested first. All medicines including hay fever tablets, paracetamol and antibiotics must be taken to the medical centre on arrival in school.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Where there are specific concerns relating to students the Head of House puts in place an Individual Welfare Plan which is discussed with the student weekly and reviewed half termly. Parents are informed. Counselling is also made available to students who need it. Professional counsellors meet students in the Medical Centre. Learning Support strategies are put in place by the Learning Support teams and Assistant Heads of each Key Stage.

Each House also has a box where students can post anonymous forms about any concerns they may have about bullying or indeed anything at all. Junior Prefects represent the House at Student Voice meetings.

Year 8 Inter-House Netball Winners



Kensington Junior Prefects

INTER-HOUSE COMPETITIONS

There are many Inter-House competitions throughout the year at Gordon's, so whether you are strong at sport, music, art, drama or even baking, there will be an opportunity for you to take part. Winning teams enjoy pizza evenings to celebrate. As a House, we participate in all Inter-House activities and competitions which are always fiercely fought across the school. Students are expected to sign up for all competitions.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Parents must contact the School on either of the below by 9.15am to report that their child will be absent:

01276 858084 Option #1

absence@gordons.school

Any absence notice not received will trigger an email or request for information. The reason for any absence must always be submitted in writing prior to the absence if known.

ILLNESS IN THE DAY

Students go to the school office if feeling unwell in the day. The office will refer Day Boarders to Medical staff to be further assessed.

- a) If Medical staff believe the child is unfit to be in school, parents will be called to come and collect.
- b) If they believe a short 'time-out', some water and a sit down will help them get back into lessons quickly, this can be managed in the Medical Centre.

PERIOD 7

Students choose their activities for each term in advance. Attendance at all period 7s including Friday afternoon marching practice and Saturday morning school is compulsory. Sunday Parades and Chapel are also compulsory.

Permission to be absent from Parades and Saturday Period 7 can only be given by the Head Teacher.

DRILL PRACTICE (MARCHING)

This takes place for all main school students on Friday afternoons between 4.00pm and 5.00pm. Students are expected to wear school uniform and permission will be given in colder weather to wear hoodies underneath blazers if necessary. At the start of the year older girls teach younger students drill in lunch and Period 8 times to ensure that they are ready for their first parade.



CCF Navy Kensington Year 10 2025



House Dance Off 2025

PARADES

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

PARADE DATES 2025-26:

Sunday 12 October 2025	Harvest Festival Parade & Chapel Service
Sunday 9 November 2025	Remembrance Parade
Saturday 17 January 2026	Whitehall Parade (for Y9 and Y11 students) 12.00 pm
Sunday 18 January 2026	Guildford Cathedral Memorial Service (for all students) 1.30am
Sunday 22 March 2026	Parade & Chapel Service
Saturday 6 June 2026	Patron's Parade & Fun Day
Saturday 4 July 2026	Annual Parade & Prize Giving

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 (OPPOSITE)

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.

KENSINGTON HOUSE POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

2025



House Captain
Roisie Meaney



Head of House
Daisy Chaplin



House Sergeant
Ellie Fleming



**Student Head of Arts and
Student Governor**
Naima Ben-Gashir



Student Head of Sport
Abi Shaw-Hales



Isobel Mosby



Ash Vijayaragaran



Gemma Jones



Amy Bowden

Student Heads of 2025 Events



Junior Prefect - Academic
Sitara Prasad



Junior Prefect - Boarders
Isla Bowden



Junior Prefect - Co-Curricular
Neela Iyer



Junior Prefect - Food
Siena Phipps



Anti Bullying Ambassador
Katherine Ray-Hill



Anti Bullying Ambassador
Vedi Shobin



BDB Year 7 Ambassadors

Olliyah Cichon-Harris

Isla Simpson

BDB Year 8 Ambassadors

Imogen Heng

Zoe Chedd

BDB Year 9 Ambassadors

Maya Sinclair

Poppy Williams

Sixth Form Winners of The Dance Off 2025



Sixth Form Escape Room 2025

SIXTH FORM PRIVATE STUDY

Post 16 study involves a great deal of independent work outside time-tabled lessons. Organising their time efficiently is extremely important for students who must ensure that other activities, such as jobs out of school, are undertaken sensibly. Private study rooms are provided for all sixth formers and larger common rooms may be used for group study and free time when not in use by younger students. Visiting friends are welcome but must sign in, using the visitor's book outside the House office.

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.



Year 13 End of Year Social



Year 9 Inter-House Hockey winners 2025





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