

WELCOME TO KENSINGTON HOUSE

*STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2023*



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:	<u>kensington@gordons.school</u>
Kensington House staff: Head of House: Ms Kate Connery Assistant Head of House: Mrs Jane Hollingdale who will job share in 2023-24 House Tutors: Mrs Rosie Otero, Mrs Jasmine Warner and Mrs Lisa Cunningham	

Welcome to Kensington House and Gordon's School. This information is to 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 the House staff are here to guide you and help with any problems 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 House. 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.



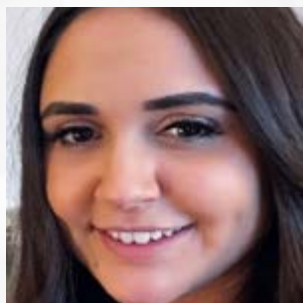
**Ms Connery,
Head of House**



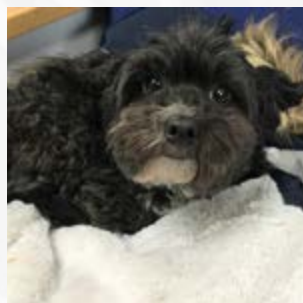
**Mrs Hollingdale,
Assistant Head of House
Mrs Otero,
Deputy Head of House**



**Mrs Cunningham,
House Tutor**



**Mrs Spencer,
House Tutor**



**Tinkabelle,
House dog**

DAILY LIFE

The House is open from 7.45am until 6.00pm Monday to Friday; it is not open on Saturdays. At Exeat the House will close at 4.00pm on the Friday evening. 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 their families. The House is here for you to relax in and socialise with your peers during breaks.

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.

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 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 Day Boarders 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 6.00pm, so long as it is switched off and kept in their school bag.

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 anti-biotics must be taken to the medical centre on arrival in school to be issued in the day by the nurses.

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.

Each House also has a box where students can post anonymous notes about any concerns they may have about bullying or indeed anything at all.

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.

As a House, we participate in 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.surrey.sch.uk

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, or on the student's return to school.

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

Students are not allowed to miss lessons, events, or activities due to illness unless they have a medical certificate or specific permission from their parents or House Parent or the Head of Sixth Form.

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 for participants in Inter-House competitions.

FIREFLY

This electronic platform is used for much of our daily work including:

- Accessing prep information and deadlines
- Accessing House pages and House information
- Accessing the timetable and school calendar

Students must ensure they have a charged tablet or laptop at all times to access this information.

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 Prefects are invited to make an application in the Autumn Term.

KENSINGTON HOUSE POSITIONS



Ciara Meany
House Captain



Elizabeth Bailey
Student Head of House



Izzy Lees
Right Hand Marker



Roisie Meaney
Drill Sergeant



Ellie F.
Drill S



Isobel Mosby
Student Governor



Amy Bowden
Jnr. School Prefect
Academic



Ashwini Vijayaragavan
Jnr. School Prefect
Boarders



Roisie
Jnr. School
Co-Cu

OF RESPONSIBILITY 2023/2024



Daisy McMahon
Deputy Head of House



Isobel Wilson
House Sergeant



Ellie Fleming
House Sergeant



Nancy Sumsion
House Sports
Captain



Alice Kermeen
House Arts
Captain



Poppy Williams
School Prefect
Curricular



Ellie Fleming
Jnr. School Prefect
Food



Poppy Williams
Anti Bullying
Ambassador



Darcey Bailey
Anti Bullying
Ambassador

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 7-11 march with the House unless they are in the Under The Arches Band or Pipes and Drums.

Parade Dates 2023-24:	
Sunday 15 th October 2023	Harvest Festival Parade & Chapel Service
Sunday 12 th November 2023	Remembrance Parade
Saturday 27 th January 2024	Whitehall Parade for Y9 and Y11 students only
Sunday 28 th January 2024	Guildford Cathedral Memorial Service for all students
Sunday 25 th February 2024	Parade & Chapel Service
Sunday 17 th March 2024	Parade & Chapel Service
Sunday 12 th May 2024	Parade & Chapel Service
Saturday 8 th June 2024	Patron's Parade & Fun Day
Saturday 6 th July 2024	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.

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.



ESCAPE HUNT

MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED



COMMUNAL AREAS

The House has 3 common rooms and 1 classroom for student use. In the Autumn Term Year 7 are based in the downstairs classroom to enable them to use the changing room and see House staff daily. Common rooms and the classroom has access to Netflix, games and space for year groups to relax. 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. The girls are expected to keep it tidy after use! The garden is used by all Kensington girls in good weather.

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.









Kensington House
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