



# EPSOM

## COLLEGE

### **Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice**

Epsom College aims to provide a happy, friendly and purposeful atmosphere in which pupils develop a high moral code and respectful conduct towards others. The development of their own talents — academic, athletic and cultural — is seen as a means of taking this progress to maturity.

Great emphasis is placed on individual guidance and support for each boy and girl, and at Epsom the framework for this guidance is our house system, supported by the Chaplaincy, the College Counsellor, and the work of the Medical Centre and indeed the whole of the Common Room. All boys and girls in the Senior School at Epsom College belong to one of thirteen houses, each under the direct supervision of a housemaster or housemistress assisted by a team of tutors and a Matron who manages all domestic matters.

The principal function of our house structure, which is very much the backbone of the College, is to provide an efficient and well-tryed means of implementing pastoral care, which includes overseeing the academic and personal development and the welfare of its members. Each pupil has a tutor who regularly monitors academic progress and who will advise the pupil on the best means of moving forward, keeping parents and the housemaster or housemistress informed of all developments. In addition, boarding houses offer safe, secure and well supervised residential accommodation. In assessing applicants for boarding places, as with day places, the criteria we adopt are an adequate performance in a suitable written test or examination and a satisfactory reference from the applicant's present school. Applicants for places are also interviewed.

All houses, whether day or boarding, boys or girls, act as the focus for a sense of belonging, of support, of commitment, of friends and of place. However, it is our boarding houses that provide a particularly compassionate and caring environment which becomes home for each of its boys and girls. We see the life of a boarder as an extension of the pupil's home where interest and guidance are offered and self-discipline nurtured. Our boarders develop tolerance, respect for others, sociability, personal independence and self-esteem. They enjoy closer supervision of their work and are able to spend more of their time engaged in profitable activities (instead of travelling to and from school). Boarding offers the experiences of shared living, accepting community values and learning to take into account the point of view of others. For many families, weekly boarding offers all this while still allowing frequent contact with what can be very busy home and professional lives.

Each boarding house occupies its own building or distinctly separate part of a larger building. Houses arrange their own plays and concerts, and of course most sports are played at inter-house level to reinforce a competitive ethos that also takes in several other school activities. Inevitably, differences in the location and nature of the buildings, the age, foundation and tradition of the houses as self-contained communities within the College, and even the background, interests and outlook of the house staff combine to give each house a 'style' and character of its own. However, all houses employ a broadly similar basic working structure and function on common guiding principles in such a way that houses have far more in common than is generally regarded.

Year 9 pupils generally start off in rooms of no more than four but may work together in a separate room (the 'Day Room'), or they work in their rooms under supervision. Each pupil in Years 10 and 11 shares a study bedroom with one other. In the Lower Sixth Form pupils will be in either shared or single study bedrooms but in the Upper Sixth virtually all pupils have their own room. Pupils can be issued with keys to their rooms. All houses all have plenty of washing, shower and bathing facilities and extensive communal areas with common rooms,

games rooms (for pool, table tennis etc.), a television room (all are equipped to receive satellite broadcasts), kitchens and a house library. Extensive networked ICT facilities give all pupils the opportunity to access the College network and the Internet.