

Boarding



St Peter's College
ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA



Information Handbook





Vision and Values

Vision

Our vision is to be an exceptional community of learning.

Values

Truth

We pursue truth that we might live lives of integrity; we are led by truth to engage with God, the world and others with courage and kindness.

Respect

We value each person and their place in the rich web of life.

Service

We understand that the world is a community in which order and wisdom must prevail in order to serve life for all beings in a sustainable way; St Peter's College seeks to serve the needs of our wider community.



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Welcome to Boarding at St Peter's College

From the Headmaster

Boarding at St Peter's College offers boys the opportunity to benefit from an exceptional education that brings out the very best in every boy. Our boarders are part of a warm, welcoming and caring environment which aims to challenge and develop students both academically and personally.



Since 1853 boarding has held an important place at the heart of our School. Today our vibrant boarding community hails from diverse backgrounds; many are from regional and remote Australia while our international students come from the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and the UK.

Our modern purpose-built Boarding House provides accommodation for around 100 boys from Years 7 to 12. Located on the School campus, boys have access to 32 hectares of magnificent grounds, just 2km from Adelaide's city centre. We place great emphasis on ensuring our boarders are part of a tight-knit and caring community that values kindness and embraces a sense of family. Boarders are supported academically and encouraged to participate in a wide range of co-curricular activities. They also have full use of the campus facilities including seven ovals, a hockey pitch, 10 tennis courts, a state-of-the-art sports centre with swimming pool and a full gymnasium.

We welcome you to St Peter's College and encourage you to meet members of our boarding staff who are passionate about creating our boarders a home away from home.

Tim Browning | Headmaster

From the Director of Boarding

St Peter's College is a Boarding School, not a school with boarders; and there is a significant difference. The fact that we are a Boarding School ensures boarders, boarding staff and boarding families are not an afterthought, but rather a cornerstone of our School. Boarding has a presence in the School and is a key part of the culture, history and traditions of St Peter's College.



It is a great privilege to lead our boarding community; a community that values diversity and celebrates the amazing stories and backgrounds of our boarders. We place great emphasis on positive and respectful relationships. Our students form lifelong friendships with their peers and also develop meaningful and genuine relationships with the staff. Our core focus centres around student wellbeing and ensuring our boarding environment has a warm and homely feel where students are well cared for and feel safe.

St Peter's College offers a holistic education, built around exceptional standards of teaching and learning. Our boarding staff take a genuine interest in all aspects of student development and provide academic and pastoral support and mentoring. We value effort and engagement and encourage our students to make the most of their classroom and co-curricular experiences.

Our boarding facilities are excellent. We have a modern Boarding House and access to sporting facilities including a swimming pool, gymnasium, weights room and world-class playing fields. Our location ensures a variety of options for local leave on weekends and weeknights.

We want all our boarders and their families to feel connected to the School. We work hard to help each student find their identity at St Peter's College and we support them in setting and achieving their goals.

The information included within this handbook provides a snapshot of boarding at St Peter's College. To speak with me directly about boarding, please don't hesitate to contact me on +61 438 015 512 or tangus@stpeters.sa.edu.au

Tim Angus | Director of Boarding



Our Philosophy

In aligning the boarding aims with the ethos of the School, we are dedicated to holistically supporting the academic, spiritual, social, emotional and physical development of each boarder.

We do this by creating a supportive environment where each boy is engaged and challenged.

Boarding staff are aware of the academic and character development which occurs outside the school day, and their important role in guiding the boys during their boarding journey. We are proud to assist boys in developing independence and self-discipline while being part of a vibrant boarding community which includes parents and Boarding House staff. We are committed to making boarding a warm and homely environment based on family values instilled at home.

Staff do not underestimate their responsibility in caring for your son, and are committed to ensuring lines of communication are always open between home and school.

Our boarding complex is a modern environment which caters for diversity in interests and allows boys to socialise with peers, relax and work independently.

Our staffing structure provides many avenues of support within an environment that provides high expectations, good supervision and consistency.



Our Boarding History

Boarding has held an importance place at the heart of St Peter's College since 1853.

In 1853 when the first boarders arrived, they all lived in Old School House, the large building on the eastern side of Main Oval. In 1920, Brooks House and Wyatt House were formed but the majority of boarders remained in what was known as School House.

In 1924, Brooks House was renamed Allen House after Captain Allen, one of the early benefactors of the School. In 1932, Allen House and Wyatt House merged to form Wyatt & Allen House situated on the site of the present Boarding House.

In 1936, boarders in Old School House moved to the new Pentreath building, the curved building on the north of Main Oval. This was built under the headmastership of the Reverend Guy Pentreath, specifically as a boarding house. For a time, the building was known as 'New School House'.

Athelney was bought by the School in 1952 and for some years it was used as an art centre. With increasing demand for boarding places, it opened as a boarding house in 1964. There were then three boarding houses at St Peter's College: School House (located in the Pentreath Building), Wyatt & Allen House (in the Boarding House's present location) and Athelney House.

By 1972, demand for boarding places had fallen, due to a recession in rural and regional Australia. Boarders who had been in the Pentreath Building were moved to Athelney and the combined house was known as School/Athelney. In 1983, the House resumed the name of School House.

In 2003 School, Wyatt & Allen Houses merged into School & Allen House. The current Boarding House is in a central location within the Senior School.





Our Staff

More than 100 boarders call School & Allen House home for 38 weeks of the year.

They are supported by qualified and dedicated boarding staff who provide the necessary support for the boys in their care.

The boarding staff supervise students out-of-school hours and provide pastoral and academic support. Senior boarding staff are teachers at the School and are in constant communication with the boarders' mentors and class teachers to ensure they are accessing the necessary support.

We recognise that all boys are unique and respond to the challenges of living away from home in different ways. Led by our Director of Boarding, our staffing structure ensures that boys always have someone to speak to while also encouraging students to develop independence.

The health and wellbeing of our boarders is our primary concern, and we encourage boys and parents to make contact regarding any concerns which may arise.

A significant amount of thought and planning is put into the staffing of our Boarding House. This is to ensure all boys are well supervised and are able to access a staff member for any questions or concerns they may have. There are always two live-in staff on-duty who are directly accessible to students. Furthermore, during supervised study periods additional tutoring staff are accessible to provide flexibility in offering small group and one-on-one academic assistance when required.

Each night a staff member resides in a dedicated overnight room, so the boys have a single location to go to during the night should they need support or feel unwell.

The Director of Boarding and Heads of House also live on the School grounds in close proximity to the Boarding House and are accessible to boys whenever they are needed.

Key Staff

Tim Angus, Director of Boarding

Tim oversees all aspects of the Boarding House including pastoral care, academic development, staffing and operations.

Head of House for Years 11 and 12

The first point of contact for all Years 11 and 12 students.

Head of House for Years 7 to 10

The first point of contact for all Years 7 to 10 students.

Mentors

Each boy, as part of a small group, is assigned a mentor. The small groups meet with their mentor each morning and several times during the week. Academic or general schooling enquiries can be made directly to the mentor.

Resident supervisors

The Boarding House is staffed by two qualified boarding supervisors. They are responsible for facilitating the daily routine and are the immediate contact for students regarding daily responsibilities.

House parent

A core role with the boarding team, this staff member is responsible for day-to-day services including laundry, cleaning and in-house catering, and is also the main contact for uniform enquiries.

Boarding House Administration and Learning Support

The Boarding House has a dedicated Learning Support Officer to assist the boys with their study, daily organisation and leave from the House.

Boarding House Activities and Curriculum Coordinator

This staff member provides a meaningful and exciting weekend recreation program for all boarders and sources learning opportunities for the boys to engage in to prepare them for life after school.

House assistants

To assist in supervision, academic support and overnight care of the boarders we have four experienced House Assistants. These staff provide specialty academic assistance and pastoral support to students.

GAP students

St Peter's College supports a healthy GAP program, where undergraduate students complete a 12-month placement at the School. These third-year university students provide additional supervision and coordinate after-hours recreational activities and gym sessions.

Support staff

In addition to our direct supervisors and Health Centre, the boarders have access to the School Chaplain who lives on campus. The School also has three psychologists who are available and speak regularly with the Heads of House to monitor student health and wellbeing.

Boarders' Health

Health Centre

The Boarding House is equipped with a Health Centre and is staffed by nurses from 8.00am - 6.00pm Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings during weekend sport.

Boarders are able to access the nurse throughout the day and attend appointments with the School Doctor who visits each weekday. Nurses ensure the correct treatment is administered and refer boys to the School Doctor or a specialist in consultation with parents. Boys can have prescriptions filled, specialist appointments booked, and transport arranged through the Health Centre.

All medical matters are communicated directly to the Health Centre who coordinate the information among relevant staff. Any allergies or other emergency medication required must be communicated to the Health Centre. All medication is stored in the medical room located in the Boarding House. If a student requires immediate treatment after hours they will be taken to the nearby Women's and Children's Hospital by a staff member.

Excludable Illness

Sometimes measures must be taken to stop the spread of communicable conditions such as gastroenteritis. If a student is diagnosed with such a condition, they may need to return home or to a guardian until they recover. In the event of a contagious outbreak such as COVID-19, parents may need to organise for alternative accommodation for their son. More information can be found on the National Health and Medical Research Council website www.nhmrc.gov.au





Expectations

Respect

In a communal living environment, all expectations derive from respect and these are demonstrated by:

- Respecting personal areas by keeping them tidy
- Managing personal hygiene and laundry
- Participating in boarding life and giving everything a go
- Following the House motto "there are others."

In the event of a serious breach of Boarding House rules, the Director of Boarding will investigate and communicate with parents regarding how the matter will be resolved. Any action which impacts on the safety or wellbeing of another boarder is considered a serious matter. Similarly, a failure to follow clear directives from staff about behaviour will prompt communication from the Director of Boarding.

We consider a serious breach to be (but not limited to):

- Bullying and harassment
- Non-cooperative behaviour towards staff
- Not adhering to leave procedures
- Offensive language
- Smoking
- Consumption of alcohol, taking or possessing illegal drugs
- Possession of dangerous objects
- Theft
- Damage

More information on behaviour expectations can be found on the School website: stpeters.sa.edu.au/about/school-policies

Dress and Appearance

Before breakfast and during school hours, boarding students are required to follow the School's uniform policy. After school and on weekends, boarders are able to change into neat casual clothing. Casual clothes and school uniform must not be mixed, and boys are encouraged to wear neat casual clothing when on local or weekend leave.

Boys must take responsibility for their personal grooming which includes being clean shaven, a neat haircut with no coloured or dyed hair, and no shorter than a number three. School expectations on dress and personal grooming are also expected within the House.



Preparing for your Boarding Journey



Boarding Life

To best prepare for the boarding journey we believe the following skills and habits are important:

Personal skills

- Being neat and tidy and respecting your personal area.
- Making bed and putting items away.
- Being organised and using time wisely.
- An understanding of study time and working effectively and independently.
- A strong set of social skills to ensure positive interactions with boys across a range of ages and backgrounds based on honesty, respect and kindness.
- Understanding the importance of goal setting.
- Basic budgeting skills.
- Willingness to try new things and making the most of opportunities presented, specifically with managing study and leisure time.
- Understanding and appreciating the opportunities that St Peter's College offers and the reason for changing school and relocating to Adelaide.

Hygiene

- Showering daily with soap.
- Using deodorant.
- Brushing teeth twice daily.
- Putting dirty clothes into the laundry daily.

Communication

- Communicating any concerns and asking for help in a timely manner.
- Ensuring regular communication with parents and staff to keep them up to date and informed.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are the most convenient form of communication between home and school and are the most effective way of contacting a boarder when away from the Boarding House.

Boarding staff do not have the ability to track or monitor mobile phone data use. Clear parental guidelines on social media and phone use should be discussed and implemented prior to commencement. All smart phones provide parental controls and we strongly encourage parents to set boundaries with phones.

Academic expectations

All boarders at St Peter's College can access academic support outside of the classroom in consultation with their classroom teacher, through regular sessions being run for core subjects as well as the extra academic support offered to boarders.

St Peter's College is an academic school with a reputation for outstanding results for boys of all abilities and we encourage boys to be confident in asking for help when needed.



What not to Bring

The Boarding House is fully equipped with a kitchen and a recreation room complete with gaming consoles and large sound systems; none of these items are required. At the end of each term boys are to pack up their rooms and only leave essential school items such as school books, uniforms and bedding. All other items are taken home.

The Boarding House is fitted with heating and cooling throughout, so no pedestal fans or portable heaters are required. Dangerous items including knives, peanuts and laser pointers are strictly forbidden and must not be brought to the School and Boarding House.

A Day in the Life of a Boarder

One of the strengths of the SPSC Boarding House is to encourage a safe and homely environment where students and staff live and work together as an extended family.

Boarders rise at approximately 7.30am, in time for breakfast. Following breakfast, there is time to gather books, before heading over to school for an 8.30am start. The boys have lunch in Da Costa Dining Hall, followed by a meeting with their mentor who is a teacher in the Senior School.

When lessons conclude at 3.30pm; depending on the day of the week, students are involved in sport training. Others may go on local leave or use the afternoon to relax with friends, listen to music, play in the games room or be involved in outside activities such as Cricket, Football or Basketball.

Dinner commences at 5.45pm and is followed by a study period between 6.30pm and 7.30pm with a 15-minute supper break. A second study session is then held between 7.45pm and 8.15pm. During the study period, boys have access to a number of academic staff and tutors who provide outstanding academic support. We ask that family phone calls are not made during study time.

Following study period, students can relax, enjoy some supper and activities in the games room or continue studying. This is a great time for the boys to call home and speak about their day.

Junior boarders (Years 7 to 9) go to their bedrooms at 9.00pm and are encouraged to read until lights out at 9.30pm. Senior students (Years 10 to 12) are encouraged to continue to study in their own rooms until lights out at 9.45pm.

On the weekends, boys take part in sport activities while on Sundays the entire Boarding House attends a formal Chapel service. Informal Chapel services also occur in the evenings during the week.

Sample Routine

7.30am	Wake-up bell is rung
7.30am to 8.00am	Breakfast
8.00am to 8.25am	Getting ready for school, tidying rooms
8.30am	School day begins
3.30pm	Boys return to Boarding House for afternoon tea
3.45pm to 5.30pm	Sports training, local leave, study or free time
5.30pm to 5.45pm	Prepare for dinner
5.45pm to 6.15pm	Dinner
6.30pm to 7.30pm	First study session
7.30pm to 7.45pm	Supper
7.45pm to 8.15pm	Second study session
8.15pm to 9.00pm	Optional study, gym or recreation time
9.15pm	Junior boarders hand in phones and get ready for bed
9.30pm	Lights out in the junior dorms while senior boarders get ready for bed
9.45pm	All senior boys in rooms
10.30pm	Lights out



Activities

St Peter's College provides a well-rounded and balanced approach to caring for boys living away from home. We provide a number of activities to keep your son actively engaged in boarding life. The weekends provide time for both study and a variety of recreational activities.

Boarders may use the close proximity of the Adelaide CBD after completing their sporting commitments. This provides time to catch up with friends and purchase any essential items.

All students are involved in the School's sports program and some play two competitive sports in a season. Most competitive games are played on a Saturday morning with the remainder played mid-week. In addition to the sports program, the School has a strong tradition of Music, Debating, Mooting and Public Speaking.

Other scheduled activities include Saturday night movies on the big screen, and pool and gym sessions on Sunday afternoons. House facilities include pool and table tennis tables, multiple TVs, Xbox, Foxtel, a basketball court and a grassed games area. The boys also have access to the 32-hectare school property.

In addition to school-based activities, the Boarding House Activities and Curriculum Coordinator organises a range of activities for boarders. These activities may include surfing, movies, tenpin bowling, museum and art gallery visits, Adelaide 36ers basketball games, Adelaide United soccer games, Port Adelaide and Crows Football games, arts and festival events, golf, ice skating, paintball, go-karting and mountain biking.

The Boarding House has a number of very closely fought inter-mentor competitions. These include Basketball, Table Tennis, tug-of-war, long bomb (kicking competition) and academic grade average competitions, which are always hotly contested.

In the words of a Boarder

I have been fortunate to attend St Peter's College as a boarder since 2020. Through boarding I have been provided with an incredible number of opportunities to try new things and build meaningful relationships with my peers and staff, particularly those in our School & Allen House. The School has helped me build on my strengths and interests and improve my areas of personal challenge, all whilst staying true to myself.



I vividly recall my first day in the Boarding House. It was exciting to meet new boys from all over Australia and the world. We quickly formed friendships and commenced our shared journey of navigating a new school. Along the way we've been assisted by our caring boarding staff who work hard to make the Boarding House our home away from home.

School & Allen House and the wider St Peter's College community is open to all individuals and offers incredible support no matter which pathway or interests you choose. With a vast range of co-curricular activities, numerous sporting trips and cultural tours, there are so many opportunities to build upon your interests. I encourage all new students to take every opportunity presented with an open mind, to not take anything for granted and to try new things which they may not have had the chance to do at home.

Moving away from home and starting at a new school is a challenge that cannot be underestimated, but I am proud to say that School & Allen House is a strong and tight-knit community that makes everyone feel as safe and comfortable as possible. We have a wonderful House culture and I love knowing that in years to come I will have brothers all over the world; and we will all be connected by the bond of boarding and School & Allen House.

Oakley Price | School & Allen House Captain, 2022



Meals

Boys are provided with all main meals and morning tea in Da Costa Dining Hall each weekday. Chartwells Catering provides all these meals including afternoon tea and supper in the Boarding House.

The Boarding House contains a main supper room equipped with microwaves, toasters and kettles, where boys can cook basic meals.

If boys miss a meal because of training or a rehearsal, they are able to order a late meal with the staff on duty.

Fast food deliveries are not permitted during the week, but boys can use these services on a weekend.

Laundry

Wearing the blue and white SPSC uniform is a privilege that all boys understand and value. Our laundry system is designed to be convenient and effective. Boys can place their school uniform and personal clothes in the laundry station each week night, where they are collected the next morning to be washed and returned in the shortest time frame possible, usually within 24 hours.

The boys' clothes will be placed in each boy's pigeon hole. All boys are required to have their name tags sewn onto each item of clothing (above the garment tag) to ensure they are not misplaced.

Security

It is the boy's responsibility to take care of their valuables and ensure they are kept in secure locations. All boys are provided with a lockable side cabinet or safe in their rooms which is used for all personal items, money or small valuables.

It is advised that boys do not carry large sums of money. All boarders should have a savings account and keycard to ensure they can access money in a secure way.

Boys are responsible for the security and care of any electronic devices, with the number of devices kept to a minimum.

Boys are permitted to have their personal bikes. The Boarding House has a secure bike shed where bikes must be locked when not in use. Boys cannot use other boarders' belongings without permission. If a boy believes something has been taken without permission, or is missing, they must report the matter to the staff member on duty immediately.

Passports and other small valuables which are not required during term time should be handed to the Director of Boarding to be locked in a safe.

Network and Mobile Phones

Boys are not permitted to use their phones during study times and meals within the Da Costa Dining Hall. All students in Years 7 to 10 are required to hand in their phones each night. This ensures boys sleep well, without the distractions of social media. Boys in Years 11 and 12 are permitted to keep their phones, for the purpose of teaching the boys a balanced approach to technology in preparation for life after school.

The entire School campus and boarding complex has access to excellent wi-fi, enabling students to use the internet for study. Note that certain sites are restricted and social media usage is monitored.

It is impossible for boarding staff to monitor a boy's use of cellular data on personal mobile devices and parents are encouraged to monitor this where possible. All boarders use of technology is governed by the ICLT User Policy which is located on Keystone.

Guests

Boarders are welcome to receive guests. To ensure the safety of all boys the following guidelines apply:

- Upon arrival all visitors (including family members who may have visited many times before) must be immediately introduced to the staff member on duty.
- Only family members are permitted within the rooms.
- All other visitors are restricted to the common areas, and under no circumstances are to be taken into individual rooms.
- Day students are not allowed in the Boarding House during the school day.

Damage

Any damage to the Boarding House will result in an investigation by the Director of Boarding. If damage appears to be willful, caused by ignoring the House rules or was avoidable, the cost of the repairs may be billed to the parent's account.

Spending and Insurance

It is the responsibility of parents to monitor their son's spending habits and to organise any insurance to cover personal possessions.

Vehicles

With permission, Year 12 students can have a personal vehicle on campus with permission from the Director of Boarding. Students must follow the guidelines within the Personal Vehicle Policy, which is located on Keystone, and summarised below.

Personal vehicle policy

The following policy is in place for reasons of safety and liability. Boarders are asked to keep in mind that having a car at school is a privilege.

- Year 12 boarders may use their car to drive to and from school sport and when on leave. They are not to use their car without submitting a leave request which clearly outlines the details of the leave and use of the vehicle.
- Students are expected to follow speed limits and the road rules. The speed limit within the School grounds is clearly indicated by signage and must be obeyed.
- Students are expected to drive sensibly and courteously.
- Boarders' vehicles must be kept in the Hackney Road carpark and keys must be held within the Boarding House office.
- All student drivers must register their vehicle with the Boarding House.
- Student drivers cannot accept passengers, other than their brothers, without permission from the School and relevant parents.
- All vehicles are parked on the School's premises at the owner's risk. The School does not accept any responsibility for vehicles and belongings inside vehicles.
- Failure to follow the St Peter's College Student Vehicle Policy and Agreement Form will have consequences in accordance with the School's Behaviour Code and may lead to the removal of driving privileges and if appropriate, referral to the police.
- St Peter's College will not assume responsibility for students travelling in vehicles owned, leased or operated by adults or other students.
- The application form for Year 12 boarders to keep a vehicle on campus can be accessed by contacting the Director of Boarding.



Caring for Every Boy

Boarders' Development

Academic

Boarders complete supervised study from Sunday to Thursday. Years 7 to 9 students complete their study in the Junior Study Room while Years 10 to 12 students can work in their rooms. All boarders have academic support during these periods. In the first semester, teachers offer weekly study sessions for core subjects within this time.

It is expected that students will study independently outside these times to ensure they achieve their academic potential. Staff ensure that the environment is conducive to academic excellence and that each boy's learning is respected.

External tutors

While academic assistance is readily available, students or parents may feel the need to hire an external tutor to provide specific assistance. External tutors can work with students after school and during the study periods in the House common areas. External tutors do not enter a boy's room and must speak with the staff member on duty and sign in upon arrival to the House.

Music practice

The Boarding House has a dedicated music room for students to use during weekends and recreation times. Boys can store their instruments in this room which is locked, with access provided by staff on duty.

Sport

Boys have access to the School sporting facilities including multiple ovals, gymnasium, weights room and pool. Those passionate about sports will receive excellent coaching and support from relevant staff.

Homesickness

Homesickness is perfectly normal and reflects the strong bonds boys have with their families and home communities. Here are some signs of homesickness to be aware of:

- Anxiety
- Low mood
- Intense feelings of missing familiar settings and routines
- Intense feelings of loneliness or disloyalty to people back home
- Feelings of not belonging
- Feeling unwell more often than usual
- Feeling overwhelmed by things that used to be easy
- Pre-occupation with minor negatives that wouldn't normally be an issue

Though there is not one clear solution for homesickness the following strategies can help to minimise the effects.

For boys

Understand that homesickness is normal and experienced by all boys at some stage. Don't feel afraid to acknowledge that you are struggling with the new setting. Homesickness does not last forever.

- Talking to fellow boarders, House Prefects and boarding staff can provide support.
- Get involved! Participating in the many cultural, sporting and academic opportunities offered by the School can help in distracting from homesickness and improving the connection with the School.
- Keep a journal of your new experiences to help process everything you are discovering and learning.
- Help yourself to become more familiar with the School and Boarding House by setting yourself a task to find out one new thing every day.
- Bring something from home to help make the Boarding House more familiar.
- If you're missing home, write down in your calendar when you'll next be going back, and make some plans for what you can do when you're next there to give yourself something to look forward to.



For parents

- Prior to departure, structure evening conversations so this can continue over the phone when your son is boarding.
- Leading up to your son's departure, adjust how you communicate during key times. For example, saying goodnight in the lounge room instead of the bedroom helps with the adjustment as lights out can trigger homesickness.
- When on the phone, reinforce the opportunities and positives as a boarder to help your son reduce focus on what he is missing.
- Homesickness can exaggerate the worst elements of being away. Parents are encouraged to direct boys who display homesickness to boarding staff who will be able to support the boys through these periods.
- Encourage weekend activities and social outings with other boarders. These structured activities help to promote healthy relationships and will forge close connections with other boarders.
- Connection with home is vital to overcoming homesickness but calling home can also become a way to avoid confronting challenges in the new environment. As your son settles into the Boarding House it is important to cut back on communication, particularly if they are homesick, so that they have opportunities to establish relationships with their new Boarding House support networks. Scheduled, structured evening conversations can be a good way to ensure that phoning home doesn't become avoidance.
- Identifying homesickness early is essential in providing support and parents should speak to the Head of House or the Health Centre so support can be given.

Homesickness is common and is usually short term. Patience, supporting your son's independence, and communicating with boarding staff will help it pass as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Keeping in Touch

Communication is vital in developing a culture of trust and security.

The SPSC boarding community works very hard to ensure that lines of communication between boys, staff, parents and the School remain open and transparent. This partnership is vital in the ongoing support and wellbeing of boarders.

Regular communication between parents and boarders is encouraged through email, social media, Skype and mobile phones to ensure parents are up to date with their son's boarding experience and developments in the School community.

Other channels of communication at SPSC include:

- Online academic reporting
- Parent/teacher interviews
- Saints (biannual publication posted to all parents)
- Magazine (annual year book provided to all students)
- Weekly boarding newsletters
- Fortnightly whole-school parent newsletters
- Mentor emails
- Regular phone calls with staff and boarders



Holidays and Leave

Holidays and Exeats

During the holiday periods and exeat weekends, the Boarding House is closed. These periods are vital times to conduct maintenance and refurbishments for the benefit of all boarders.

There is one exeat weekend per term which usually falls on a long weekend. Students are required to organise leave at these times. The Boarding House is happy to help source a host family if boys find this difficult.

Overseas boarders should organise to stay with guardians or family in or near Adelaide. If this is not possible, parents may wish to use homestay during these periods. Parents are advised to organise membership with homestay through the Admissions Office. Costs associated with homestay are at the expense of parents.

We also encourage parents to host other boarders during these periods. This can be facilitated through your son's relevant Head of House.



Leave Process

One of the most important processes in a boarding environment is how leave is administered.

We use a software program called REACH which allows leave requests to be generated and approved, leave hosts to be added by parents and for boys to log their location on campus or within the local area. The program allows the Boarding House to maintain the highest level of duty of care and provides boarding staff, Heads of House and parents with real-time information about a boarder's whereabouts.

The system is simple to use and effective for overnight or weekend leave arrangements. Boys fill out their own requests using their log-in details and are required to enter their level type, departure date and time, host, mode of transport, return date and time and notes for more details.

Weekend leave needs to be approved by parents by 8.00pm on a Thursday to confirm catering numbers as well as weekend staffing and activities. All boys must return from weekend leave by 5.00pm on a Sunday to attend the compulsory Chapel service.

Leave Host

The host is responsible for the wellbeing and whereabouts of the student at all times. Once the leave is approved by parents, boarding staff make the assumption that parents have spoken to the host and both parties have a clear understanding of movements and expectations whilst on leave.

Parents can be reassured that while in the Boarding House all students are cared for and supervised by our committed boarding staff. However, when a student signs out, this responsibility is transferred to the host. This includes the provision of meals and accommodation, managing any accidents or emergencies which may occur, and keeping in contact with parents if agreed plans change.

Please note that other students cannot be a boarder's leave hosts. If a student is leaving or staying with a day boy or fellow boarder, it must be the parents of this student who are the registered host, not the student himself. It is expected that hosts, other than family, will be over 25 years old and that parents have been in contact with the host before the leave is approved.

New hosts should be added prior to the leave submission and this can be performed by Heads of House, parents or the Director of Boarding. Simply putting the name of the host in the notes section is not appropriate.

The role of the host during leave

A host's responsibilities when taking a boarder out on leave are extensive. Whether it be for dinner leave, day leave or overnight leave, the host is obliged to do the following:

Before collecting a student, it is expected the host will:

Contact the boy's parents, introduce themselves, outline plans for the time the boys will be on leave and exchange phone numbers and addresses. The boy's parents will then contact the Boarding House to make a leave request.

The host must be 25 years or over (unless it is a sibling of a boy who has their parents' permission). A boy cannot be collected by someone over 25 years old and subsequently transferred into the care of someone younger than 25.

When collecting a student:

The host must present to the Boarding House office to speak to the staff member on duty. If the staff member is elsewhere, the host must call 0429 176 223.

During the leave period:

The host is responsible for the boarder's wellbeing and whereabouts. This includes providing meals and accommodation as well as the following:

In the event of an accident or emergency, the host should contact the parents and, if possible, the Boarding House, in order to coordinate the treatment of the boy.

The host must not transfer a boy into the care of another person without informing the boy's parents.

Upon returning a student:

The host must present at the Boarding House office to speak to the staff member on duty. If the staff member is elsewhere, the host must call 0429 176 223.

Please note: failure to abide by these leave protocols will require the School to recommend to the boarder's parents that this host is no longer eligible to take their son out on leave.

More information can be found on the REACH website: <http://reachboarding.com/parents>

Local Leave

In addition to formal leave requests, boys are allowed to go on short local leave without submitting a form. Boys are permitted to visit local destinations at certain times for a maximum of three hours in groups.

This includes nearby locations after school and on weekends so long as they meet their sporting requirements, do not miss a meal and return by 5.00pm. All other leave requests require a form to be filled in on REACH.

When on local leave, boarders are still under the care of the Boarding House. Any breach of behavioural expectations are considered a school matter and will result in an investigation by the Director of Boarding.

Departing for leave

When due to depart for leave, boys are expected to leave their rooms tidy with nothing on the floor, bed made and cupboards shut. Boys must locate the staff member on duty and sign-out with them in the front office. The host is expected to come into the House to confirm the details of the leave with the staff member on duty.

Return time and transport

Any boy returning from leave must do so between 9.30pm and 10.30pm from Monday to Saturday depending on their year level. All students must return by 5.00pm on Sundays to attend Chapel and prepare for Monday's academic classes. Students returning after dark should do so via their host or taxi, not walking. If a boy is running late, they must contact the Boarding House on 0429 176 223 to inform the staff on duty.

Return times are important and must be adhered to. By 10.30pm boys are settled and resting. Boarding staff also have a range of security and reporting tasks to complete once the House is settled.

Despite the School's close proximity to the city and major Adelaide attractions, it is requested that boys do not walk back to the Boarding House at night to ensure their safety.

It is a boarder's responsibility to locate the person on duty and inform them when they have returned.

Off-campus School Sport Leave

When school sport is being held off-campus, sporting coaches and managers will assist boarding students in arranging transport. In the unlikely event that this is not possible, boarding staff are always happy to assist boys to organise transport.

Beyond the Classroom

Community Club Sport Involvement for Boarders

Boys involved in community club sport must have a host who is a relative or over the age of 25.

This host must be registered on REACH where reoccurring leave requests can be submitted for convenience and peace of mind.

The host should come to the Boarding House to sign boys out and transport them to and from training and matches.

This provides reassurance to Boarding House staff that boarders are cared for in the event of illness or injury. If the host cannot make it to the House, boys can take a taxi. As this is not a school-based activity, costs will be charged to the parents' account. Using public transport should be considered an exception and not the norm. The Director of Boarding may withdraw permission for participation in club sport if school or boarding expectations are not met. Year 12 students may drive themselves to non-school sport but still need a registered host willing to take responsibility for them at the venue. As with all leave, details of transport must be clearly outlined within the notes section of the leave request for parental approval. The leave system does allow for a reoccurring leave form to be signed once to approve multiple trips of the same nature (for example, regular training).



Boarding Parents' Support Group

Each term, the Boarding Parents' Support Group (BPSG) meet to discuss boarding and to keep the community informed of upcoming and future activities. This is a vital element in maintaining clear communication between home and the School. All boarding parents are automatically members of the group and invited to attend meetings. Meeting minutes are sent to parents after each meeting. Meetings are advertised in advance from the Director of Boarding.

Any questions about the BPSG can be directed to Tim Angus, Director of Boarding at tangus@stpeters.sa.edu.au





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