

Boarding Principles and Practice

Aims

The Boarding Experience at Talbot Heath School aims to meet and develop the holistic needs of each individual boarder. We ensure students are comfortable and well-looked after and that their welfare and well-being are fully provided for in a safe, secure and caring environment.

Facilities

At Talbot Heath, we have one refurbished boarding house called St Mary's which enables us to provide outstanding boarding provision for up to 42 girls. We offer full term, weekly and flexi boarding from Year 7 to Year 13.

The majority of Years 7 – 9 are given an area in a 6 bedded dormitory to enable them to settle quickly into boarding life and become part of the boarding house family. Other boarders are accommodated in either single or double rooms depending on personal and individual needs.

The refurbishment enabled us to provide designated areas for the girls to study quietly, have use of computers and resources as well as rooms to relax in with their friends, watching movies or playing a variety of games e.g. table tennis, board games or the Wii.

Practice

Boarding at St Mary's offers the girls a truly international and culturally diverse experience with boarders from at least 10 countries worldwide. They are a flourishing supportive and friendly group of girls, sharing experiences through living and learning together.

All boarders are encouraged to gain independence and take responsibility for themselves as well as being aware of and respecting the needs of others. The experienced boarding staff team provide a caring, cosy, relaxed and family environment where all girls are nurtured and supported according to their individual needs. The staff are all fully trained and work closely with the school nurses and the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

The boarders work hard during the week but are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities offered by the school. They are able to use the school facilities out of school hours – swimming pool, sports hall, food and textiles room, music centre and the extensive school grounds. The boarding team also arrange a comprehensive activities programme including visits to places of interest, cinema, theatre trips, shopping trips, craft and cookery sessions and local amenities. Through regular house meetings, girls are able to express their own views as to which activities they would like to see on offer and to express their ideas on any topic connected with boarding.