POCKLINGTON PREP SCHOOL
Ages 3 to 11

POCKLINGTON SCHOOL
Ages 11 to 18

Boarders' Parents and Guardians Handbook

Information for parents and guardians of boarding pupils

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Please note: This Handbook supplements both the Handbook for Pupils and Parents and the Pocklington School Sixth Form Handbook

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Pocklington School's boarding community. Boarding is a great experience, packed with wonderful opportunities for students of all ages. The safety, happiness, welfare and academic progress of your son or daughter are at the core of all we do. Boarding Houseparents' and their dedicated teams are committed to doing all they can to make every boarder's time at Pocklington an enriching one, full of friendship and fun.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school as you need. Routinely, your first point of reference would, of course, be your Boarding Houseparent, perhaps via the member of staff on duty. However, as the Head of Boarding, I am also available for parents or guardians to contact over any other matters. (See page 6 in this Handbook for further details on contacting the school).

This Handbook is designed to collate and to give clarity to the many aspects of organisation and procedures that you will undoubtedly come across as boarding parents and guardians. I do hope that you find it useful.

Pocklington is a wonderful place in which to live and work – a privilege we all enjoy. We wish all our boarders a very happy and successful time with us at Pocklington School.

Mr Martin Davies
Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Head of Boarding
September 2026

Twitter: @PockBoarding

Boarding Principles

Boarding has played an important part in the history of Pocklington School since it's foundation in 1514. Our boarding community at Pocklington has a special atmosphere and character that embraces, nurtures, and celebrates the individuality and talents of all our boarders.

The Boarding Community

- Is **truly a community**, of boarders, staff, and staff families, that meets regularly, to enjoy meals, activities, trips, and celebrations of key cultural events in the year.

- Our boarding community is built on **mutual respect** and a **sense of responsibility** for oneself and others within the community.

- There is an **atmosphere of trust** in which pupils feel confident that they will be treated with respect by other pupils and by staff.

- **Positive, friendly relationships** are established in which boarders feel safe to approach staff or other pupils to seek encouragement, advice, and support.

- Living together in a community requires **tolerance and consideration** and boarders and staff acknowledge the need for **privacy to be respected** when sought.

- **Individual differences are valued**. There is equality of opportunity and respect, regardless of ethnic, cultural, religious background, gender, or disability.

- Our boarders' **parents, families, and guardians are an extended part of our boarding community**, and as such we aim to keep them as informed and involved in the boarding life of the school as possible.

Boarding at 'Pock'

- Promotes the **development of the whole person**.

- Seeks to **develop qualities of leadership and teamwork**.

- Aims to **ready our boarders for their lives** after Pocklington.

- **Safeguards and promotes the welfare of pupils**, by providing an environment which is, as far as possible, free from physical hazards and the danger of harm of any sort.

- **Provides excellent accommodation**, which is comfortable, homely, well maintained, and appropriate to both age and maturity.

- Promotes each boarder's **moral, social, cultural, and physical development** through an outstanding range of co-curricular activities.

- Enables boarders to **develop intellectually** in an atmosphere of positive encouragement, where effort is valued, conditions are conducive to work and well-structured routines are in place.

- Allows boarders to be **able to work, play and relax free from pressure**, teasing or intimidation from others or from bullying or abuse.

Boarding and Pastoral Staff – September 2026

Fenwick-Smith House (Boys)

Mrs N Bradshaw	**Boarding Houseparent**
Mr C Ball	**Resident Boarding House Deputy**
Mrs C Hall	**Day Matron**
Mr G Askew	Non-Resident Boarding Tutor
Mrs C Bell	Non-Resident Boarding Tutor
Mrs D Hails	Non-Resident Boarding Assistant
Mr L Mainprize	Boarding Assistant resident on-site
Mr J Pinder	Boarding Assistant resident on-site
Mrs S Terry	Housekeeper

Faircote House (Girls)

Ms E Brown	**Boarding Houseparent**
Ms C Afford	**Resident Boarding House Deputy**
Mrs J C Speight	**Day Matron**
Mrs C Hall	Boarding Tutor resident on-site
Mrs S Saunders	Non-resident Boarding Tutor
Miss B Rees	Non-resident Boarding Tutor
Mrs D Dawson	Non-resident Boarding Assistant
Miss A Goymer	Boarding Assistant resident on-site
Mrs A Draser	Housekeeper

Please note: Boarding pupils are registered each morning by their day House Tutor.

Day Housemasters/Housemistresses:

	Dolman	**Gruggen**
Sixth Form	Mr G J Shephard	Mrs H T Alexander
Middle School	Mrs L J Walker	Mrs A Hughes
Lower School	Mr S Spruyt	Mrs C J Davies
	Hutton	**Wilberforce**
Sixth Form	Miss A Sargeant	Miss B E Rees
Middle School	Mr H Perham	Mrs M S Wilson
Lower School	Mr C Lambert	Mrs E W Walker

Deputy Head (Pastoral): Mr M J Davies

Head of Pupil Wellbeing and Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Arriane Morgan

Foundation, Pocklington or Pocklington Prep School Policies

There are a number of relevant policies that parents or guardians may find of interest or use. "Foundation" Policies cover both the Prep School and Pocklington Schools jointly whilst "Prep School" or "Pocklington" based policies are relevant for the respective school only. Please also see the Pocklington "Handbook for Pupils and Parents".

Most policies can be found on the school website and can be accessed via the area listed as "School Policies" or on the Pocklington or Prep School Home page.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you require any further guidance (mainoffice@pocklingtonshcool.com).

Safeguarding Children and Access to the Boarding Houses

We operate a number of policies regarding the Foundation's careful safeguarding of all the children in the school, both day and boarding. We take security very seriously.

Direct access to the Boarding Houses is reserved for pupils and staff only, and digi-lock security keypads operate on all external doors. CCTV cameras are in surveillance operation.

We therefore require that parents, guardians, or adult friends of the family, do not enter the Boarding Houses without first speaking with the member of staff on duty.

Even though many parents and guardians are 'friendly faces' to staff and some pupils, they may still be unknown to others, and if all adults enter the Houses only via staff contact, then we will ensure full security and avoid the entry into any rooms or bedrooms that may be inappropriate.

Thank you for your cooperation in this.

Contacting the School

Parents and Guardians' first point of contact with the school is normally via the relevant Boarding Houseparent. The details are given below:

Boarding House	Houseparent	Phone	Boarding House Email
Faircote (Girls)	**Ms E Browne**	01759 321215	FaircoteHouse@pocklingtonschool.com
Fenwick-Smith (Boys)	**Mrs N Bradshaw**	01759 321297	FenwickSmithHouse@pocklingtonschool.com

Mr Martin Davies - Deputy Head, Pastoral, and Head of Boarding is also available on 01759 321200 daviesm@pocklingtonschool.com

Contacting Pupils

House Telephone Numbers

Boarders can send and receive telephone calls on their mobile phones outside school hours (i.e. before 8.15am and after 3.50pm, Mon-Fri). Please note that all 1st to 5th form day students secure mobiles in lockers and boarders may be required to store them at the boarding house during the school day. If a pupil needs to speak with home during school hours, the pupil can ask a member of staff and they can be given support to do this.

Each house is also equipped with a landline phone (see table above – Contacting the School) which can be used to enable boarders to phone out and receive incoming calls. Please contact house staff on the appropriate number if you wish to use this facility. Skype is also available in each house. National calls and Skype are free.

Other Helpful Telephone Numbers

Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI): **020 7600 0100**info@isi.net

Ofsted Helpline: **0300 123 1231** enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
Government body responsible for boarders' welfare

Childline: **0800 1111**
Offers free confidential telephone counselling

Office of the Children's Commissioner: **0800 528 0731**
advice.team@children'scommisioner.gsi.gov.uk

Mobile Phones

During the School Day:

In the interests of pupil welfare, a positive social environment and for academic reasons, the school has introduced clear restrictions on mobile phone use during the school day. Pupils up to and including 5th year are instructed to put their mobile phones away in 'Yondr' pouches before the start of school and therefore cannot use their phones on the school site in school hours. Sixth form students are allowed to keep their phones on their person but should only use them in designated areas or if permission has been given by their teacher. These rules can be found in the school's Blue Book and in the Mobile Phone Use: Policy for Students. Failure to follow these rules is likely to lead to confiscation and other sanctions outlined in the relevant policy.

Outside School Hours:

Whilst each boarding House may have its own particular rules on mobile phones and electronic devices, the following general principles apply to all students:

Phones cannot be used during prep time.

Students up to 5th Form age must hand in mobile devices at a designated time before bedtime. They will be stored securely and can be collected from the duty staff in the morning.

For sixth form boarders, phones must not be used after lights out. This will be a matter of trust between the older students and the Boarding Houseparent that late-night usage of mobiles or similar devices will not occur, although sanctions will be imposed, including confiscation, if misdemeanours occur.

The issue of students engaging in **late night communication and 'screen time'** is a matter of concern for all parents, day and boarding. We would be grateful for all boarding parents' and guardians' support in encouraging the students to desist in using communication technology late at night. A restful sleep is essential at our busy school!

Guardians

All boarders whose parents are overseas or who cannot guarantee to be available at short notice must have an educational guardian, appointed by their parents.

Boarding Categories in Terms of Guardianship Requirements by the Foundation:

1. **International Boarders**
   All boarders whose parents live overseas **must** have a guardian.
2. **UK-Resident Boarders**
   All Boarders who live in the UK but who are **not local** (parents reside further than approximately one hour's travel of the School) **must** have an appointed guardian.
3. **Regional, Part-time (day pupils staying in the house for a fixed number of evenings/week), and Occasional Boarders (day pupils staying in the Boarding Houses for short periods)**
   Boarders who have parents who live within approximately one hour's travel of the School are referred to as Regional Boarders. Regional boarders and Occasional Boarders are still required to have an appointed guardian, this person being expected to be an alternative family member or other recognised adult to whom the School can refer if parents are to be unavailable in case of emergencies.

Change of Boarding Category

If a boarding family change their place of residence between International, UK or Regional then the requirement for a guardian as above alters accordingly.

The Purpose of Educational Guardians

Educational guardians are not legal guardians, and the Children Act 1989 does not permit parents to surrender their parental responsibility to others. What a parent may do is to "arrange for some or all of it to be met by one or more persons acting on their behalf", as when the child is entrusted to a school.

However caring the school, a child needs the continuing care and support of a trusted adult from outside the school, who forms a link with home. The extent of the duties delegated by the parent to the guardian should be agreed between themselves and set down in writing. Duties might typically include providing a "home from home" for any periods when the child is not at school, but cannot travel home (half-terms, exeat weekends or periods of illness or exclusion from school). Additionally, the child's welfare is furthered by having someone to attend Parents' Evenings and other school functions, to provide advice and to offer support in times of trouble.

Guardianship Arrangements

The School does not itself appoint guardians:

- in order to avoid any possible conflict between the interests of the parent, the guardian and the School
- because the School is not in a position to control arrangements in the guardian's home as it does in a school boarding house. It is therefore the parent's responsibility to appoint a guardian.

The ideal situation is one in which parents can appoint a relative or family friend to be the guardian, but this is not always possible. Parents may therefore need to use a guardianship agency. In such cases, the School strongly recommends the use of an agency accredited by AEGIS (The Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students) which ensures that guardians adhere to recommended standards.

The School will provide parents of overseas students with contact details for AEGIS at the time of confirming the offer of a place at the School.

Please note that it is not possible for a member of the Pocklington School staff to act as a guardian for one of our boarding students.

Guardianship Agreements

It is important that all parties understand clearly what their responsibilities are and that these are agreed in writing. The School will provide basic agreement forms; if parents wish to substitute their own agreement, they must provide the School with a copy of the agreement, signed by both parent and guardian. Guardianship agreements should be received by the School at least one week before the child enters the School.

Thank you for your careful attention to the Foundation's requirements for Guardianship and the responsibilities of the guardian. Please do consider your choice of guardian carefully, especially for Regional and Occasional boarders where an alternative member of the family or close friend is required. The guardian must be able to fulfil the expectations of yourself and the school in providing a service of quality and care.

Boarding Pupils' Absence from School

Parents are requested to ensure that holidays are taken within school holiday dates which are advertised well in advance. If there are special circumstances for any absence, parents should write directly to the Deputy Head (Pastoral), liaising also with the Boarding Houseparent. Permission for absence will be granted as appropriate and parents can then confirm travel details with the Boarding Houseparent.

Parents and guardians are asked to **avoid early departure or late arrival from/to school for overseas travel** and to book flights accordingly, allowing a few days either side of the school term dates for rest and organisation. The guardian should be responsible for the child during these days if the parent cannot be so. **The loss of crucial lesson time, especially for GCSE**, **A Level students can be significant**, with the start or end of term lessons being particularly essential for students to be present.

Travel Details

Under the administration of the UKVI (United Kingdom Visa and Immigration), Pocklington School has a "Basic Compliance Assessment", and as such **we have a responsibility by law to be aware of the whereabouts of all our non-UK students whilst travelling to and from school and during half-terms, exeats and shorter holidays where the student is remaining in the UK**. This is also good, safeguarding practice for all our boarding pupils.

As such, all relevant parents or guardians will be asked to complete a brief 'Travel Details' form before each break in order to provide full details of the children's whereabouts and contact details. Thank you for your careful attention and prompt return of this form to the school, as instructed on the form.

Attendance of Boarding Pupils to Day Pupils' Houses for Social Events, Parties and "Sleepovers", etc

The Boarding Houseparent follow a strict guidance policy to ensure the safe and agreed attendance of boarding pupils to visit local day pupils' houses. Parents and guardians must liaise directly with the Boarding Houseparent under such circumstances. Essentially, a boarder will be able to attend such social events or parties once **both** sets of parents (day and boarding), and the Boarding Houseparent have given permission in writing/email. Attendance to parties and sleepovers will not be permitted on 'school nights'.

Your son or daughter will only be allowed to undertake such a visit once you as a parent (and/or guardian under your direction) have communicated with the Boarding Houseparent appropriately. Thank you for your support in noting this with your son or daughter.

Also, the Boarding Houseparent will only give their permission if they are satisfied over the pupils' general approach to school life and their work expectations are being met and up-to-date. Please do contact the Boarding Houseparent as you need.

Sixth Form Boarders Driving Cars to the School

Sixth Form ***Day*** pupils may drive cars to school each day and park them in the public car park at the west end of the school on West Green. This facility is controlled and only allowed upon the formal completion of a procedure between the Head of Sixth Form and the pupil's parents, who will provide consent, along with the consent of the parents of any recognised pupil passengers. No other pupils will be allowed in the car, and the car keys are retained by the pupil's Boarding Houseparent during the day. Pupils are not allowed to drive their cars at any other time of the school day other than for travel to school and a return to home.

For boarding pupils the regulations remain as above. A pupil can only drive a car to and from school and home with the parents' formal consent. **Hence, a car owned by a boarding pupil would be left parked for a number of weeks**. The car must only be parked in a designated area, and the keys left with the Boarding Houseparent. If you wish your son/daughter to travel to school in their own car, please contact the Boarding Houseparent in the first instance. No permission will be granted without the school's formal procedures being completed. Thank you for your support in this important safety matter.

Start and End of Terms and Optional 'Exeat' Arrangements

At the beginning of half-term holidays or exeat weekends all boarders (unless staying-in over Exeat – see below and page 16) should be **collected by 5.00 pm.** Similarly, **at the end of term/school year**, all boarders should be collected by **1.00 pm.** Thank you for your support in this but do liaise with Boarding House Parents if there is an emergency or a requirement for a later departure because of flight/train times.

Optional Exeats and Half Term

Boarding houses are open on Optional Exeat weekends (no fixtures take place or day school activities). Pupils who have not stayed in house for the Exeat weekend should only return to the Boarding Houses **after 6pm and before 9pm on the Sunday** (Monday for May Bank holiday weekend)

After the longer breaks (half term breaks, Summer, Christmas and Easter holidays), pupils can return **from 2.30pm** onwards on the evening before the teaching term starts to unpack belongings and to settle in. Staff will be informed over the travelling arrangements via the Travel Details form completed by parents (you will receive an email from Boarders Travel with this form attached). At the start of the Michaelmas Term in September, **all new boarders** must return on the afternoon before the Lower Sixth Induction Day (starting the following morning).

Start and End of Each Half-Term

The Boarding Houses are closed for half-term October, February and May as well as Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays.

The Houses will be open at **2.30pm** on the afternoon before the start of each second half-term. An evening meal is provided from **5.45pm**. Boarders are expected to be in school until each half-term session ends.

Personal belongings may be kept in the Houses during half term at your own risk, but not during the main holidays when all items must be taken home. This is so that essential maintenance work and cleaning can take place, and also because the Houses may be used by outside lets. Those living overseas may store bulky items in the House. After the holidays boarders must return to the House by **9.00 pm**. **Any boarders who need to arrive at the house later than 9pm must contact the Houseparent to discuss arrangements.**

Pastoral Care and Medical Support

Pocklington School has a strong tradition of pastoral care in which all the staff have a role. Throughout their time at the school, pupils are supported by a team of experienced staff who will encourage good work habits and participation in the many activities the school has to offer and who will help to resolve any problems that occur.

Additionally, for the boarding pupils, a wider range of both teaching and support staff are available for pupils of all ages to turn to as appropriate throughout all hours of the day. From the Boarding Houseparent, House Tutors and Assistants, through the non-resident Tutors and Day Matrons, all the boarding staff have the pupils' best interests and welfare at heart. The pupils are provided with their own Handbooks at the start of term.

Within the Handbooks, details are given over the staff available to them to offer support. As well as all the resident and non-resident staff, the boarders will be able to speak with the Foundation's mainstream pastoral staff, including the Prep School Heads of Year and Form Teachers and Head. For Pocklington pupils, the Day Housemasters/Housemistresses, Tutors, Heads of Division, Head of Boarding and Deputy Head (Pastoral). Additionally the School Nurses (see below), the Chaplain, (who often visits the Boarding Houses in the evenings) and the School Wellbeing Service are all available for the pupils to seek support within the bounds of confidentiality.

The School Wellbeing Service

All boarding schools are required by the National Minimum Boarding Standards to provide an 'Independent Listener' for the benefits of boarding pupils. At Pocklington, we have an excellent Independent Listener, Ruby Leung, and students also have confidential access to the School's Wellbeing Service. Contact details for Ruby and the Wellbeing Service are clearly displayed in the Boarding Houses.

The Wellbeing service at Pocklington provides a confidential service to pupils who have emotional or social concerns. The service is overseen by the Designated Safeguarding Leads and is regularly evaluated and reviewed.

The Wellbeing service provides access to two independent clinical psychologists who act as listeners for all boarding and day pupils and complement the care provided by the school staff by offering personal support to any pupil who may benefit from the opportunity to work with a professional counsellor. The Wellbeing listeners have a room next to the school medical centre. Pupils who wish to meet the Wellbeing listeners can do so by making a confidential appointment by direct contact, through their Boarding Houseparent, or a member of staff with whom they are happy to confide.

Parents who wish to discuss this further or who would like more information should contact the Foundation's Designated Safeguarding Leads, Arianne Morgan (Senior School) and Katie Dewhirst (Prep School).

The School Health and Wellbeing Centre

The School Health and Wellbeing Centre provides surgery and sick bay facilities and is situated in a building adjacent to the Prep School. It is staffed by one full-time and two part-time qualified nurses who provide 24 hour accident and emergency cover. Consultations are held in private and medical confidentiality is maintained. All boarders must be registered with Dr Nigel Robinson or Dr Maree Austin at the Beckside Centre.

School Doctors

The Pocklington Town Surgery doctors are available to boarding pupils. Surgeries are held three times a week at the local practice, which also provides emergency treatment. Appointments to see a school doctor should be made through the School Health and Wellbeing Centre.

Medical Report Forms

Thank you for your careful attention to the pupils' Medical Report Forms and update forms which are routinely distributed to parents by the Nurses and should be signed and returned to them as requested. It is essential that the Nurses are kept promptly informed of any changes in a pupil's health (for example allergies or the need for medication).

Please ensure that **NO MEDICATION**, prescription or "over the counter medicine," is brought back to school without being **seen and recorded by the Nurses**. Only Sixth Form students may self-medicate, and this is strictly monitored by the Nurses, in confidence.

> **ONLY SIXTH FORM BOARDERS MAY HAVE MEDICATION IN THEIR ROOMS.**
> **IN SUCH CASES, THE NURSES' GUIDELINES WILL BE FOLLOWED.**
> **NO MEDICINES OR REMEDIES, PRESCRIBED OR BOUGHT OVERSEAS, WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE CONSUMED OR APPLIED BY THE PUPILS WHILST BOARDING AT THE SCHOOL. NO SUCH MEDICINES/REMEDIES SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE SCHOOL**.

Thank you for your support in maintaining our high standards of care, and our responsibilities in ensuring the medically valid and controlled medication of all the pupils. Please refer to the Medical Report Forms noted above.

Boarders' Emergency Dental Treatment

The school recommends that all boarding pupils are registered for emergency dental treatment with Pocklington Dental.

Child Protection

Legal Framework

As a boarding school, Pocklington is governed by the National Minimum Boarding Standards and the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board policy which lay down requirements, standards and good practice for the protection, welfare and care of children in residential settings. The school's boarding provision is inspected the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

Child Protection Procedures

The School works within the guidance and procedures of East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership (ERSCP). Full details of the school's child protection procedures can be obtained from the Designated Safeguarding Leads and is also available on the School website .

The school will take action in cases of suspected abuse and expects the support of parents in the protection of children. All members of staff, teaching and non-teaching, are asked to be alert to signs of abuse and know that they have a legal obligation to report any concern or suspicion to the Foundation's Designated Safeguarding Leads in the Senior or Prep School as appropriate.

Confidentiality

Any pupils, who are worried about possible or actual abuse within or outside the school, for themselves or someone else, should think carefully about what sort of person is best able to provide support and then seek help. Information given to a teacher will be treated with discretion and will not be passed on indiscriminately or without the pupil's understanding.

Helplines

Details of telephone helplines, including the service offered to children by Childline, are prominently displayed around the Boarding Houses and the school. Staff will arrange for any pupil to use a private telephone on request.

Parents' Evenings and Pocklington Foundation Events

We do hope that you will be able to attend Parents Evenings or the many other Pocklington and Prep School Events. We do appreciate, however, how difficult it is for parents, or even guardians, of boarding pupils to attend such important events if they are held at the school on midweek evenings.

Many of these events are now held online which we hope makes attendance much more convenient.

If you are unable to attend a Parents' Evening, please do contact your son's/daughter's Day Housemaster/mistress and we will endeavour to organise a personal visit to the school for you, where we can arrange for you to meet as many of your son's/daughter's teachers as possible. This could, for example, be on a video conference call or a meeting at school if you are able to come. If you could contact the relevant Housemaster/mistress with some dates and times during the given term where it would be convenient for you to visit, we will then look to confirm and organise an agenda for you. It may not be possible to meet all of your son's/daughter's teachers on the day, but those who are not available could be contacted separately.

We do hope that parents or guardians can visit the school, either on the day of particular events, or at other times, to meet with staff and discuss the progress of your son/daughter. Please do not hesitate to contact the Boarding Houseparent.

Boarders' Activities

The School has separate dedicated activity programmes for boarders in addition to regular school activities. Boarders can keep updated with what activities are happening by checking House noticeboards or the school calendar or by asking members of the House staff.

The activity programmes include:

Sunday trips and activities

This is a programme of fun activities on-site and trips off-site. These may include climbing, watersports, cinema trips, bowling, theme park visits and shopping trips. All Junior Boarders (Prep – 4th year) will partake in these activities. Senior boarders (5th year & Sixth form) will attend whole community events and are welcome to partake in other activities if they would like. Just ask your House staff for details.

Saturday morning enrichment programme

This programme is for all those boarders not involved in sporting fixtures. It is aimed at teaching new skills, gaining useful qualifications, and learning about cultural aspects of the local East Yorkshire area.

Weekday evening activities

The Juniors (Prep – 4th year) have activities each evening in The Hive@Dolman. These activities will include cooking, craft, games nights and sporting activities depending on the night. All years will have access to supervised swimming pool sessions and the sports hall (for activities such as football, badminton, basketball and trampolining) each week. Depending on availability (and weather!) boarders will also have access to facilities for outdoor activities such as basketball, football and tennis. Sixth Formers who have attended an induction may use the Multi-Gym at certain times during the day and evening.

Other weekday evening trips might include trips to football matches, the theatre and cinema.

Sunday Church/Chapel
Boarders attend a service conducted by the Chaplain (see calendar for times). Parents/Guardians are always welcome to join us.

Music
Practice rooms in the Music School may be available for use. Boarders need to arrange this with the Head of Music.

Ideas for activities from our boarders
Our activity programs are regularly discussed and changed to accommodate the preferences of current boarders. If boarders have a good idea for an activity or trip they are encouraged discuss it with their House Staff who may be able to arrange it.

Sunday activities are compulsory for Junior boarders (Prep to Fourth Year) but then become generally voluntary for the Senior boarders (Fifth year and Sixth Form) with costs usually included in the school fees. We would hope that each Senior boarder became involved in at least one additional activity each term or half term in order to become properly integrated into the friendly community around them and to take the opportunity to experience the wider world outside of the school and formal lessons.

Boarders' Free Time

Boarding pupils follow the normal school timetable during the school day and will also have routines and duties to carry out in the Boarding House. However, the staff do not organise every minute of their day: that is something that the pupils will develop as they appreciate their own independence. Everyone needs time to rest and relax and the pupils should be able to do this as well as join in with the wide range of options on offer.

Living in a boarding school gives pupils the opportunity to meet and mix with people from different backgrounds. They will need to learn to get on with all sorts of people in all sorts of situations. Boarding school also offers the opportunity and time to get involved in sport, music, drama, etc. and to participate in a wide range of activities. The activities available to boarders in addition to the normal school clubs and activities, which take place during the week, are well advertised. Thank you for encouraging your son/daughter to join in and have a go! …You never know what they might achieve!

Annual Events

Each year the Boarding Community participates in several different activities, designed to involve all the Houses occurring in conjunction with the day community. A few examples are:

- **Theme Park Trip:** At the start of the year the whole boarding community, pupils and staff, will embark on a day trip to a local theme park such as Flamingo Land.
- **Halloween:** A whole boarding event, with fancy dress and 'spooky' food.
- **Late night Christmas shopping:** Boarders leave after school, travel to York and are supplied with money for dinner, allowing for those last-minute presents to be bought.
- **Boarders' Christmas Dinner:** The whole community meets for carols in the School Chapel, followed by a traditional Christmas dinner. This is followed by entertainment, speeches, the

annual boarders' awards voted for by the students and the night ends with a disco. This is a night to dress up and have fun before heading off for the Christmas break.

- **Lunar New Year:** It's the Year of the (Fire) Pig in 2027 and we will celebrate new beginnings with our whole community.

- **International Food nights:** We will celebrate the nationalities of some of our other boarders with special themed dinners in the dining hall.

- **Fifth Form Dinner:** The boarders dress up to join their day friends to celebrate the end of their GCSE years**.**

- **Summer Barbecue:** The four houses join forces for one final fiesta before the well-earned Summer holidays.

Optional Exeats

Our boarding houses are open on 'exeat' weekends (when there are no school fixtures or day school activities). Please read and reply to any correspondence relating to this option as and when it is sent to you throughout the year. There is an additional charge for this option. Please liaise with Boarding Houseparents for further information.

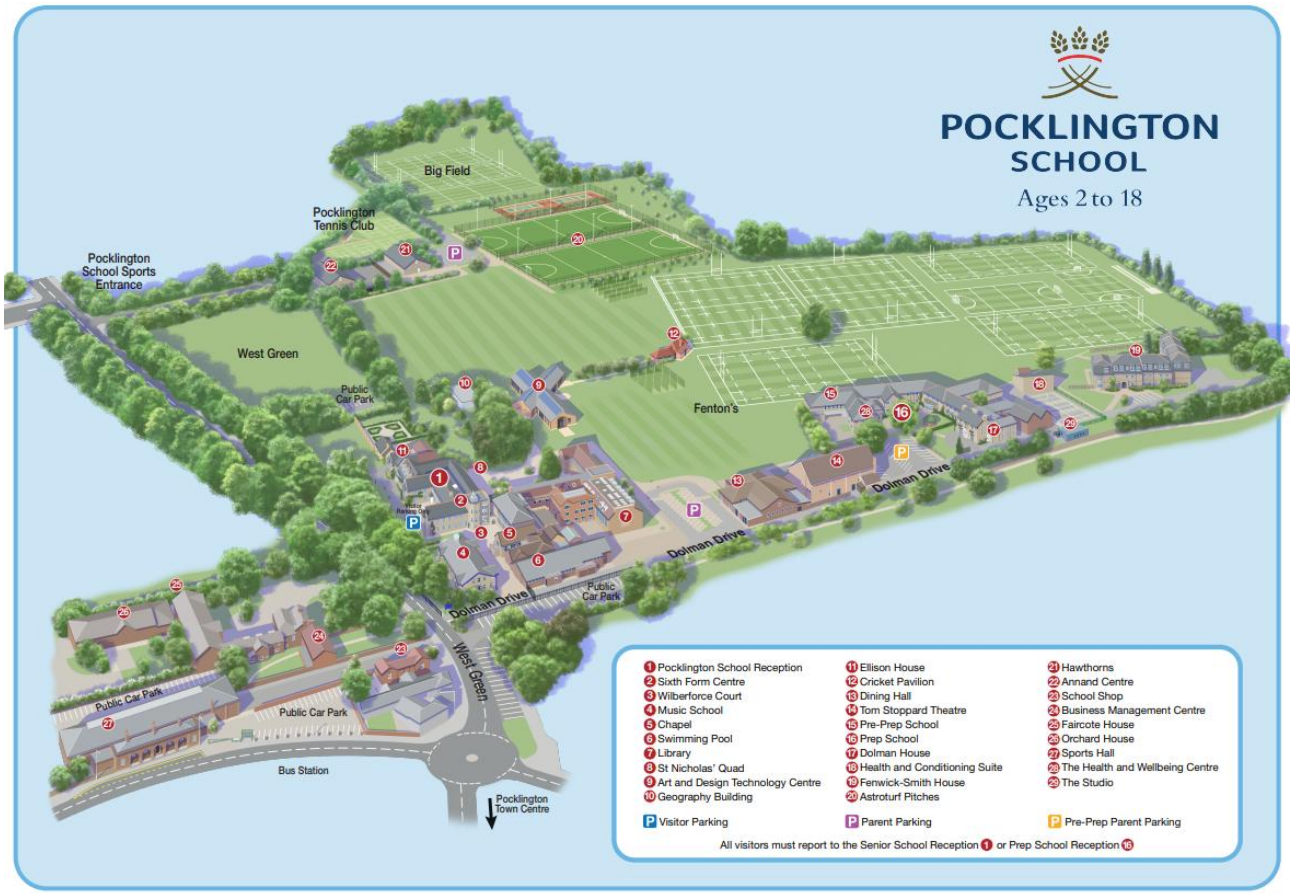
For many, however, exeats will continue to be an important opportunity for boarders to have what can be a much-needed break from school life. Parents/guardians should plan arrangements for boarders to spend the weekend out of school well in advance of exeats. Boarders not staying in for these weekends expected to have left school **before** 5pm on the Friday and return **after** 6pm on the Sunday. If you have any difficulties over this, parents/guardians should contact your Boarding Houseparent (See Travel details p.8).

Saturday Mornings

On Saturday mornings, any boarders not involved in school sports fixtures will take part in our Saturday morning enrichment programme. This is a programme of activities, trips and talks aimed at introducing boarders to the local area and teaching them new skills. The full programme for the year can be found on the school website and house noticeboards.

Finally..

Never hesitate to get in touch with your child's boarding houseparent if you have any questions or concerns – or if you would just like an update on how your son or daughter are getting on.

We will keep in touch with you throughout. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing with you the excitement and joy of your child's journey at Pocklington School.

Pocklington School Site Map