

Boarding Principles and Practice



Lancing College

1 Aims and Organisation

- 1.1 Lancing College is a boarding school, not a school with boarders. The whole ethos is based on the idea that there are pupils and staff at school for 24 hours of the day and that education, established, sustained and enhanced by communal living, extends far beyond the five-day, 9-to-4 structure of most day schools. Much of the pupil development and enrichment stems from this, and from the fact that many of the staff and their families live on campus.
- 1.2 All teaching staff (except the Head Master and Deputy Heads) are involved in the life of a House. Third Form pupils find themselves in a safe and stimulating environment, with a highly experienced, enthusiastic pastoral team on hand to encourage, supervise and protect. As they progress through the House, pupils are challenged to take on increasing responsibility for the care and leadership of others. In all Houses there are clear arrangements for study, with ninety minutes of supervised Evening School (prep) on five nights of the week. The Library is available for boarders wishing to work outside of their House. Most boarding pupils have their own rooms by the time they reach the examination years.
- 1.3 An extensive range of societies, talks, seminars and debates run across the term, often organised by pupils, and the school Café is a place where year groups can socialise across Houses. For the Sixth Form, the Sixth Form Centre provides an additional venue for social events and is open for publicised events during term time.
- 1.4 There is a full and varied co-curricular programme during the week, running to some 120 activities. There is usually a full fixture list of sports on Saturday afternoons. Sundays are more leisurely. Brunch, a relaxed and convivial meal, is offered in the late morning and transport to a local shopping centre is provided in the afternoon. The catering team provide a full and varied menu, with plenty of choice for pupils, including those with special dietary requirements. The Café provides snacks between meals. In addition, each House is provided with “teas” during the day – fruit and other options depending on the day and wishes of the pupils of that House.
- 1.5 Younger boarders may visit Lancing and Shoreham for limited periods over the weekends, and older ones may visit Brighton or Worthing – all with HMM permission. When collective gatherings are possible, discos or events such as Dodgeball tournaments, film nights, quizzes or particular House events are held on Chapel Weekend Saturdays. The Art Studios, Library, sports facilities and swimming pool are made available during the weekends. Pupils are allowed home over weekends (other than Chapel Weekends), after their school commitments have been fulfilled. Day pupils may, with 24 hours’ notice and where space permits, spend the night in a boarding house. Where this is done to fulfil a required commitment to a school activity which concludes after 9.00pm, no charge is made. On Chapel Weekends all pupils attend Sunday morning Chapel (and parents and families are very welcome also) and may go home for the rest of the day.
- 1.6 Parental involvement is welcomed and encouraged. A close and useful link is forged between parents and Housemasters and Housemistresses, and through the St Nicolas Association. Many Houses hold social events (such as concerts or suppers) for parents. Email, telephone and Zoom mean that parents are in frequent contact with their children and those who look after them. All pupils have their own email addresses and this is a particularly important means of communication, especially for overseas pupils. In addition, iPads facilitate face-time, Teams and Skype with parents for every pupil.

2 Admission Criteria

- 2.1 Most pupils enter the school in Year 9 via the Advance (Pre-Test) Programme or by taking either the Common Entrance or Common Academic Scholarship Examinations. Pupils at schools which do not prepare for these exams are interviewed and are required to take a cognitive ability test and sit an English paper. Pupils joining in the Sixth Form are interviewed and take a cognitive ability test.

3 Facilities

- 3.1 Houses vary in size, but are generally between 45 and 75 strong, accommodating pupils across the age range 13-18. Head's House is for day boys only, Sankey's for day girls. A co-educational day House, Saints', opened in September 2018. Third and Fourth Form pupils are generally accommodated in small groups. Older pupils move into double or single rooms, although Day pupils may continue to share in larger configurations across their time here. All Houses have one or more kitchens to allow pupils to prepare meals and snacks in addition to that available in the Café or Dining Hall. All Houses have social spaces to allow pupils to relax, play games and watch television together. Secure Wi-Fi access is available daily, with year-group appropriate access to some social media platforms. Mobile Phones are permitted; in the Third, Fourth & Fifth Forms their availability is regulated to encourage face-to-face communication and regular sleeping patterns. Pupils are encouraged to personalise their rooms and pin-boards are provided for this purpose. Lockable spaces are provided for every boarder.

4 Pupil Welfare

- 4.1 Pupil welfare is at the heart of all we do. The pastoral care of pupils is the responsibility of the Housemaster or Housemistress, and they are supported by key members of the Senior Management Team, and ultimately the Head Master. The Housemaster/Housemistress will have a resident Assistant Housemaster/ Housemistress, a team of House Tutors (some of whom may be resident) and a Matron to assist with the care and tutoring of pupils and the general day-to-day running of the house. The Matron will deal with routine medical concerns, in liaison with the Health Centre, and is in charge of the domestic running of the house including laundry which is done within each House by the domestic teams. The Health Centre is staffed 24 hours a day by a team of highly-qualified nursing staff, is managed by a Senior Nurse and pupils may self-refer or be referred by their Matron or Housemaster/Housemistress. During COVID-times Valleyside has been run as a designated quarantine/ isolation centre, enabling two areas of health provision within the campus. Boarders are registered with the school's medical officers (GPs attached to Harbour View Healthcare, Shoreham) and these doctors visit the school routinely several times a week. A physiotherapist and a psychologist both work from the Health Centre on a weekly basis and GPs and nursing staff can refer pupils to them.
- 4.2 The School Shop is open for all pupils and provides a range of toiletries, basic stationery and other essentials as well as uniform and sporting equipment.
- 4.3 Health and safety is a priority for the College. Regular "spot-checks" are carried out to identify any problems and create Risk Assessments for specific areas. Both day and night time fire drills are carried out at least termly.
- 4.4 Pastoral care is at the heart of the school. We have two school Counsellors (Jacqui Painter & Christina Morris) to whom pupils may self-refer, or be referred by staff, and who offer a

free and confidential service. The school Psychologists (Dr Jenny Mount and Dr Emma Bell) are available to see pupils from the Health Centre and work closely with the school Medical Officers. Our resident school Chaplain is available to pupils and staff as is the school’s Independent Listener. The Safeguarding team works closely with Housemasters and Housemistresses, who have considerable experience and are able to deal sympathetically and confidently with difficulties that pupils may encounter. Pupils may flag pastoral concerns, whether on their own behalf or others’ electronically via the VLE page ‘Share It’. All staff are able to access a similar platform: Flag It Up, as well as share pastoral information via ‘MyConcern’. There are a number of Mental Health First Aiders on the staff and amongst the senior pupils; *PSHE for Parents* extends talks and workshops to staff and parents on topics spanning resilience to digital awareness; and the College accesses expert help from a number of external agencies and organisations. Every pupil has their own academic tutor with whom they meet weekly to discuss academic and other issues. A tutor period which starts the day on Saturday allows for further tutorial contact and guidance. A group of Sixth Form pupils is trained annually to offer peer support to fellow pupils. Additionally, pupils may choose to seek support from any member of staff or fellow pupil and this is a key strength of the Lancing College community.

- 4.5 Pupil voice is strongly encouraged by the College. Year Councils meet termly and propose items that go on to the full School Council, chaired by the Head Master. Significant emphasis is placed on this body such that major items of expenditure (e.g. expansion of the gym; a new dance studio; water fountains) have been undertaken as a result of suggestions by pupils. Additionally, pupil views are expressed through food, IT, Green and charities committees.
- 4.6 All staff and senior pupils receive child protection training under the aegis of Richard Dolan (Assistant Head, Safeguarding) who is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Senior Deputy Head. The DSL is assisted in this role by Ms Anne McKane (Handford Housemistress), Mr Gary Bird (Head’s Housemaster), Ms Kelly Edwards (Manor Housemistress), Mr James Grime (Geography) and Mrs Hilary Dugdale (Senior Deputy Head).
- 4.7 Mr Chappell (Assistant Head, Pastoral) keeps an overview of boarding provision.

Author:	HRD
Annual Review	AMC and HRD
Next Scheduled Review:	AMC