Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice

Ethos

Lancing College is a boarding school, not a school with boarders. Communal living is central to the educational experience it offers which extends learning well beyond the confines of a typical school day. Lancing's ethos is based on an holistic and immersive approach, blending academic rigour with unrivalled opportunities for personal development and enrichment. At the heart of this is a dedicated and inspirational community of staff who live with their families on campus. Nearly all teaching staff are involved in the life of a House, which ties together the academic, co-curricular and pastoral dimensions of school life to create a safe and stimulating environment in which pupils live and learn, as well as challenging them to take on increasing responsibility over time. It is the boarding structure at Lancing that allows pupils to be known, supported, encouraged, heard and accepted as individuals.

Admissions Process

Most UK pupils enter Lancing College in Year 9 through the Advance (Pre-Test) Programme, after being assessed in Year 6. There is also a Year 7 entry point. International students and all UK students applying in Year 8 complete a cognitive ability test, submit an essay, and attend an interview with the Director of Admissions. Pupils entering in the Sixth Form also undergo an interview, complete a cognitive ability test and sit a written paper.

Facilities

Lancing's ten Houses accommodate between 55 and 75 pupils across the 13-18 age range. There are seven single-sex boarding houses, and separate day houses for boys and girls, as well as a co-educational day house. Younger pupils are generally accommodated in small groups while older pupils move into single or double rooms. All houses have kitchens for pupils to prepare snacks and meals, along with social spaces for relaxation, games, and television. Secure Wi-Fi is available, with managed access to social media depending on their year groups. The school has a shop for toiletries, stationery, uniforms, and sports equipment. Pupils are encouraged to organise and participate in an extensive range of societies, talks, seminars, and debates. Lancing's nationally renowned co-curricular programme, with over 120 different activities, alongside sport, music, drama, art and services provide a broad and rich learning experience. Three meals a day are served in the communal Dining Hall, including a full and varied menu, with options for those with special dietary needs. The Fives Cafe and newly built Sixth Form Centre provide informal places to meet, eat and drink. The school aims to create a vibrant atmosphere of learning, ambition and community, enhanced by social events, and this is supported by the availability to boarders of facilities such as the DT Centre, Library, and sports amenities at the weekend.

Pupil Welfare

Pupil welfare is the school's highest priority. Each House is led by a Housemaster or Housemistress (HMM), supported by an Assistant Housemaster/Housemistress, House Tutors, and a Matron. HMMs are a central figure in the life of Lancing pupils. Acting in loco parentis, they are responsible for the wellbeing and development of all the children in their house. The Matron deals with routine medical concerns in liaison with the 24-hour Health Centre which is staffed by highly qualified nurses. Full boarders are registered with the school's medical officers, and a physiotherapist is also available. Two school counsellors, a resident chaplain, and an independent listener provide further support. Lancing's safeguarding team, lead by the DSL, works closely with House staff to address any difficulties pupils may encounter, and pupils can flag pastoral concerns via the ‘Whisper’ platform. All staff can share pastoral information using the ‘MyConcern’ system.

Spiritual guidance is offered by the Chaplain. There are over 50 Mental Health First Aiders amongst the staff and senior pupils, many of whom are trained as Peer Supporters.

Pupil voice is strongly encouraged via the Year Group Councils which feeds into the School Council, and pupils can express their views through a range of committees. All staff and senior pupils receive child protection training. The school also emphasises regular communication with parents via email, telephone, and Zoom. Strong pastoral care and knowledge of pupils as individuals is part of the culture, practice and DNA at the school, and all the success of the pupils and the community is built upon this central element of a Lancing education. Happy children make for successful children.

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