



HOLMEWOOD HOUSE SCHOOL

Statement of Boarding Principles

Holmewood House aims to provide a happy, friendly and purposeful atmosphere in which pupils develop a high moral code and respectful conduct towards others. The development of their own talents — academic, athletic and cultural — is seen as a means of taking this progress to maturity. Great emphasis is placed on individual guidance and support for each boy and girl, and at Holmewood the framework for this guidance is our house system, supported by the Housemasters/Housemistresses, the School Counsellor, the work of the Medical Centre and indeed the whole of the Teaching Staff. All boys and girls at Holmewood House belong to one of six houses, each under the direct supervision of a Housemaster or Housemistress. The principal function of our house structure, which is very much the backbone of the School, is to provide an efficient and well-tried means of implementing pastoral care, which includes overseeing the academic and personal development and the welfare of its members. Each pupil has a form teacher/assistant form teacher who regularly monitors academic progress and who will advise the pupil on the best means of moving forward, keeping parents and the housemaster or housemistress informed of all developments. The boarding pupils reside in the Mansion House. In addition, the boarding house offers safe, secure and well supervised residential accommodation. The boarding house acts as the focus for a sense of belonging, of support, of commitment, of friends and of place. Our boarding house provides a particularly compassionate and caring environment which becomes home for each of its boys and girls. We see the life of a boarder as an extension of the pupil's home where interest and guidance are offered and self-discipline nurtured. Our boarders develop tolerance, respect for others, sociability, personal independence and self-esteem. They enjoy closer supervision of their work and are able to spend more of their time engaged in profitable activities (instead of travelling to and from school). Boarding offers the experiences of shared living, accepting community values and learning to take into account the point of view of others. For many families, full or weekly boarding offers all of this while still allowing frequent contact with what can be very busy home and professional lives. The boarding house has plenty of washing and showering facilities and extensive communal areas with a common room and a games room. Extensive networked ICT facilities give all pupils the opportunity to access the School network and the Internet.

K O'Riordan May 2019