



## **ST JOHN'S HOME BOARDING**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Do we choose the home boarding family?**

The College will allocate a family we believe is best suited to your student based on a questionnaire you and your child complete during the enrolment stage. We will try our best to fulfil as many preferences as we can however may not be able to meet every single one. There is a lot of discussion between the Student Accommodation Coordinator and your family to ensure the best-suited home boarding family is chosen.

#### **When will we meet the home boarding family before our child moves in?**

Prior to arrival, your family will be provided with full details of their home boarding family, to assist in the familiarisation of their new environment. Your family will have an opportunity to meet the home boarding family during orientation week.

#### **What happens if my child is not happy with their home boarding family?**

The home boarding Student Accommodation Coordinator will check in regularly with students and home boarding families. The student can contact the Student Accommodation Coordinator anytime or visit them at school if they have issues or concerns in their home boarding environment that they wish to discuss.

If both the Student Accommodation Coordinator and the student agree that there is no resolution to issues arising around the home boarding family situation there will be a discussion to find a new home boarding family. If it is an emergency due to safety, the Student Accommodation Coordinator we will move them straight away to one of St John's emergency home boarding families for a short-term period until a permanent solution is found.

#### **What is included in the Home Boarding fees?**

St John's Home Boarding fee will cover the following:

- Full board in a clean, tidy household that is relatively close to the school and located near suitable public transport routes.
- A safe and secure bedroom with a window and suitable storage space for clothes, personal effects and study materials.
- Suitable facilities for studying including a desk, a chair and a desk lamp.

- Three meals daily ensuring adequate nutritious food and access to other foods (morning tea, snacks) as required. The home boarding family may allow the student to prepare his/her own meals as mutually agreed.
- Access to bathroom and laundry facilities.
- Access to household items, such as towels, sheets, blankets and eating/cooking utensils.
- The provision of a key and/or alarm passwords for the house to allow free access.

### **What should my child bring to their home boarding accommodation?**

- School uniforms
- Books and stationery supplies
- Out of school clothes and shoes
- Toiletries
- Medication
- Personal spending money for weekend activities, eating out etc.
- Electronic devices required to complete schoolwork and communicate with their family. However, these devices are expected to be used wisely and turned off at a reasonable time of night.

### **Can my child be given pocket money/an allowance?**

We recommend a bank account with student access that can be monitored by parents. If students need money, then parents can quickly deposit money into this bank account. We ask that boarding families do not become involved with the students spending money.

### **What if my child experiences homesickness?**

Homesickness is a very common and normal experience at the start of your child's boarding journey and is to be expected.

Our staff and older students are also here to help your child settle into boarding life. We acknowledge that settling into boarding routines is complex and that it takes individuals different amounts of time. We support the students on their own journeys to seeing home boarding as a positive in their life.

### **Will there be 24/7 supervision for my child?**

In accordance with St John's Home Boarding terms and conditions, students are never allowed to be left alone overnight at their home boarding family. There may be periods where the student arrives home before home boarding parents in the afternoon, however, we ensure the home boarding family is fully informed that the student should never be left alone for a prolonged period.

### **What are the home boarding accommodation arrangements?**

While many of St John's home boarding family homes differ, the bedroom provided for home boarding in accordance with our St John's Home Boarding terms and conditions should always have a bed, desk, lamp, wardrobe, and chair. The house will have a living room, dining room, bathroom, outside area, kitchen and family member bedrooms.

### **Can I visit my child at their home boarding family?**

Parents are welcome to visit their boarding family, with sufficient notice to the boarding family and school.

### **What happens if my child falls sick?**

We expect that the home boarding family to treat your child as their own. If your child is ill and absent from school, they should see a doctor and gain a medical certificate for missing lessons, as is expected from all our students. If it is after hours and your child needs medical attention the home boarding family is required to take your child to a hospital and if they require emergency assistance the family should call an ambulance. As stated in the St John's Home Boarding Agreement, parents authorise the home boarding parents to issue medicine and medical treatment if and when required.

### **How will my child be transported to school?**

Transport to and from school depends on the location of the home boarding family and the current arrangements of the family. If the house is close enough the student can walk to school. If the accommodation is on a St John's college bus route, the student can take the College bus (additional costs do apply). If possible, the home boarding may be able to drive the student to school.

### **How will my child be transported to extra-curriculum activities?**

St John's organises transport to and from the college on Saturday for TAS sports away games. The home boarding family is also required to provide transport if none other is available.

### **Can my child pursue a part-time job?**

Students in Year 10, 11, and 12 are free to pursue a part-time job with their parents' permission. This is not to disturb the routine of the home boarding family and not to interfere with the students' study patterns.