

Moving from day school to boarding school

Making the move to sixth form boarding is almost always the young person's own decision. Motivation for the move may be access to facilities, longer days etc but more often than not it is the chance for some freedom from the family home and the opportunity to live a comparatively independent life for the first time.

Realities of newfound freedom

One thing to remember, however, given the schools position 'in loco parentis' is that both parents and children will be expected to agree to and abide by the school's policies on everything from uniform, energy drinks, alcohol to PDAs, mobile devices and random drugs testing.

Rules and regulations

Some schools allow 18-year-olds to visit 'approved' pubs or restaurants in the nearest town, but such freedoms are a privilege instantly rescinded if abused. Rules about what happens on school premises are fair enough, but it's a much greyer area when full boarders attend private parties at, for instance, a day pupil's house.

Being the newbie

Finally, when speaking to the school, we would advise finding out how many new boarders join in the sixth form. While schools will always do their best to integrate new pupils it can be difficult if your child is one of just a few new faces joining established social groups.

So, what is it actually like to board? The Good Schools Guide will join a panel of Sixth Form boarders for a lively discussion on what it is like to live away from home.

Dreaming of Hogwarts? What's it really like to board?

Step Up Expo 16+ Choices Stage

11:30AM Friday 30th June 2023

11:30AM Saturday 1st July 2023