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# BOARDING

## Welcome Pack

September 2025

## Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome you to MPW Boarding.

The most important aspect of boarding with us is the sense of international community. By working and living together in a multi-cultural house, boarders develop an understanding of other cultures, independence, and community-mindedness. Our dedicated staff are devoted to providing the best possible pastoral care, helping them to prepare for university life and the world of work. Boarders benefit not only from the support of their tutors and Director of Studies, but also from the Houseparents, college counsellors and the Boarding Nurse.

Our boarders' voice is very important to us, and their views will be gathered in a variety of ways to inform our boarding development plans. Our boarding ethos embraces acceptance, celebrates difference, and promotes a good work-life balance.

Let me finish by offering some key pieces of advice to new boarders. Firstly, if in doubt, ask someone. There is no need to keep concerns to yourself. Secondly, take every opportunity offered to you. Try new things, for this is how you will discover your true passions. Finally, enjoy being surrounded by all the wonders of London: soak it up, and never take it for granted!



I hope you enjoy your time boarding with us at MPW, and that you will feel happy, safe and at home with us in Queen's Gate House.

**Dr Sally Powell**  
Principal

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This September, you will be joining a family here at MPW Boarding.

To support you with your arrival, we have put together this Welcome Pack to help you in your preparations. You will find information regarding arriving to the Boarding house, as well as guidance on what to bring and what we provide. Take the time to look through these, complete your pre-arrival checks and contact us with any questions you may have on [londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk](mailto:londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk).

Your first welcome week in boarding will be filled with opportunities to get to know the houseparents, our daily routine, the boarding handbook, ask questions, make new friends and most importantly settle into the boarding community.

We very much look forward to welcoming you in September!



**Sabina Jardim**  
Head of Boarding

## Contact information

**Boarding Address:** 65-67 Queen's Gate House,  
London,  
SW7 5JS

**Boarding telephone:** 07495 429587 (the phone is always with a member of the boarding team, and should be used after 11pm only in case of emergency)

**Boarding email:** [londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk](mailto:londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk)

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## Pre-Arrival Information Sessions

We will be running two online sessions to go over boarding pre-arrival information. If you would like to sign up to one of these, please email [londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk](mailto:londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk)

- Thursday 28th August (9am-10am, UK time)
  - Monday 1st September (10am-11am, UK time)
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## Arrival to Boarding

### Arrivals Weekend

Dates: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September

Timings: 9am – 10pm (*If students are arriving to boarding outside of these times, they will need to make arrangements to stay with family or guardians, providing details of this to the boarding team*)

**If you are yet to submit your travel arrangements, please email [londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk](mailto:londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk) to receive the link to complete your form. This is compulsory and must be submitted at least a week before your arrival.**

### Taxi Transfers

If you had booked a taxi service with us via the travel link, your driver will be waiting for you at arrivals. They will have a sign with your name and will keep track of your flight and communicate with the boarding team should there be any delays.

The taxi costs (including VAT) are listed below and include the first 30 minutes of waiting time and parking after landing:

Heathrow Airport: £135

Gatwick Airport: £198

Luton Airport: £198

Stansted Airport: £198

If you are under 16 years of age and travelling alone, you must use our taxi service.

### Travelling to Boarding

Gloucester Road Station: this is the closest one to us. From the station exit, turn left and walk towards the main junction. Once you reach Cromwell Road, turn right and walk to the next set of traffic lights. QGH Boarding is the corner building across the road and immediately across from the Natural History Museum.

South Kensington Station: at the station exit, go up the stairs and turn right to come out of the arcade. Turn left towards the main road and immediately right at Gail's. This will take you up towards Cromwell Road. Once you reach the end of this road, turn left and walk past the Natural History Museum until you reach the main junction. QGH Boarding will be across the road, at the corner of Cromwell Road and Queen's Gate Road.

Car/Taxi: there is on-street parking outside of the boarding house, spaces may not always be available, please bear this in mind when finding parking.

## Your Room

### What is included:

Each room is en-suite and includes the following:



Mini fridge



Small waste bin



Bed



Desk



Bathroom  
with shower



Lock box  
(students should bring  
their own padlock)



Storage throughout the room,  
including under bed storage  
and shelves

### Cleaning

Rooms are cleaned once a week by our cleaners, with the following provided weekly:



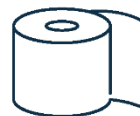
Bed sheets



Two sets of towels



Bathmat



Toilet roll provided

Houseparents will inform students of their cleaning day during the welcome week boarding induction.



#### WHAT TO BRING



Magnet of your city  
or country



#### WHAT NOT TO BRING



Candles

UK Sim card  
and UK  
phone  
number



UK adapters  
(if needed)



Cooking  
equipment



Multiple plug  
sockets/  
extension  
leads



Padlock for  
your room safe  
(available for purchase upon arrival)



Heat  
proof  
mat for  
styling  
tools



Medication  
which is non  
UK licensed  
or without  
prescription



Fairy lights/ wall decorations



## Common Areas

### Kitchens

There is a kitchen on each floor of the boarding house, open day and night, which contains the following:



Communal cutlery



Microwave



Toaster



Hot water tap



Communal  
Fridge



An oven



Tea and coffee



Bread and fruits  
provided once a week

### College Restaurant

In the evenings and at weekends, this becomes a common area for boarders where they can play boardgames, do arts and crafts, have movie nights, study and socialise. It is open until bedtime registration.

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## Dress Code

British weather is unpredictable so do be prepared for some warm days as well as cold days and a lot of rain! Students should not wear nightwear in the common areas of QGH and should wear appropriate clothing outside their room. Lanyards should be worn at all times.

You may wish to pack smart/formal clothing for our three main events; Boarding Christmas Formal, Boarding Oscars and Boarding Summer Celebration.

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## Communication

Phones: boarders must have a mobile phone with a UK number for houseparents to reach them. They should also have mobile data to have access to WhatsApp outside of the boarding house.

Microsoft Teams and Orah: should be downloaded with notifications to receive notices from houseparents, their DoS and teachers.

Email: logins for the school email are sent to students' personal email. This should be set up and checked regularly.

Internet: once you have set up your school login, you will be able to connect to our WiFi upon your arrival.

## **Post Delivery**

Post can be delivered to the boarding house using the following address:

*65-67 Queen's Gate House, London, SW7 5JS*

Students should ensure their full name is on the post, along with their room number. Each student is responsible for keeping track of their post delivery timings. Post should not contain any prohibited items such as sharp objects, electrical cooking devices or medication.

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## **UK Bank Account and Pocket Money**

Students will need to complete a student status letter (obtained from houseparents) and take it into the main college reception for a stamp. This letter can then be taken to the bank to open a UK bank account.

Boarders should not bring large sums of money to keep in their room. We recommend that boarders sign in their pocket money upon arrival, to be securely kept by houseparents in the boarding office. All money handed in and taken out is recorded by houseparents and the boarder.

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## **Passports**

All boarders must sign in their passports to houseparents upon arrival. These are securely stored in the boarding office until students sign them out departure.

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## **Boarding Holidays**

The boarding house is closed to students at the end of the first term for Christmas holidays and at the end of the third term for the Summer. Boarders are only required to empty their rooms at the end of the academic year before departing for summer break.

During the following holidays, students can remain in the boarding house:

- October half term
- February half term
- Easter break.

## My Pre-Arrival Checklist

- ☐ I have completed the travel link with my travel arrangements and emailed my flight ticket to [londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk](mailto:londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk)
- ☐ I have completed the Boarding pre-arrival questionnaire
- ☐ I have emailed a photograph of something/someone I will miss to [londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk](mailto:londonhouseparents@mpw.ac.uk)
- ☐ I am bringing a magnet of my city to boarding
- ☐ I have read through the Boarding Handbook
- ☐ I have read through this Welcome Pack
- ☐ My parents have completed and submitted an accurate medical form
- ☐ I have prescriptions for medication I need to bring with me. No other medication is packed in my suitcase
- ☐ I have signed up to one of the pre-arrival online sessions
- ☐ I have a UK number to give to houseparents upon my arrival
- ☐ I have downloaded WhatsApp, Microsoft Teams and Orah Student App
- ☐ I am bringing a padlock for the lockbox in my room for my valuables
- ☐ Weather appropriate clothing, in preparation for the cold and rainy days