PRESTFELDE



Boarding House Handbook

2026-27

PRESTFELDE
Part of the Shrewsbury School family

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Welcome from the Prestfelde House Boarding Team

Welcome to Prestfelde House. We are happy to welcome you to boarding at Prestfelde School and hope that you are excited to be a part of our wonderful boarding community.

Boarding at Prestfelde, offered to all pupils in Years 3-8 from Monday through to Friday, is an important part of the Prestfelde experience. As a boarder, you will develop and grow friendships, learn a vast range of new skills through our activity programme, experience a new level of independence and self-management, all in a home-from-home environment surrounded by a warm, caring, and supportive team of staff. You will make memories that will last a lifetime.

We are proud of the Prestfelde House activity programme, which offers a wide variety of experiences either within our stunning grounds, on-site facilities or outside of school. You can expect everything from paddle boarding and pool parties to dry slope skiing and movie nights! Ad hoc boarders can book in for nights of their choosing on SOCS. Please note that our cancellation period is 24 hours. This handbook aims to answer questions you might have about boarding life at Prestfelde.

The boarding team are here to help you make the most of your boarding experience and ensure that you are happy, safe, and having lots of fun!

Miss Edwards (Head of Boarding) and the Boarding Team



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Prestfelde School Statement of Boarding Principles

- Boarding provides a happy, caring environment that meets the needs of everyone and provides opportunities for personal development.
- Boarders can approach any member of the school community, confident in the knowledge that they will be treated and respected as an individual.
- Boarders will develop greater independence as they take greater responsibility for themselves, others, and their environment.
- Boarders will develop leadership qualities and the ability to work as part of a team in a boarding community.
- Boarders will receive equal opportunities and respect, regardless of ethnicity, culture, gender, or disability.
- Boarders will develop intellectually through well-structured prep with access to staff and other pupils in an atmosphere that values effort and provides positive encouragement.
- Boarders will participate in a rich and exciting extra-curricular programme, developing a range of new skills.
- Boarders will work, play and relax free from abuse, intimidation, harassment and bullying.
- Boarders will benefit from a structured organisation to the day and the importance of making sensible and constructive use of leisure time.
- Boarders will follow a discipline policy that demands high expectations in terms of personal behaviour, and they must accept the consequences in cases of misconduct.
- Boarding provides opportunities to develop spiritually, culturally, morally, and socially.
- Boarding will provide an environment that is, as far as possible, free from physical hazards and dangers of any sort.
- Boarding will provide accommodation that is comfortable and is suited to the needs of boarders, according to age and maturity and provide adequate levels of privacy.
- The Boarding House will develop and maintain channels of communication with parents, to ensure there is a partnership regarding the support and development of every boarder.
- Boarding must be a partnership between adults and children based on mutual trust and respect, and it should be acknowledged that it is not a commodity that suits every individual.

Meet the Prestfelde House Team

Head of Boarding: Miss Charlotte Edwards

I am delighted to welcome you to our boarding community. Whether your child joins us for regular weekly boarding or the occasional overnight stay, our aim is simple: to ensure every boarder feels safe, happy, valued and truly at home.

Many families already know me from my role as Admissions Registrar, and I am thrilled to combine that experience with my passion for pastoral care and boarding life. Having boarded myself from the age of seven, first at Packwood and later at Millfield, I know the friendships, confidence and independence that boarding can inspire. They remain some of my happiest memories, and I hope every child enjoys the same sense of belonging here at Prestfelde.

Boarding is about so much more than staying overnight. It is a place where children can relax, have fun, embrace new experiences and build friendships that last a lifetime. We are proud to offer a genuine home-from-home environment where every child is known, cared for and encouraged to flourish.

Joining me in boarding are my fiancé, James, along with our two friendly dogs, Willow and Millie, who are always on hand to make children feel welcome. Together, we look forward to creating a warm, caring and happy community where every child feels comfortable, supported and excited to return.

I hope this handbook answers your questions and gives you a flavour of life in Prestfelde House, and I look forward to welcoming you to Prestfelde Boarding.



Meet the Prestfelde House Team

Assistant Head of Boarding: Miss Emily Freeman

It is so exciting to be back at Prestfelde again! Some pupils might remember me as one of the 'gappies' at Prestfelde during the 2021/2022 academic year, and it was during this time, spent helping out in PE and swimming lessons, assisting on school trips, running the music practice club, and being a member of the boarding team, that I discovered my passion for working with children and more specifically, my fondness for Prestfelde School. It became a home for me and being a gappie was such a fulfilling experience, so I am thrilled to be back as part of the boarding team and working with Miss Edwards to create a wonderful boarding experience for the pupils at Prestfelde.

After leaving Prestfelde in 2022, I studied Spanish and Japanese at the University of Leeds, including living abroad in Akita in northern Japan for a year. I worked at The Great Escape Company as a Team Leader for children aged 7-14, leading in team building activities and teaching them valuable skills in teamwork and problem solving. I also worked there as a Catering Manager more recently, preparing meals for the children and making them feel at home.

Although university was a wonderful experience for me, I greatly missed working in education and often looked back on my year at Prestfelde with such fond memories, so I am excited to be back and begin this new chapter at Prestfelde and create even more wonderful memories with all of you!



Your questions answered:

Everything you need to know about life in Prestfelde House.

👥 WHO WILL LOOK AFTER ME?

Miss Edwards, our Head of Boarding, and the Boarding Assistant will be there to look after you and help with any worries or concerns.

During the school day, you can also speak to your Form Tutor or any member of SLT. You can also speak to the Independent Listener if you would prefer to talk to someone outside school.

🩹 WHAT IF I FEEL ILL OR HURT MYSELF?

During the school day, you can visit our Health Centre, where our Day Matron is Paediatric First Aid trained.

In the evening, speak to the Head of Boarding or Boarding Assistant and they will make sure you get the help you need.

Taking medication?

Give it to the Day Matron during school hours or Miss Edwards when you arrive at Prestfelde House. It will be stored safely and given to you at the correct time.

📱 HOW CAN I KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HOME?

There is no screen time during boarding, unless it forms part of a specific, planned computer-based activity. We want boarding evenings to be a chance for children to spend time together, enjoy activities, relax and make the most of life in Prestfelde House.

Prestfelde House has a boarding mobile phone, which children can use in the evenings if they would like or need to contact their parents or guardians.

📅 WHAT HAPPENS ON WEEKDAYS?

There's always plenty going on!

Turn to pages 11 and 12 to discover the exciting activities on offer at Prestfelde House and get a glimpse of what a typical boarding day looks like.

Your questions answered:

A few more things to help you feel at home.

🏃 WHAT HAPPENS AT WEEKENDS?

Weekends start a little later, so everyone can enjoy a lie-in!

Saturday morning sport takes place for Years 3–8 and, later in the Autumn Term, there will also be Performing Arts mornings.

All boarders go home after Saturday sport or activities, or at 9.15am if they are not taking part.

🛏️ WHAT HAPPENS WITH MY BEDDING?

Each morning, bedsheets are removed and volunteers from each dormitory take them to the laundry room.

Fresh bedding will be ready for you each evening.

🔧 WHAT IF SOMETHING GETS BROKEN?

Tell a member of the boarding team as soon as possible so it can be repaired or replaced.

If you accidentally break something, please tell us straight away. Most importantly, don't worry – accidents happen!

🔥 WHAT IF THE FIRE ALARM SOUNDS?

Leave the building immediately using the nearest safe fire exit and make your way quickly and quietly to the meeting area.

Don't stop to collect your belongings. If you need to evacuate at night, put on proper shoes rather than slippers and, if possible, something warm over your nightwear.

The boarding team will explain the fire evacuation procedure at the beginning of each term.

🎒 WILL MY BELONGINGS BE SAFE?

Make sure everything you bring is clearly labelled with your name.

Money and valuables can be given to the boarding team for safekeeping. If you lose or misplace something, tell a member of staff as soon as possible and they will help you find it.

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A BOARDER'S DAILY SCHEDULE

From wake-up to lights out, here's what a typical day looks like.

MORNING

07:00 — WAKE UP
Get washed, brush your teeth and get dressed ready for the day. Don't forget your Games kit!

07:50 — BREAKFAST
Breakfast in the Dining Hall.

08:15 — REGISTRATION
Head to your Form Room for morning registration.

SCHOOL DAY

EVENING

16:00 — SCHOOL FINISHES
Snack and drink before prep or clubs.

17:00 — PRESTFELDE HOUSE
Change into casual clothes, settle into your dormitory and finish any additional prep if needed.

17:45 — SUPPER
Supper in the Dining Hall.

18:30 — EVENING ACTIVITY
Return to Prestfelde House for the evening's activity.

20:00 — WIND-DOWN TIME
JUNIORS Shower and get ready for bed.
SENIORS Relax in the Boarders' Lounge.

20:15 — JUNIOR BEDTIME
15 minutes of reading before lights out.

20:30 — JUNIOR LIGHTS OUT
Seniors shower, get ready for bed and enjoy 30 minutes of reading.

21:00 — SENIOR LIGHTS OUT
Goodnight!

PACK YOUR BOARDING BAG

Everything you'll need for your stay in Prestfelde House.



BEDTIME BITS

Pyjamas, dressing gown and slippers.

☐



COMFY CLOTHES

Comfortable clothing and trainers suitable for your evening activity.

☐



PREPARE SCHOOL UNIFORM

Clean uniform (or Games Kit) for the following day.

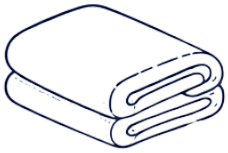
☐



WASH BAG

A toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush/comb, and shower toiletries.

☐



TOWEL

☐



SCHOOL ESSENTIALS

Anything important that you need for school the following day.

☐



A GOOD BOOK

There will be reading time every night before lights-out.

☐



A LITTLE PIECE OF HOME

Bring a cuddly toy, your own pillow or blanket to help you feel at home.

☐



MEDICATION

Any medication that you may need.

☐



BAG PACKED?

Bring your packed bag to the **School Office** in the morning and we will make sure that it arrives safely in the Boarding House ready for when you arrive.

PRESTFELDE

BOARDING HOUSE VALUES

Our boarding values reflect the kind of community we want Prestfelde House to be: welcoming, supportive, inclusive and full of fun. We want every boarder to feel a strong sense of belonging and to have the confidence to be themselves.



BELONG

We make everyone feel welcome, valued and included. We look out for one another and celebrate what makes each person unique.



RESPECT

We treat others, ourselves and our environment with kindness and respect. We listen to others, value different perspectives and take pride in our boarding house.



BE KIND

Small acts of kindness make a big difference. We support each other, notice when someone needs help and make sure nobody feels left out.



BE BRAVE

Boarding is an opportunity to try new things, make new friends and step outside our comfort zones. We encourage each other to have a go, learn from mistakes and grow in confidence.



HAVE FUN

Boarding should be an exciting and enjoyable experience. We make the most of our time together, create memories and enjoy being part of the Prestfelde community.



TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

We encourage our boarders to become increasingly independent and take responsibility for themselves, their belongings and their actions. We help one another to make positive choices and contribute to our community.

OUR BOARDING PROMISE

We belong. • We respect. • We are kind.
We are brave. • We have fun. • We take responsibility.

Prestfelde Weekly Boarding Activities

The first half of the Autumn Term is packed with opportunities for our boarders to have fun, spend time with friends and try something new. From pool parties and movie nights to outdoor adventures and special trips, there is always something to look forward to at Prestfelde House.



Prestfelde Weekly Boarding Activities

The fun continues throughout the second half of term, with another varied programme of evening activities and special events. Whether getting creative, enjoying some friendly competition or celebrating together in the run-up to Christmas, our activities are all about making memories and enjoying boarding life together.



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HERE TO HELP

There is always someone you can talk to.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

PRESTFELDE SCHOOL OFFICE
01743 245400

PRESTFELDE HOUSE
01743 298546

BOARDING MOBILE
07486 979224

HEAD OF BOARDING

boarding@prestfelde.co.uk
07486 979224
Or contact the School Office.

ASSISTANT HEAD OF BOARDING

boarding@prestfelde.co.uk
07486 979224
Or contact the School Office.

IF SOMETHING IS WORRYING YOU

At Prestfelde, we treat everyone with kindness and fairness. **Bullying and deliberately hurtful behaviour are not acceptable.**

If you experience or witness unkindness in Prestfelde House, please tell someone. You can speak to any member of the boarding team, the Headteacher, Deputy Head (Academic), Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Head of Boarding.

INDEPENDENT LISTENER

If you would rather speak confidentially to someone who isn't involved in the day-to-day life of school, you can contact our Independent Listener.

07944 900 638

She is always happy to hear from Prestfelde pupils.

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Mike Haswell
Deputy Head Pastoral

01743 245400
mhaswell@prestfelde.co.uk

OTHER PLACES TO FIND HELP

Sometimes you might want to talk to someone outside school.
These organisations are here to help.

CHILDLINE

0800 1111

SAMARITANS

[Confirm current contact number]

NSPCC

0800 800 5000

SHROPSHIRE SAFEGUARDING TEAM

[Confirm current contact details]

EMERGENCY SOCIAL WORK DUTY TEAM

For support after 5.00pm or at weekends

[Confirm current contact details]

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS DIRECTOR

0800 528 5000

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

CAP House
9–12 Long Lane
London
EC1A 9HA

concerns@isi.net

OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

Freephone: **0800 528 0731**

Website: childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Email:
info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk



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