



St George's School  
Harpenden

# Crosthwaite

## Boys' Boarding House

  

# Handbook

  

## 2024 - 2025

### *Welcome to Crosthwaite*

Crosthwaite is the main boys' boarding house at St George's School. We have living and recreational space for over 50 boys in Years 7 - 12, in dormitories of 2 to 6 beds.

The job of the House is to provide the students with a secure and welcoming place to live, work and play, so as to make life at school as fulfilling and enjoyable as possible. We encourage all Crosthwaite boys to work hard, to be polite and considerate, to co-operate with others and to contribute fully to the life of the House and the school.

Any community this size must have regulations and procedures in order to work effectively - this handbook will tell you most of what you need to know. If you follow these guidelines, we hope that you enjoy living here and be able to make the most of the opportunities that boarding school provides. If you have any questions or problems, please speak to a member of staff.

The full postal address for the House is:

Crosthwaite House  
St George's School  
Sun Lane  
Harpenden  
Herts AL5 4TD

**Staff Office**

**01582 716263**

**Staff mobile phone (for emergencies) 07506 805665**

**All boys should save these numbers on their mobile phones**

**E-mail**

**[crosthwaite@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk](mailto:crosthwaite@stgeorges.herts.sch.uk)**

## House Staff

### **Resident**

Mr J Pickard	Head of House (downstairs flat)
Mr M Blair	Deputy Head of House (first floor flat)
Mrs C Williams	Houseparent (top floor flat)
Mr A Wakely	Houseparent (garden flat)

### **Non-Resident House Tutors**

Mrs L Loughlin
Mrs J Wong

## House Prefects

Prefects are appointed in the Spring term each year, from the Year 12 students. They play an important role in supporting the staff and assisting them in running the House and supervising activities:

Ivor D (Head boy)	
Matthew A	Sam C-W
Julian E	George P

## Daily Timetable

### Monday to Friday

7 am	First wake up call (Years 7 – 11)
7.20	Second wake up call (Years 7 – 11)
7.30	Breakfast in the Dining Hall (in full uniform)
7.45	Surgery (Sick Bay)
8.00	Bell rings for Dormitory Inspections
8.15	House Meeting in Common Room (then into school)
3.20 pm (2.50 pm on Fri)	School day ends Afternoon Tea (plus Tuck Shop on Mon/Weds) Pocket money and post Activities and town visits
5.20	Bell rings
5.30	Prep begins in school or in House (Mon – Thurs)
6.30 – 7.00	Evening meal in the Dining Hall
7.15	Second prep (Mon – Thurs, compulsory for Years 11 and 12)
8.45	Bedtimes begin
9.15	Noodle time for Year 10 & 11/pizza time for Year 11 & 12

**You must be back in the House (and signed in) by curfew time. From September through to May, it is 8.30 pm for Years 7 - 9 and 9 pm for Years 10 – 13. Curfew times are clearly posted in the House.**

## Bedtimes

You must be in your dormitory, getting ready for bed, by these times (Sun – Thurs):

Year 7	8.45 pm	(lights out at 9.15 pm)
Year 8	9.00 pm	(lights out at 9.30 pm)
Year 9	9.15 pm	(lights out at 9.45 pm)
Year 10	9.45 pm	(lights out at 10.00 pm)
Year 11	10.00 pm	(lights out at 10.15 pm)

Sixth form do not have a 'lights out' time, but are expected to be in their dorms and quiet by 10.30 pm.

## Prep

Each day, Monday to Thursday, time is set aside for homework to be completed, between 5.30 and 8.00 pm. Years 7 - 10 have prep in school classrooms, supervised by a member of staff. A record is kept of punctuality, activity and behaviour in prep.

**You must take your prep diary and everything you need to complete your work. If you do not have enough prep, you must do something quiet that will not disturb your neighbours.**

Year 11 and Sixth Form boys should be in the House at prep time. The common rooms are not to be used. Students are expected to be in their dorms or the Quiet Room doing something quiet and constructive. They may attend Senior Prep in school if preferred (but must sign out and inform the duty staff if they are leaving the House).

## Signing Out

**Whenever you leave the House (apart from for lessons, meals or prep) you must use the iPad by the door to record your destination. When you return to the House you must sign in again. This is so we know exactly who is in the House in case of emergencies. It is also useful for tracing students when there are phone calls or messages. Failure to sign in out or in may result in confinement to the House for a period.**

## Saturday Timetable

No wake up call

8.30 am	In-house breakfast begins (until 10.30)
12.30 pm	Bell rings for Brunch (Dining Hall)
3.15	Tuck shop
5.55	Bell rings for Supper (Dining Hall)
6.45	Sports Hall (bouncy castles and basketball)
7.45	Film in the Common Room (with pizzas and noodles for sale)

Bedtimes after the film, at the discretion of the duty staff

## Sunday Timetable

No wake up call

8.30 am	In-house breakfast begins (until 10.30)
10.00	Chapel - as per rota (see School calendar)
12.30 pm	Bell rings for Lunch (Dining Hall)
	Afternoon trip (see notice board)
5.55	Bell rings for Supper (Dining Hall)
	Chapel (occasional – see School calendar)
7.00	Quiet Hour (all boys in House)
8.00	'Slow Roll Call' with reminder bell at 8.25pm

Bedtimes as weekdays

## Fire Routine

There is a smoke detector in every room and red alarm buttons in the corridors to sound the alarm in case of fire. If you hear the continuous siren, leave the House immediately by the nearest safe exit – notices in each room show the quickest route. At night time, please check that the other boys in the dorm have woken up. After leaving the House, assemble in the Watts playground by the Dining Hall entrance in year groups, as directed by the staff and prefects. You must wait there in silence until the register has been taken and a member of staff has told you to go back to the House. Fire practices take place regularly throughout the year.

## Electrical Appliances

Televisions, irons, fridges and cooking appliances should not be brought to the boarding house; this means that you may not have a kettle, toaster, sandwich maker, coffee machine or rice cooker in your dorm. Years 7 - 9 may have tablets and portable games consoles (for use only with headphones); older boys can bring in portable speakers and docks for use in the dorms. Please be considerate about the use and volume of your music - misuse may result in confiscation.

**Students in Years 9 - 13 only may bring laptop computers into boarding.**

## In the Dormitory

It is your responsibility to keep your bedspace and wardrobe tidy. All the dorms (except Sixth Form) are inspected every day Monday to Friday. A list in each room will tell you what is expected, so the room is left tidy and as clear as possible for the cleaners. Marks are awarded for each bedspace (with a weekly reward for the tidiest boys) and for the whole dorm (with half-termly prizes).

Sixth formers should also keep their rooms tidy - they will be inspected periodically.

Please keep valuables locked in your bedside cabinet – and look after your key! We do have spares, but we may have to charge you for them. Cash, passports, airline tickets and other important documents should be stored in the House office.

Small bags and coats can be stored on the pegs in the Boot Room on the ground floor; there are also boot lockers (combination padlocks are available – please ask Mr Pickard) where you can keep all your boots and shoes. You will also be allocated a large locker for tuck etc in the Games Room (see Mr Blair). Outdoor sinks and brushes are provided for removing mud and grass from footwear.

## Sick Bay

Students who require medication or feel ill should attend surgery in Sick Bay at 8.00 am or just before bedtime. The Houseparents or Day Matron are available at all other times for emergencies. All medication should be handed to the Houseparent at the start of term (senior boys may be allowed to keep their own, but must consult with the Houseparents). Sick Bay is out of bounds at other times.

All students are registered with the school doctor, who holds a surgery each Wednesday. Normally we expect non-emergency dental and opticians' appointments to be made at home and attended during school holidays.

## House Duty Jobs

Boys in Years 7 - 9 are allocated jobs in the House. Year 7 boys ring the House bell for Inspection and prep. Year 8 boys open and close the Common Room curtains as appropriate and sort our recycling bins. Year 9 boys Hoover the Common Room before bedtime or when necessary. Rotas are on the notice board. These jobs must be completed each day (Sunday evening – Friday morning) in order to ensure the smooth running of the House. Year 12 boarders oversee the boys as they leave for school and help out in supervised prep (on a rota).

## Laundry

Dirty clothes should be kept in your laundry bags in the dorm and brought down and sorted into the baskets provided in the Laundry any day after school. School shirts should be changed every day; for washing they must have sleeves rolled down and at least three buttons done up. Underwear should be sent to the laundry in your small net bag. Clean clothes will be returned to your named shelf in the laundry. Please collect your laundry promptly after school and check that all the items have been returned. Please tell the Houseparent immediately if anything is missing. Clean clothes must be put away tidily in your cupboard and drawers.

**Please ensure that all your clothes, laundry bags and shoes have name tags.**

## Out of bounds

Outside school hours, all areas of the grounds not clearly visible from the tennis courts (the 'MUGA') **and** all of the school buildings (except the gym and the Sports Hall) are out of bounds. **No student should ever climb onto any of the flat roofs on the school site.** If a ball is lost on the roof, a member of staff should be informed – the caretakers will retrieve the ball for you.

## Chapel

All students in years 7 - 11 must attend at least 3 Sunday Chapels (morning or evening) each term. House staff will take boys to Junior or Senior Chapels and keep a record of attendances. Make sure you collect a 'Chapel slip' from your Head of Day House after each service and ensure that the boarding staff know you have attended Chapel.

## House Committee

During the autumn term, each year group elects a couple of representatives to sit on the House Committee. This body meets regularly to discuss house issues and consider student suggestions. The representatives will consult their year group to assess their opinions and report back on Committee decisions. We also have Year Group meetings and a boarders' food committee.

## Pocket Money

We strongly advise that all students' money is given to the House staff at the start of term, to be entered in the pocket money account. It's a good idea to have some cash available for emergencies. You can take money out every day after school. Often, parents will set a weekly limit and we will stick to that. It is not advisable to keep any money in the dormitories.

Transfers can be made to: **Sort Code 20 03 62. Account Number 43600319.**

Cheques should be made payable to '*Crosthwaite House Pocket Money Account*'.

## Disbursements

The cost of boarding day trips, necessary medications, taxis and other emergency items can be paid for through the 'disbursements' system. The cost will be automatically added to the termly bill.

## Computer Games, Videos and DVDs

Boys are allowed to bring in games or DVDs for their own use, but subject to certain conditions. Permission from duty staff must **always** be sought before watching a DVD on the House TV. The legal certification guidelines must always be adhered to; we allow only boys in Year 10 or above to watch 15 certificate films and the same rule applies to films and other content stored on computers or phones and to games used either in the Games Room or in the dorms.

**Inappropriate material will be confiscated until it can be taken home.**

## Mobile phones

All students must follow these rules:

- 1 **All mobile phones must be registered with the House staff.**  
We keep a record of numbers and other details so we can help if a phone is lost or stolen and so we can contact you in an emergency
- 2 All phones must be **switched to silent (or off)** during prep, meals and roll call. **Please do not arrange for anyone to call you at these times**
- 3 All phones (Year 7 - 11) are collected by the duty staff at bedtime. There should be no phones in the dormitories after lights out. This is mainly for security but also to stop misuse of phones. Your phone will be charged overnight in the House office. Please label your phone.
- 4 For security, phones should be kept locked away or on your person.
- 5 Cameras and phones should not be used to take pictures or record videos in the House, except with the express permission of duty staff.

## Town Visits

After school and at weekends, there is time to go into Harpenden for shopping or socialising. Boys in Years 7 and 8 should always go in groups of at least 3. **Boys in Years 7 – 11 may not go offsite or into Harpenden after 5.20 pm** (except with special permission). **Don't forget to sign out and in again, every time.**

## House Behaviour Management

If you break the rules of the House, or behave in an anti-social manner, you must expect some kind of punishment. In general, we follow the School Disciplinary Policy. You may be gated (confined to the House), put on House Report or asked to do some 'community service' jobs (for example, wiping tables in the Dining Room, litter-picking, tidying or hoovering) or you may be set a Boarding Detention. If you disturb others after lights out, you may be sent out of the room or even downstairs. In more serious cases, you may have to see Mrs Borland-Peel (Director of Boarding) and a letter may be sent to your parents.

If you break a window or damage any of the House's furniture or fittings, you will be expected to pay for the damage (on the boarders' bill).

## Tuck Shop

On Monday and Wednesday after school and on Saturday afternoon you can buy sweets, crisps, ice creams or drinks from the House tuck shop. Tuck can only be consumed in the House at these times, although food can be stored in the lockers in the Games Room. Boys in Year 10 – 13 may also buy noodles and pizzas from 9.15 pm. Hot food from the town (or from home) should not be brought into the House.

**No food should ever be taken into the dormitories.**

## Complaints and Suggestions

If you have any concerns about boarding life, speak first to a member of staff, who will try to sort things out for you. The Director of Boarding has her office at 'Aim Higher' in the main school building and is always happy to talk if you have a problem that cannot be solved by the House staff. If you are still unhappy, please follow the Complaints Procedure, which is displayed on the House notice board. Suggestions about ways to improve life in Crosthwaite can be made straight to staff, or you can use the Suggestions Box on the first floor landing

## In the House we provide:

TV (with Amazon Prime, SKY Sports and Freeview), DVD player, table tennis, table football, board games, jigsaw puzzles, networked computers (for work), books, daily and Sunday newspapers and sports equipment.

All these depend on boys being sensible and careful - please let a member of staff know if anything gets damaged or broken.

## Weekend Leave (2.50 pm Friday - 8 pm Sunday)

Each week you will need to complete a 'Leave request', using the Reach app - this tells us (and your parents/guardians) about your arrangements for the coming weekend. If you wish to go to a friend's house, we also need permission from their parents; this will be done through Reach too. We will help you register with the app when you arrive.

**Permission to miss school time should be sought from the Director of Boarding.**

Overnight stays out are not usually permitted during the school week. Permission to go to friends' parties may be given (with appropriately extended curfews) on Friday or Saturday nights. An invitation from the host should be shown to the House staff well in advance. If necessary, we may be able to arrange transport for you.

## Activities

Like any large secondary school, St George's offers a wide range of clubs, activities and trips that are open to all students. Alongside this, the boarding houses run their own programme of extra-curricular opportunities.

In recent years we've offered:

Go-karting	Thorpe Park	Laser Tag
Trampoline arena	Raft racing	Cinema
Indoor football	Theatre	Bowling
Paintballing	Water slide	Swimming
Brighton day trip	Indoor skydiving	Basketball
Ice skating	Squash	Water Park
Indoor skiing/snowboarding	Badminton	Boxing

We also endeavour to make it possible for boarders to go off-site to pursue their own interests, such as...

Club football/rugby	Army cadets	Martial Arts
Air cadets	Athletics	Tennis
Park run	Cycling	Badminton

Please let us know if there are any other activities you'd like us to look into. We're always looking to expand our range...

## End of term arrangements

Holiday dates are given below (and are on the school calendar). Please make a note of them. Boarders should be collected as soon as is reasonably possible after the close of school. **If it is necessary for a student to miss any lesson time, permission MUST be sought from Mrs Borland-Peel, the Director of Boarding.**

Transport by taxi to the London airports can be arranged by the House staff, if the flight is on the day that boarders should leave or return to school. A charge will be added to the bill. **Other travel arrangements should be made with your Guardian.**

We often have visitors staying in the House in the holidays. This means that we have to empty the dormitories. Boys travelling home by car should take all their belongings with them at these times; those travelling by public transport (and particularly those flying) can leave bags or cases in the Trunk Room (**except in the Summer Holiday**).

### Autumn Term 2024

Exeat	9 am	Sat 5 Oct	6 - 8 pm	Mon 7 Oct
Half term	3.20 pm	Wed 23 Oct	6 - 8 pm	Sun 3 Nov
Exeat	3.20 pm	Thu 28 Nov	6 - 8 pm	Sun 1 Dec
End of term	11 am	Fri 20 Dec		

### Spring Term 2023

			6 - 8 pm	Mon 6 Jan
Half term	2.50 pm	Fri 14 Feb	6 - 8 pm	Sun 23 Feb
End of term	11 am	Fri 4 Apr		

### Summer Term 2023

			6 - 8 pm	Sun 21 Apr
Exeat	2.50 pm	Fri 2 May	6 - 8 pm	Mon 5 May
Half term	2.50 pm	Fri 23 May	6 - 8 pm	Sun 1 Jun
Exeat	3.20 pm	Thu 3 Jul	6 - 8 pm	Sun 6 Jul
End of term	11 am	Fri 18 Jul		

## House Rules

Two general rules sum up the standards of good behaviour that we expect:

- Always treat others in the House the way you would like to be treated
- Always do as you are told by members of staff or prefects

The school rules (and the law of the land) also apply. Here are a few other rules:

- Bullying will not be tolerated
- Students must not enter other people's dorms unless invited and accompanied. Year 7 dorms are always out of bounds to all other boys
- Do not tell anybody the door entry code
- Day students and female boarders are not allowed upstairs in Crosthwaite
- Boys may not return to the House during the school day (except prefects)
- All visitors must sign in and ask permission to be in the House. They must leave when asked to by a member of staff
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, lighters, pornography, weapons, fireworks (including 'bangers' and 'thunderflashes') and chewing gum are forbidden
- Ball games are forbidden inside the House and in the garden at the back
- Attendance at roll calls and other House meetings is compulsory
- Swearing and abusive language and behaviour are forbidden
- Food and drink must not be brought out of the Dining Room or taken to dormitories **at any time**
- Do not sell or lend your possessions, or borrow other people's
- Hats (and other headgear) and muddy or wet outdoor clothes should not be worn in the House. Skateboards and skates should only be used outside
- Students may not have TVs, kettles, irons, fridges or cooking appliances