



CALDICOTT

Application for
Supporting Junior Boarders
Award

bsa | BOARDING
SCHOOLS'
ASSOCIATION

Background

Since September, Caldicott has introduced flexi boarding to Years 3 – 6, and as such, the school has been focused on how to support these Junior boarders in adapting to their new environment. It has been designed as a gentle introduction to boarding life, so this isn't a leap into the unknown when they get to Year 7 (the time when all our boys full or weekly board). Boarding is at the centre of Caldicott life, and is underpinned by our strong, tight-knit group of boys and staff.

'I love the sense of community you get through boarding. I thought it would just be Years 5 and 6 together, but actually you get to know boys from all other year groups which is really nice. Also, it's impossible to get homesick at Caldicott because you're always doing something and you're always around friends, even if you're just watching a movie in the snug with a hot chocolate.'

- GD, Year 6 flexi boarder



Support Network

The support network these boys have is the foundation of our pastoral care for junior boarders; there is always a Houseparent, Matron, or teacher on hand. They help with work they're struggling with, provide a nurturing presence, and our Night Matron always makes sure a familiar face is nearby if there are troubles sleeping, or homesickness may arise. Our Matronal Team embody our care for the boys, and are warm, caring, and dedicated beyond belief – the boys adore them.



‘Ma’am Quinn is sometimes strict when you’re being naughty, but she’s also really funny – it’s great when teachers can have a laugh!’

- NA, Year 3 flexi boarder

Routine

The routine has been devised in a manner that ensures the boys are supported, happy, and can flourish. The day starts with the familiar face of a Matron gently waking them up before their hearty cooked breakfast that sets them up for an action-packed Caldicott day. After the school day, they spend some time with our gap students and have a warm snack followed by the opportunity to either play, or wind down with some reading, for example.



During supper, all the boarders eat together, making for a great communal experience. As well as a good time with friends, the boys love the food!

‘The food is so good, I love it! The pancakes that you get sometimes at breakfast are my favourite’.

- BW (Year 5 flexi boarder)

Downtime is equally as important as keeping busy with fun activities. The snug is the facilitator of this; boys can relax with a hot chocolate while they watch a film, read or play a board game.

We are fortunate at Caldicott to have the space in our Boarding House to guarantee that flexi boarders will always sleep in the same bed. This familiarity truly gives them the feeling that they are in their home away from home. As time goes on, they get to know their dorm mates (all fellow flexi boarders) better and better, these relationships flourish and the boys’ comfort is only amplified.