



BOARDING 2024



PETER
SYMONDS
COLLEGE



BOARDING LIFE

AT PETER SYMONDS



Boarding at Peter Symonds College is a unique experience. Our ethos is to provide a stepping stone between secondary school and university or the world of work. Boarding at PSC offers a safe and supportive environment, in which all staff support and motivate students to achieve to the best of their abilities.

Our boarding students have the use of the LRC (Learning Resource Centre) and IT suite until 7.30pm Monday to Thursday and there are also opportunities to have supervised sessions in the multi-gym and sports hall. Boarders are expected to take responsibility for their own personal laundry as well as looking after their own financial affairs.

During the working week, the houses operate 'quiet time' where boarders are encouraged to study and we expect the houses to be quiet. Boarders are free to come and go from the house within free periods, evenings and weekends. However, there are certain times of the day where the house is shut for cleaning.

The boarding houses usually close on the last day of term or half-term and remain closed for the duration of the holidays. They reopen on the afternoon of the day before the start of lessons. There is also an exeat weekend which coincides with the May Day holiday, when students are expected to vacate the houses between 4.55pm on the Friday and 6.00pm on the Monday (Bank Holiday). All boarders must have a guardian/relative in the UK, who will accommodate boarders at these times if they are unable to travel home.

We host a variety of events throughout the year for boarders to enjoy, including an initial team building day, Christmas dining-in, inter-house sports days as well as other event ideas put forward by boarders.

At the beginning of each college year students can put themselves forward to become Boarding Representatives. The Boarding Representatives are the boarders' voice at meetings with the Heads of Boarding and Catering.

WELCOMING

Our two boarding houses offer a warm, friendly environment on which our focus is preparing students for university or the workplace.

Our boarders are encouraged to be independent and resilient, whether it be managing their own study time, doing their own laundry or participating in the wider community.

HOME FROM HOME

We have a dedicated catering team that provides nutritious and varied meals for our boarders. At the weekends, boarders can enjoy brunch, and various themed nights are organised throughout the year. Boarders may also make breakfast drinks and snacks in the boarding house kitchens.

INCLUSIVE

In 2023, an Ofsted inspection rated our boarding provision as 'Good' and highlighted that our boarding houses provide 'welcoming and inclusive environments' for our boarders. Adding that 'Young people enjoy attending the boarding provision and benefit from making new friends and meeting people from a diverse range of backgrounds.'



SCAN THE CODE
TO READ MORE
ABOUT BOARDING

PSC.AC.UK/
BOARDING

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

AT PETER SYMONDS

HOW DO I APPLY?

You are able to apply for a boarding place online at www.psc.ac.uk/apply from Monday 18 September 2023. You will be able to save all your information as you go and check everything that you have entered before you submit your application.

The deadline for boarding applications is 6 November 2023.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The College does not select for academic ability; our aim is to offer you a course that is suited to you. In order to undertake a Level 3 course you must gain a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 or above (or equivalent), including English and Maths. There are also specific entry criteria for particular subjects which are set out in our prospectus. Students can study an A Level programme or a combination of A Levels and Level 3 vocational courses.

Places in boarding are limited and will be allocated according to our assessment of the academic and boarding needs of each individual student. The College's assessment will be influenced by one or more of the following and priority will be given to:

Students progressing directly from Year 11.

Students over 16 but under 17 on 1 Sept 2024.

Students who apply by the deadline.

Students whose siblings are already here.

Students who qualify for a Level 3 course, by their predicted grades, school reference, etc.

Suitability for boarding as demonstrated at interview at the College. An interview does not guarantee a place.

WHAT ARE THE FEES?

The boarding fees for September 2024/25 are £18,945 per year for Falkland Lodge and £17,580 per year for School House. The rooms in Falkland Lodge have en-suite facilities, hence the higher charge. A £1,500 non-refundable deposit will be required to secure a boarding place, payable once an offer is made.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

Applications will only be accepted between 18 Sept and 6 Nov 2023. Any applications for boarding received after 6 Nov and before the College deadline, 11 Dec 2023, will be placed on a reserve list. References will be requested from your current school.

WILL I HAVE AN INTERVIEW?

As places are limited, we are not able to invite all applicants for an interview. Applicants who are invited for interview will be contacted by the Admissions department once a reference has been received. All students invited for an interview are expected to attend this interview at the College with their parents/guardians. In exceptional cases it may be possible to organise a Zoom interview.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE INTERVIEW?

Your visit to the College will last around a couple of hours and in that time you will have a College admissions interview and an interview with the Head of Boarding. During the admissions interview you will talk about your course choices and the differences between school and sixth form life. Your interview with the Head of Boarding will deal with what to expect in boarding and your suitability to board. In addition to the interviews you will be given a tour of the Boarding Houses, where you will meet the Day House Parents.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE INTERVIEW?

The overall decision on whether you are offered a place will be made by the Boarding Admissions Team. We aim to make the majority of offers by January 2024.

WHICH BOARDING HOUSE WOULD I BE IN?

At your interview you will be asked which Boarding House you would prefer. Although we aim to take students preferences into account, we are not always able to do so.



WHAT GCSE GRADES WILL I NEED TO ACHIEVE?

You will need to achieve at least five GCSEs at grade 4 or above (or equivalent), including English and Maths (standard entry requirements), as well as any course-specific requirements set out in our prospectus. If you do not achieve these grades, the College will need to review your application.



“There is a large, friendly community here and I’ve made some great friends since coming to the College. Whatever subjects you choose, you’re bound to feel part of it too. You’ll also find a huge variety of support here, which is very accessible and well-publicised.”

Doug Marsh, Falkland Lodge



SCHOOL HOUSE

Built in 1908 for the first Headmaster of the College, Telford Varley, this is a Victorian building right in the centre of all the College resources. Housing students in single, double and triple rooms, it has separate sections for different genders. Its facilities include a large common room with TV, games and pool table, a kitchen, a laundry room and a dedicated work room equipped with computers, multifunction LED printer and conference table.

FALKLAND LODGE

Opened in 1998 and situated on the edge of the campus next to the sports fields, Falkland Lodge is a 48-bed purpose-built boarding house with 14 single and 17 double rooms available to boarders. All rooms are en-suite and areas are separated for different genders. It has communal areas and work rooms, a kitchen, laundry room and a TV lounge with doors leading to the patio and garden area.

ADMISSIONS TIMETABLE

2023

18 September Apply online at www.psc.ac.uk/apply

3 & 4 October College Open Evenings

6 November Boarding application deadline: 4pm

2024

January The majority of boarding offers made

27 & 28 June Welcome Days. Boarders are very welcome to join one of these days but we understand this may not be possible for all students.

22 August GCSE results are published. Boarders will need to email their results as soon as possible.

5 September Boarders arrive

6 September Induction day

9 September First day of term





SAFEGUARDING

We recognise that we play a key role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students. Where we have concerns about an individual's safety or wellbeing, we will do our best to help and support, but there might be situations where we may need to pass our concerns on to the local Children's Services Department or the police or health services. As students are below the age of 18 when they join us we have a particular duty to make sure they feel and are safe while in our care.

The College also has a duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being radicalised and drawn into extremism, which is also treated as a safeguarding matter.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The College is fully committed in all of its functions and activities to eliminating unfair discrimination, to promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people of different groups, including groups characterised by age, disability (physical and mental health), gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

We take active steps to promote equality of opportunity and celebrate diversity and will take action to prevent racial or sexual harassment, sexist or racist jokes and insults, bullying and any other form of intimidation or discrimination. We are committed to ensuring that disabled people (including those with medical conditions) are treated fairly. We will make reasonable adjustments to provision to ensure that anyone with a disability is not disadvantaged.

The College expects all students to show consideration and respect for others, in keeping with fundamental British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These are also values shared by many throughout the world.

“I've enjoyed meeting new and different people, and have learnt so much from them. The freedom and respect we are given as students definitely helps us become more independent. There are so many places to work and learn in the college, which makes it easier to enjoy doing work.”

Willa Madel, School House



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