

Plymouth College

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BOARDING



INTRODUCTION

Plymouth College replicates the best qualities of family life in the boarding house. The school is warm and welcoming; the children are happy and absorbed in their work and play, and enjoy opportunities that they simply would not have elsewhere. We often hear students, within days of starting at the school, saying that the boarding house feels like a second home. These are indeed moments to be cherished.

The Plymouth College boarding experience is both stimulating and enriching. Investment in boarding facilities by the school has given current and future pupils a standard of accommodation undreamt of in the past. Leisure and study areas create both a sense of community and a growth in independence, as pupils progress from childhood to adulthood in a wonderfully caring environment. There is a sense of collective purpose, shared fun and mutual respect.





BOARDING LIFE

Boarding is a close-knit community where life-long friendships are formed. It offers a unique environment filled with extraordinary experiences that help our young charges to grow into adults who are ready to embrace the world around them.

Lillian, aged 15 China

“You make so many friends.”

Joanne, aged 14 UK

“We are family, I’ve got all my sisters with me.”

Supported at every step by our dedicated staff, it starts with small things like remembering to take clothes to the laundry, to have a clean pair of socks and learning how to make a cup of tea in the junior kitchen, through to working the washing machine and cooking a meal for friends in one of the smaller Sixth Form houses. When our boarders leave us they are very much prepared for independent living, harnessed with skills to be able to think and look after themselves.

Emma, aged 18 UK

“It has been the best home-from-home I could have wished for from Year 7 to Upper Sixth. I have a level of independence which has really helped and prepared me for when I leave school to go to university.”





With more than 30 different nationalities, boarding is truly international, which brings real energy to the houses.

Emir, aged 15 Turkey

“Food is good especially on Saturday and Sunday night.”

“Boarding gives you the opportunity to play sport with your friends after the school day.”

With a great mix of cultures, boarders from home and abroad come together in all they do, learning from each other to create incredibly strong global bonds. Language skills for our international students improve substantially through conversation and interaction with other boarders so that speaking English becomes part of their everyday lives. This enhances not only their social experience but also their ability to learn and do the best they can in their academic studies as well as life beyond the school.





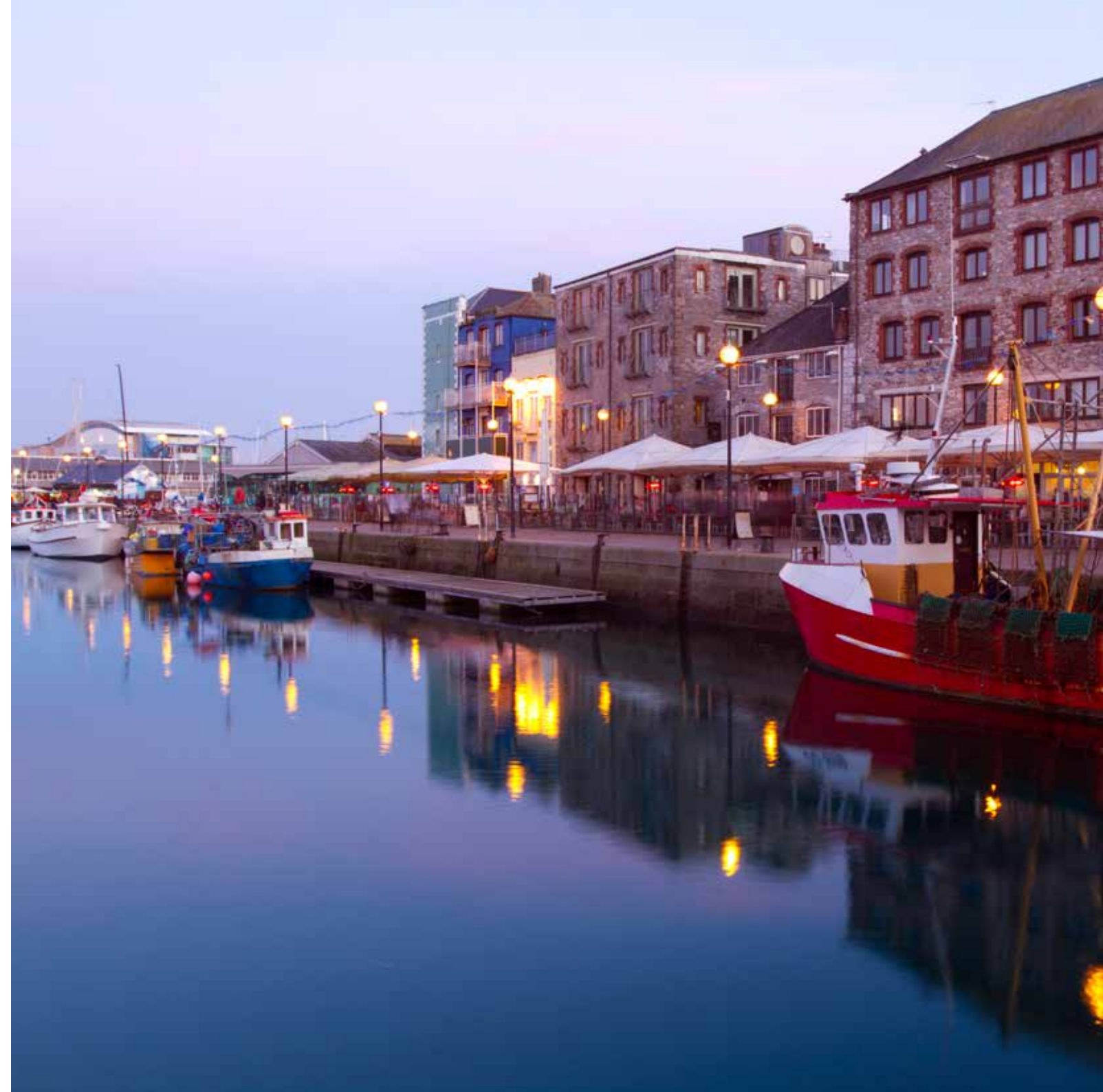
LOCATION

Plymouth College is based in the stunning South West of England, an area where students will get a truly English boarding school experience.

The school is situated within the bustling centre of Britain's 'Ocean City'. Plymouth has something for everyone, a shopping mall with both local and global brands; a multi-cinema complex with the latest releases; an award-winning theatre with West End shows and the historic Barbican packed with cafes and restaurants offering cuisines from around the world. The iconic sea front, the Hoe, is a spectacular backdrop for a range of outdoor events each year.

Plymouth is bordered by the beautiful landscape of Dartmoor where students can take part in moorland walking and other outdoor pursuits, including overnight stays at our cottage, Whiteworks. The picturesque beaches of Devon and Cornwall are easily accessible where surfing, sailing, coasteering and kayaking are favourite activities.

Plymouth College is easily accessible via our local international airports, Exeter and Bristol, with a transport service available from these airports. We provide a chaperoned transport service for boarders to UK national airports: including Heathrow and Gatwick.





CARE

There is a real family atmosphere running through our boarding community and boarders thrive in a friendly environment so that they feel at home from the day they arrive.

The Housemaster and Housemistress, lead a dedicated and experienced team. The team is a mixture of teachers, graduate assistants and professionals, such as matrons, who are responsible for all aspects of boarding pupils' welfare, whether it is comforting them when unwell; celebrating successes or offering support and guidance.

The Health Centre runs daily before and after school for boarders as well as throughout the day. Visiting healthcare professionals, such as physios, GPs and counsellors run on-site clinics on a regular basis. Close bonds, developed between staff and boarders, meaning that there is always someone to go to on an individual basis.

Academic staff run supervised homework sessions and are on hand to offer extra support when needed.

The boarders themselves are given positions of responsibility, with Sixth Form Prefects and Heads of House helping to look after the younger pupils. New boarders are given a 'buddy' who will help guide them through their early days in boarding.





While there is a member of staff available at all times, boarders are given space to be themselves within the house, in their free time. Outside of the house younger boarders take part in organised activities but, as they get older, they are allowed to go off-site in small groups at certain times: perhaps to go shopping with friends; meet for coffee or go to the cinema. It is all part of growing up and gaining confidence as they become more independent. Boarding has a daily laundry and cleaning service, but boarders are expected to organise their washing, make their own beds and keep their bedrooms tidy.

Sixth Form boarders are offered more independence and facilities so they can do things for themselves. Meals are taken in the school dining room, offering a great choice of cuisines every day, with a mixture of English and world dishes. Each of the boarding houses has their own kitchen where drinks and snacks can be made. Cake baking is a popular activity at the weekends!







FACILITIES

Our main house is College House: a row of Victorian villas, with two satellite houses – Thompson and The Haven. In College House the boys and girls houses are separated by the Housemaster's residence. The other house staff have self-contained apartments throughout the boarding community.

Younger boarders tend to share 3 to a bedroom, while seniors have twin or single accommodation. Within the bedrooms, each boarder has their own space, with plenty of storage, pin boards for posters, desk, wifi and school network connection. Bathrooms with private showering facilities are located throughout the boarding houses.





Common rooms are hubs of activity in the evenings with boys and girls coming together after homework has been finished to watch TV, play games or just chat and there are various activities on offer such as playing pool in the games room, or making cards and jewellery in the craft room to name but a few. Sixth Formers have their own space and there are separate music practice and computer rooms.

Boarding pupils also have use of the school's sports facilities in the evenings and at weekends; maybe a swim in the pool; badminton in the sports hall; rounders on the school field or football on the astro pitch. There is plenty to keep them active and occupied.





ACTIVITIES

The pace picks up at weekends, with boarders going off-site for group activities. Making the most of our city centre location, as well as our close proximity to the beautiful moors and beaches of the South West, activities range from ten-pin bowling, ice-skating, cinema trips and paintballing to boat trips, pitch and putt golf, moorland walking, surfing and dry-slope skiing. These activities are not only a lot of fun but are a great way of building team spirit and confidence. Occasionally, there are quieter weekends to allow boarders to rest and relax. All of these activities are in addition to the many clubs, music and drama opportunities, theatre trips, outdoor pursuits, sports matches and practices that take place during lunchtimes, after school and at weekends for the whole school.

Boarding also hosts its own events, such as Christmas and Halloween parties and the Leavers' Dinner.





WEEKLY & SHORT STAY

Weekly boarding offers the perfect balance for students who want to get the most out of their educational experience Monday to Friday. Integrated throughout the houses, weekly boarders are very much part of the boarding family and receive the same level of care and opportunity as full boarders.

With no daily commute, boarding pupils start the day with a leisurely and hearty breakfast, knowing that their first lesson is just a few steps away. Weekly boarding is available, subject to availability, on a term-by-term basis, four nights a week and includes dedicated bed, evening meal and breakfast, laundry service and evening activities. We also offer occasional boarding, which allows day pupils to stay a handful of times a year.

For international students there is a short-stay, full boarding option giving them the opportunity of experiencing life in an English school while improving their language skills, typically for one or two terms. Many enjoy their time here so much that they stay on to complete full GCSE or A Level courses. One-year boarding packages for pre-A Level courses are also part of the mix.





OUR BOARDERS

Lizzie

With her family living in Kuwait, Lizzie came to the school as a boarder in Year 10. She became Head Girl and Head of House in boarding.

Lizzie said "lessons are dynamic and students often had the opportunity to lead practical sessions". After taking her exams, Lizzie took a gap year, in which she studied a TEFL course, travelled and undertook volunteering work.



Sarah

Year 11 pupil, Sarah, from Hong Kong, came to the school on the recommendation of her brother, Matthew.

"Maths is my favourite subject and I intend to stay at Plymouth College for the Sixth Form to study maths and science".

"I am particularly looking forward to the Malawi trip, where I will be working alongside medics in village clinics, which will be invaluable work experience". Sarah likes to play basketball, badminton and is an active member of the school orchestra playing the violin.

Max

Year 9 pupil, Max, from Germany, only came to Plymouth College for a term but enjoyed it so much that he stayed until 6th form and his brother is also following him to the college. He chose Plymouth College after meeting the Headmaster in Munich. Max, who shares a room with Oscar and Sean, both from England, said: "Of course I miss my family but boarding is really nice and I have made lots of friends. I am really keen on sailing and Plymouth is great for that. We have had some fun days out on Dartmoor and I have enjoyed playing rugby and cricket."



Andy

Andy, 18, from Moscow, joined Plymouth College in the Sixth Form. He was previously at a school in Reading but decided to make the move because of Plymouth College's reputation for Economics.

Settling in quickly, Andy became a boarding prefect. Very focussed on his studies, he was offered a place at Kingston University to read International Business. He liked that fact that the school was in the city centre and enjoyed going out with his friends.





LANGUAGE SUPPORT

All international students have their written and spoken English assessed prior to arriving at Plymouth College to ensure we put in place the support they will need.

Specialist tuition from the EAL (English as an additional language) team is available during the school day, throughout a student's time at the school. English may be taught in either small groups or on a one-to-one basis. Our aim is to help all of our students to use English confidently and competently in a range of contexts.

The Head of EAL works closely with colleagues in boarding, teachers and with parents to provide students with the best educational experience.

Students are also prepared for the internationally recognised IELTS exams for entry into UK Universities.





MILITARY

Plymouth is steeped in military history having played a significant role in conflicts from the Spanish Armada and Napoleonic Wars, through to both World Wars.

Dating from 1871, Plymouth College has one of the oldest Combined Cadet Forces in the country and with the naval base at Devonport, the army commando battery at the Citadel and the marine barracks at Stonehouse and Bickleigh, it is no surprise that the school has a long tradition of welcoming students from military families.

The transient nature of life in the armed forces makes boarding a popular option and we are able to provide an environment that offers military children stability and continuity. The CEA (continuity of education allowance) is available to all ranks and, together with our own armed forces discount, a family typically pays just 10% of the school's termly fees. Where the CEA is not applicable, the school offers its own armed forces discount of 20% off the termly fees.



THE NEXT STEP

Plymouth College is proud of its exceptional students, who are confident, articulate, empathetic, globally-minded and prepared for success.

The “something special” that a Plymouth College educational experience provides can only be fully understood by getting to know us better; to that end we would encourage you to visit us and see for yourself.

To book a visit to the school please contact the Admissions Department on +44 1752 505115 or email admissions@plymouthcollege.com

We look forward to seeing you soon.

