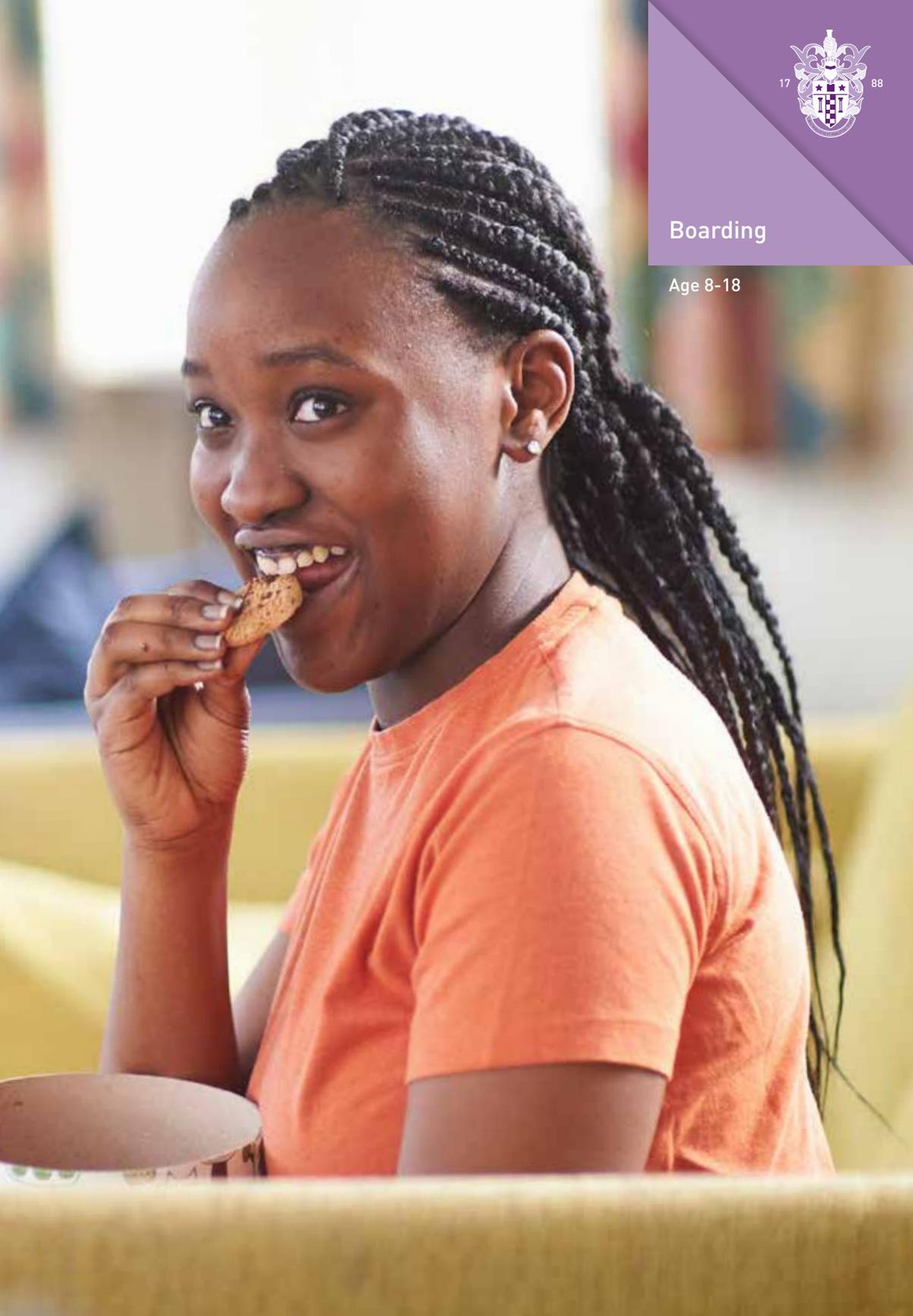




## Boarding

Age 8-18





I am delighted that you are considering boarding at RMS for your daughter.

Boarding at RMS is flexible, fun and supportive. Full, weekly and flexi boarders live in three boarding houses depending on their year group. All our Houses have great character and warmth, and offer a real home from home feel. We are a family. Here, your daughter will sleep, study, relax and make friends, under the caring eye of an experienced housemistress and her team.

Boarding offers girls a raft of benefits and it is a pleasure for us to watch the girls in our care develop as individuals and as part of our broader school community, of which they are such an integral part. Living within the boarding community teaches your daughter to be independent, tolerant and kind, to know when to compromise and take responsibility, when to ask for help and when to offer help – all skills she will need in her life after school. Boarders have plenty of input into their routine and we try to be as responsive as possible to their feedback via House meetings and Boarders' Council.

Choosing your daughter's boarding school is a huge decision, and we would be only too pleased to discuss this with you. Our girls are the best ambassadors for RMS boarding and they love to show off their "home at school", so do please come and visit with your daughter and see for yourselves what a happy place we have here.

*K Batty*

K Batty, Head of Boarding

# Your daughter's extended family



## Why Board at RMS?

There are a huge number of reasons why boarding may be the best solution to your family's requirements. Boarding is no longer "just" for those who live a long way away; it does not mean your daughter's total absence from the family home for a term at a time; instead, now boarding can be the modern response to your desire to provide your daughter with the best all round school experience, or a practical solution to the constant balancing act between a parent's hectic schedule and that of their child!

Boarding at RMS offers outstanding pastoral care within a nurturing extended family, coupled with a programme of fun activities catering for all interests. Our girls regard boarding here as an opportunity to spend more time with their friends, to gain a little independence, and for our more local boarders at least, to put to better use the hours they might otherwise spend travelling to and from school.

All boarders are offered a balance of fun, study and relaxation after school and at weekend; our boarders learn to live happily together as part of a caring family and develop skills that prepare them for the rest of their lives:

**Sometimes people think it must be hard for boarders to watch day girls going home each day, but I think it is the other way round and the day girls wish they could be boarding with us!**





# Boarding Options

Boarding at RMS, available from Year 3, is highly flexible. Girls can board with us in a number of different ways: from flexi-boarding for one, two or three nights a week; to weekly boarding four or five nights a week; to full boarding seven nights per week during term time. Different options work for different families, and we are committed to working with you to ensure that we offer the best option for your family.

## Full Boarding

Over half of our boarders are full boarders, coming both from the UK and from overseas. Full boarding enables girls to concentrate on their academic studies at the same time of enjoying a fabulous range of activities both in the evenings and at weekends. Girls go home during the holidays and Exeat weekends, but when they are at school, weekends are a healthy balance of activity and relaxation. Girls are able to take advantage of school facilities such as the fitness suite, swimming pool and resource centre, and when there are no planned excursions, girls can choose to wander into town for some shopping, or older boarders can venture into London, just 30 minutes away by train. Full boarding is also excellent preparation for university, as girls are expected to learn how to manage their own time, and balance academic work with the demands of a social life!

## Weekly Boarding

Many families opt for weekly boarding (generally Sunday to Thursday evenings), as for many it offers a perfect solution – a home from home environment during the week, with no tiring commute to school. Weekly boarding allows both girls and their parents to pursue their own interests and schedules during the week and enjoy family time at the weekend.

## Flexible Boarding

Flexible boarding is just that – flexible! Depending on space available, girls can opt to spend one, two or three nights a week at school. This has the advantage of giving girls a break from travelling to school and enabling them to take part in extra-curricular activities without the worry of getting home afterwards.

# Pastoral Care

Of course, pastoral care is at the very centre of everything we do at RMS and we pride ourselves on providing bespoke, individual care to every girl in the school; our girls' wellbeing is every member of staff's top priority, and nowhere more so than in our boarding houses. Boarding staff collaborate with other members of staff to ensure that the emotional, social, intellectual and physical wellbeing of all our girls is being looked after.

Pastoral care goes far beyond simply caring for the day to day needs of your daughter; excellent pastoral care is central to the success of all girls in our care, and we aim to ensure that all our girls leave us ready and prepared for a successful future, armed with confidence, self-belief and a sense of compassion and respect for others

The boarding house is a second home for our girls, and staff work hard to create a "home from home" atmosphere, a caring community where every member feels part of an extended family, where every girl knows that she has someone to turn to for support, where she develops the confidence to challenge herself, the resilience to withstand the demands of modern life, and the belief to be whatever she wants to be.

Housemistresses, House Tutors, our team of GAP assistants and older, more experienced boarders are all on hand to help girls settle into the boarding houses, and to offer advice and guidance when needed. We are confident that every boarder in our care will find someone she can talk to freely and easily. Girls across the age groups forge close relationships

RMS has its own dedicated Health Centre on site, which is exceptionally well-equipped, and staffed by qualified nurses, one of whom is always on call overnight and at weekends. In addition to this, a local GP holds a weekly surgery (and additionally if necessary).

The School Chaplain has a prominent role within the School community, and boarders also have access to a confidential counselling service with a professional counsellor who visits the school once a week. Dedicated support is also on hand for girls for whom English is not their first language

The relationship between school and home is of paramount importance, and the school has clear channels of communication with parents, with regular contact ensuring that each girl's triumphs are jointly celebrated, and any difficulties shared and solved quickly.



# Accommodation and Catering

Large cold dorms are the thing of the past! All our boarders enjoy ample personal space and bright and inviting common rooms. At our last inspection, our boarding provision was rated outstanding by inspectors.

We have three boarding houses; Harris for girls up to Year 9, Zetland for Years 10 and 11, and Connaught for Sixth Formers. All three houses are located right at the heart of the School, on the "Garth". Boarders up to Year 8 sleep in small dormitories; in Year 9 girls share with one or two others; in Years 10 and up, most girls share a twin room, although there are some single study bedrooms for Sixth Formers. All bedrooms are decorated and furnished to a high standard, and have a cosy, welcoming feel. Each house has a common room, kitchen facilities and garden. Wifi access is available in all houses.

**At our last inspection, our boarding provision was rated outstanding by inspectors.**

Great importance is attached to food at RMS and we are particularly proud of the excellent food that our boarders receive – ask any girl what the best thing is about RMS boarding, and you are bound to hear about our famous roast dinners! All our meals are healthy and nutritious and we always make sure we offer a range of options to suit even the fussiest of palates! Our Boarders' Food Council gives girls the chance to have their say about the meals! Staff are on hand to encourage healthy eating and to ensure that the girls have a balanced diet.

Breakfast at RMS is either continental or cooked, and fresh fruit juices and smoothies are available every day. Boarders and day girls eat lunch together in the main Dining Hall, and service is buffet style. There is always a wide choice to suit everyone with a main meal always offered alongside jacket potatoes, pasta, rice or noodle dishes. Soups, salads and sandwiches are also always available.

Overseas boarders all appreciate the combination of British classics and international flavours; major festivals are also celebrated with the appropriate foods!

Of course, Housemistresses like to treat the girls, ice cream, takeaway pizza and cakes make an appearance from time to time....!





## Weekend Activities

Once the homework is done, weekends are a time for discovery and fun! Teamwork, perseverance and commitment are developed through our broad range of activities - physical, cultural, social and recreational. Every weekend we offer something to appeal to all our boarding students, balanced, of course, with some relaxation.

Weekend activities are open to all boarders (girls in Year 9 and below participate in the full programme and older boarders choose a minimum of two activities per term). Here are just a few of the outings and activities we had last year...

- Team Building Outdoor Activities at Cuffley
- Gravity Force St Albans
- The Making of Harry Potter at Leavesden Studios
- The Foundling Museum
- Shrek's Adventure
- Apple Picking
- Making Slime
- Camp out on the fields
- The Seaside at Brighton
- Science Museum
- Bowling
- Cinema
- Ice Skating
- Pamper Day
- Craft Day
- Bonfire Night and Fireworks

**Boarders benefit from a full and varied programme of after school and weekend activities; our proximity to London allows our boarders to take full advantage of the cultural life of the capital**



**RMS**  
FOR GIRLS

**RMS girls think differently**

**[RMSforgirls.org.uk](http://RMSforgirls.org.uk)**

**@RMSBoarders**

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