



FUN, FRIENDLY AND FLEXIBLE  
BOARDING AT EASTBOURNE COLLEGE

2019-20

## BOARDING AT THE COLLEGE

*The quality of boarding education is excellent.*

ISI Inspection Report September 2014



Eastbourne College is a co-educational, boarding and day school for pupils aged 13–18, where both boarders and day pupils have full access to all that the school offers. Located on the sunshine coast only 80 minutes by train from Clapham Junction and

only 50 minutes from Gatwick, boys and girls develop in a stimulating yet safe environment.

The College is an educational community in its broadest sense rather than solely an academic institution. It affords a huge range

of opportunities outside the classroom, and provides the time, space, care and expertise to enable children to benefit fully from everything available.

## Excellent results

Eastbourne College pupils typically achieve at least one grade more than predicted moving from GCSE to A-level. The proportion of pupils achieving top grades has increased in recent years with three quarters of A-level grades awarded an A\*, A or B in 2019. At GCSE, around 60 per cent of grades were awarded 9, 8 or 7 (equivalent to the former A\* or A). Thirty five per cent of the GCSE grades in 2019 were awarded the top 9 or 8.

With almost 90 full-time specialist subject teachers and more than 20 part-time teachers, the school is able to deliver excellent teaching across a broad range of subjects. Departments are frequently open during the evenings and offer additional support at weekends and in the holidays.

## Family-friendly boarding

In September 2019, the timetable changed to maximise the use of the best teaching and learning times on weekdays, and to preserve the College's commitment to deliver

excellence in a modern connected school.

The school now offers more flexibility than ever with a new shape to the weekend. There are no core curriculum lessons on Saturday mornings. Work-life balance is as important for our parents as it is for our pupils and we are offering a choice. Saturday mornings are alive with a fully-staffed programme of academic enrichment, study support and co-curricular opportunities.

This allows pupils to opt in to a thriving and purposeful Saturday community while also offering them the chance to opt out if family time is needed. Boarders appreciate the flexibility of being able to relax in home clothes or College sports attire, start a little later on a Saturday morning or go directly to sports fixtures. They sometimes choose to go home on a Friday night, returning to school at any time during the weekend (within reason) or return to school on Monday morning in time for registration.



## UNIQUE LOCATION



Eastbourne College is located close to the centre of the lovely seaside town of Eastbourne, officially the sunniest place in the UK. The school has a stunning location, minutes from the beach and the South Downs, a glorious national park.

Pupils grow up in a healthy environment that is busy and purposeful without being hectic or pressured. They enjoy easy access to the

South Downs, the beach, the Devonshire Park Tennis Centre and the Royal Eastbourne Golf Course, in addition to the College's superb facilities on site. They have controlled access to the town (for the cafés, cinema, restaurants and shops) and learn to become independent young adults.

The College is a short walk from a mainline station which is, in turn, only a 50-minute train



journey from Gatwick Airport (a frequent shuttle service allows transfer to Heathrow). Trains run to London Victoria in 90 minutes and to Ashford International (and from there into Europe) in an hour. Furthermore, assisted transfers to and from airports for younger pupils can easily be arranged.

## SUPERB PASTORAL CARE – THE HOUSE SYSTEM

All boys and girls join a house when they enter the College. For boarders, there are five boarding houses: three for boys and two for girls. Pupils remain in the same house throughout their time at the school. House year groups vary between ten and 12, with more boys and girls joining in the Lower Sixth, and each house holds between 60 and 70 pupils.

All the boarding houses are staffed by a resident housemaster or housemistress (hsm) who is supported by a strong team of experienced tutors, one (or more) of whom is also resident. The boarding houses also have a resident matron. The hsm is the primary point of contact for pupils and parents. They, and where appropriate matrons and tutors, are in frequent contact with parents.

Above all else, the houses are home for our pupils. They are welcoming social environments with common rooms, TV areas and kitchens to make snacks as well as being places for independent study. All pupils are known for who they are, and



there are numerous opportunities to take on responsibilities and try new initiatives. Every house has a varied social calendar that includes dinners, outings, revues, parent forums, plays and sporting fixtures, many of which parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

Modern technology ensures distance from home is no barrier to staying in contact. All pupils have access to Skype and hsm's will frequently update parents on their children's progress. We place great emphasis upon the shared responsibility between hsm and parents for the happiness and wellbeing of the children.

In addition to the hsm and the team of house tutors, the head, second master; deputy head (pastoral), chaplain, school counsellor and those who work in the medical centre are all integral parts of the College's excellent pastoral system. Together they work to ensure that children's strengths are recognised and developed so that pupils feel valued and affirmed.

*Boarders develop into polite and articulate young people in the supportive and caring atmosphere of the school and their boarding houses.*

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## THE MEDICAL CENTRE

The medical centre occupies its own building on the College site and is open to all pupils, both day and boarding. Medical cover is available day and night for boarders. The ground floor accommodates the consulting and treatment rooms (including physiotherapy) and, on the first floor, there are in-patient rooms.

The medical centre is staffed by experienced and qualified nurses who provide a friendly, efficient and professional service to all pupils and staff. Three doctors rotate and hold regular surgeries each week during term time, and the boarders are registered with the medical officers on an NHS basis. Two qualified counsellors, who are on site a couple of times a week, make up the third part of the medical centre team. Parents are welcome to contact the medical centre at any time concerning the health and welfare of a pupil.

*The medical centre has excellent facilities for sick boarders, and dedicated rooms where boarders may receive specialist treatment, for example from visiting physiotherapists.*

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## FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...

For any new boarder joining the College, there is a comprehensive induction programme to welcome them to their new school and to help them settle in and feel at home. In addition to the house staff, senior pupils play a supporting role in helping new arrivals find

their way around their new surroundings and acting as mentors while they settle into new routines. At weekends, pupils are able to take part in the opportunities offered on Saturday mornings, and many are involved in the Saturday afternoon sports

programme. A comprehensive range of organised activities is offered throughout the weekend, and there is also time to enjoy some unstructured free time, go into town, relax, watch TV or work at the end of a very busy week.



For further information

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An Eastbourne College boarder will be supported, inspired, engaged and cared for.

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