

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new year at Queen Mary's. Below are a few updates on the boarding front which I hope you will find helpful.

We have rearranged the telephone numbers to make contact with boarding staff quicker and easier. The old Surgery number of 01845 575044 is now the boarding number and will enable you to speak to either myself or one of the Matrons. This number can also be used for emergency contact with your daughter. If you wish to contact Mrs Beaumont, the new Surgery number is 01845 575045.

Over the last school year, the amount of tuck in school has become a matter of concern. Not only are many girls eating excessive amounts of tuck but there have also been several occasions when sweets have been stolen and this naturally causes distress and distrust in dormitories. Encouraging healthy eating is not only giving the girls correct information to enable them to make healthy choices, but also providing a well balanced, nutritional diet. What the girls eat now will lay the basis for future health and also teach eating habits for life. The importance of this cannot be overstressed.

We have a new set of menus and these will be regularly discussed and amended through the Food Committee with pupil consultation. These menus are designed to encourage the girls to eat healthily and so reduce the desire to fill up on snacks and tuck. No pupil, day girl or boarder, may bring any tuck into school. Tuck shop for the boarders will be run three times a week in the Day Room and girls will be allowed to buy either a bar of chocolate, one packet of sweets, dried fruits or other healthy options. There will be an extra tuck shop on Saturday evening for weekend boarders and the tuck shop expenditure will be added to each girl's termly bill.

Once again the signing in and out book will be in the Outer Hall. We will continue to remind boarders to use this but a gentle reminder from parents when collecting girls would be most appreciated.

If your daughter is a weekly boarder and you would like her to spend a weekend with us, please let the boarding staff know by noon on the Thursday prior to the weekend. In an emergency, we will, of course, be happy to look after your daughter for the weekend without prior notice.

There is an exciting programme of refurbishment underway which will modernise and refresh the boarding accommodation. By working mainly throughout the coming holidays we hope to minimise any inconvenience.

Finally I am delighted to announce that Miss Laura McElroy is to become a full time Matron, replacing Miss Sally Webster. Miss McElroy has proved invaluable since arriving in Queen Mary's last January and I am confident that she will make an excellent Matron.

I look forward to seeing you all again next week and catching up with the holiday news.

Best wishes

Pamela Johnson  
Head of Boarding

