

Oaklands College Residential Department

Statement of Principles and Practice

Within Oaklands College St Albans Campus, there is a residential provision that accommodates students across the academic year. As a standalone provision the department has a number of area specific roles and responsibilities that coincide with and support the main College ethos and values.

The Residential Department operates a term time only provision providing accommodation for up to 81 students based in our new Homestead building. The Homestead is an 81 bedroom residential halls of residence with two communal areas and communal kitchens.

All accommodation complies with robust Health and Safety systems, with weekly house and fire checks in place, regular fire drills and all other compulsory processes in place such as PAT testing, first aid kit updates, and fire equipment maintenance. A very simple reporting system is in place to ensure that defects are remedied within a timely manner.

The provision is for students aged 16 and 17 but will accept students that will turn 18 in year. The Head of Residential supports the allocation of the accommodation working with the curriculum with selection criteria based on distance, sporting ability (if academy) and suitability to living onsite (primarily medical, safeguarding and behaviour).

As the residential facility is for 16- and 17-year-old students, those who turn 18 before the 31st of August will not be permitted to reside in residential. The Residential Team can support over 18s to find suitable offsite accommodation where possible.

Accommodation can be provided for new students subject to them meeting the following criteria.

- They have good behaviour records and medical references
- They cannot reasonably travel from home on a daily basis
- They have achieved both curriculum and academy places at the college
- They are classified as an elite athlete and rated highly by the academy heads
- They are under 18 at the start of the academic year

For those looking to stay on for a second year the same criteria applies plus the following.

- In the first year there were no attendance or punctuality issues
- Conduct and behaviour was satisfactory
- All curriculum work was completed and an offer of continuation is in place

The nature of the accommodation is that room sizes vary slightly. All students are placed in wings with peers of the same gender. The Residential Team may need to reallocate students to alternative rooms or wings during the academic year, if the need arises. If this situation arises the Residential Team will meet with affected students to discuss any issues plans and assess student feedback. Parents and Academies will be informed of the final decision.

Students, parents and academies can apply to the Residential Manager, to request to change rooms. All requests will be considered through consultation with the relevant academy head and tutors.

The residential team offer a physical presence on a 24 / 7 basis throughout term time. During the night the provision is managed by live in wardens and backed up by an emergency mobile phone system, with additional through the night support by the onsite security team. The gated entry to the Campus is locked throughout the night, in the unusual circumstances should there be any late returners then this will be organised between the security team and night warden.

The team operates with a Head of Residential, Residential Supervisor, Residential Warden (2 on duty), Residential Officer (x3) and Residential daytime support workers (x2). The Residential service operates on a 24/7 basis throughout term time with a day service and night service. The team has a minimum of three daily welfare checks (morning checks, at evening meal, and at evening curfew which is 11pm). In addition, any extra welfare support is available throughout the day via a mobile phone system or through contacting the on-site worker. First aid support is available at all times and the residential team will ensure that students receive any medical treatment.

Every evening a social and study space is available for all students to access as well as evening gym sessions. The team provide additional evening enrichment activities, in consultation with the students, ranging from the regular shopping trip to offsite activities such as bowling or swimming. All students will engage in an updated individual living programme that will focus on domestic skills and ensure that the young people are able to function efficiently and confidently away from home.

The Head of Residential leads the student feedback mechanisms supported by the Senior Leadership Team with the commitment to three focus groups taking in feedback on the service and making changes and improvements where necessary. This feedback supports the Residential Management Group, which brings together the services and facilities that underpin residential such as IT, Student Advice, Safeguarding, Facilities and the Sports Academies.

The residential team operate a key worker system whereby all students will have an allocated worker from the team. All key workers will provide additional support to the students as well as carrying out termly one to one target setting and evaluation meetings alongside the regular monitoring of academic performance including attendance and punctuality.

The residential team all take an active role in the continuous development of the residential service with specific emphasis on student welfare, health and safety, conflict management, student discipline, management of student properties and security. The team all have individual termly supervision as well as a number of planned team meetings and job specific forums.

The staff also regularly advocate for students across the College, as well as facilitate access to additional support such as the Student Advice Team and offer information and advice to students on various subjects

The overarching aim of the residential department is to develop a safe and inclusive community environment for residential students. The department is responsive to need and can flexibly accommodate students who may have additional needs. Additional accessible rooms are available for those with physical requirements. The catering department operate as per requirements and offer a range of meals subject to allergies or specific nutritional necessities. In relation to religious needs the campus has an onsite multi faith facility available every day for use by staffing or students. Respect for cultural or religious occasions is paramount and students are able to access the onsite multi faith facility.

Student behaviour is managed in accordance with college policy. Breaches of tenancy agreements or College rules will incur a range of penalties. Minor misdemeanours will result in residential or academy sanctions which can range in severity. More serious issues are dealt with through the student behaviour Policy.

Further detailed information can be located within the Residential Accommodation Handbook or the residential Staff Manual.