



PETER SYMONDS COLLEGE

BOARDING
2020 ENTRY



BOARDING LIFE

Boarding at Peter Symonds College is a unique experience as it is the only state sixth form college in the UK to offer it. Our ethos is to make it a stepping stone between secondary school and university. Boarders are encouraged to be independent, whether it be managing their own study time, doing their own laundry or making snacks in the house.

We have two co-educational boarding houses – Falkland Lodge and School House – with places for 73 boarders in total.

The accommodation in each house is staffed 24 hours a days, 7 days a week. Resident House Parents live in the house and are supported by Day House Parents, Assistant House Parents and cleaners.

All our boarders eat together in the College refectory and may also make snacks in the boarding house kitchens. They have the use of the LRC (Learning Resource Centre) and IT suite until 19:30 Monday to Thursday and there are also opportunities to have supervised sessions in the multi-gym and sports hall. Boarders are expected to take responsibility for their own personal laundry as well as looking after their own financial affairs.



During the working week the houses are kept quiet for study from 09:00 to 10:50 and 18:30 to 20:30. They are closed to students between 11:10 to 12:55 when the Day House Parents attend to clerical matters and the houses are cleaned.

Boarders are free to go out as they wish during the day and evening but will be expected to return to the houses by 22:20 and be upstairs and quiet by 23:00. Visitors are welcome at certain times as approved by staff.



The boarding houses close on the last day of term or half term and remain closed for the duration of the holidays. They reopen on the afternoon of the day before the start of lessons. There is also an exeat weekend which coincides with the May Day holiday when you are expected to vacate the houses between 17:00 on the Friday and 18:00 on the Monday (Bank Holiday). All boarders must have a guardian/relative in the UK, who will accommodate boarders at these times, if you are unable to travel home.

As a college we encourage students to become more independent and responsible. This ethos enables students to make the next steps to university/employment with confidence and ease.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

HOW DO I APPLY?

You will be able to apply for a boarding place online at www.psc.ac.uk/apply from Monday 9 September 2019. You will be able to save all your information as you go and check everything that you have entered before you submit your application. The deadline for boarding applications is 8 November 2019.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The College is non-selective on the basis of academic ability; our aim is to offer you a course that is suited to you. In order to undertake a level 3 course you must gain a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and Maths. There are also specific entry criteria for particular subjects which are set out in the prospectus. Students can study an A level programme or a combination of A levels and level 3 vocational courses.

In summary, places in boarding are limited and will be allocated according to our assessment of the academic and boarding needs of each individual student. The College's assessment will be influenced by one or more of the following and priority will be given to:

Students progressing to the College directly from Year 11 and who are aged 16 by 1 September.

Students who are under 17 years of age on 1 September.

Students whose siblings are already at the College.

Students who apply by the deadline for boarding applications.

Students who qualify for a level 3 course, as indicated by their predicted GCSE grades, school reference, etc.

Suitability for boarding as demonstrated at interview at the College on one of the dates specified. An interview does not guarantee a place.



“Boarding at Peter Symonds has fully immersed me in college life and the pastoral care here is amazing. I don't know where I would be without all of the facilities that Symonds offers to every student.”

Lucy Evans, School House

IN OCTOBER 2018,
OFSTED INSPECTED OUR
BOARDING HOUSES AND
AGAIN GRADED US AS
'OUTSTANDING'

Please read the full report at
www.psc.ac.uk/inspection



WHAT ARE THE FEES?

The boarding fees for September 2020/21 are £15,990 for Falkland Lodge and £14,850 for School House. The rooms in Falkland Lodge have en-suite facilities, hence the higher charge. A £1000, non-refundable deposit will be required to secure a place in boarding, payable once an offer is made. This will only be considered for refund after completion of studies at the College.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

Applications will only be accepted between Monday 9 September and Friday 8 November 2019. Any applications for boarding received after 8 November and before the College deadline, Monday 16 December, will be placed on a reserve list. References will be requested from your current school.

WILL I HAVE AN INTERVIEW?

As places are limited, we are not able to invite all applicants for an interview. Applicants who are invited for interview will be contacted by the Admissions Department once a reference has been received. All applicants who wish to be considered for a boarding place must visit the College for an interview with their parents/guardian.

Interviews will take place initially on one of the following dates:

Thursday 24 October 2019

Friday 25 October 2019

Monday 18 November 2019

Monday 16 December 2019

WHAT HAPPENS AT AN INTERVIEW?

Your visit to the College will last a couple of hours and in that time you will have a college admissions interview and an interview with the Head of Boarding. During the admissions interview you will talk about your course choices and the differences between school and sixth form life. Your interview with the Head of Boarding will deal with what to expect in boarding and your suitability to board. In addition to the interviews you will be given a tour of the boarding houses, where you will meet the Day House Parents.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AN INTERVIEW?

The overall decision on whether you are successful in gaining a place will be made by a Boarding Admissions Team. We aim to make the majority of offers by January 2020.

WHICH BOARDING HOUSE WILL I BE IN?

At your interview you will be asked which boarding house you would prefer. Although we aim to take students preferences into account, we are not always able to do so.

WHAT GCSE GRADES WILL I NEED TO ACHIEVE?

You will need to achieve at least five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and Maths (standard entry requirements), as well as any course specific requirements that are set out in the prospectus. If you do not achieve these grades, the College will need to review your application.



SCHOOL HOUSE

Built in 1908 for the first Headmaster of the College, Telford Varley, this is a Victorian building right in the centre of all the College resources. Housing 29 students in single, double and triple rooms, it has one floor for boys and one floor for girls. Its facilities include a large common room with TV, games and pool table, a kitchen, laundry and separate computer-equipped study room.

FALKLAND LODGE

Situated on the edge of the campus next to the sports fields, Falkland Lodge is a 46 bed purpose built boarding house with 14 single and 16 double rooms, all with en-suite facilities. Opened in 1998 by the Duke of York, it also has two separate computer rooms, one large TV lounge, a kitchen and its own laundry.



ADMISSIONS TIMETABLE

2019

9/10 July	College Open Evening
9 September onwards	Apply online at www.psc.ac.uk/apply
23/24 October	College Open Evening
24/25 October	Interviews and Boarding house tours (by invitation only)
8 November	Application deadline: 4pm
18 November	Interviews and Boarding house tours (by invitation only)
16 December	Interviews and Boarding house tours (by invitation only)

2020

January	The majority of boarding offers made
20 August	GCSE results are published Boarders will need to email their results as soon as possible
6 September	Boarders arrive
7 September	Boarders enrol and start College



SAFEGUARDING

We recognise that we play a key role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students. Where we have concerns about an individual's safety or wellbeing, we will do our best to help and support, but there might be situations where we may need to pass our concerns onto the local Children's Services Department or the police or health services. As students are below the age of 18 when they join us we have a particular duty to make sure they feel and are safe while in our care.

The College also has a duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being radicalised and drawn into extremism, which is also treated as a safeguarding matter.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The College is fully committed in all of its functions and activities to eliminating unfair discrimination, to promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people of different groups, including groups characterised by age, disability (physical and mental health), gender, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

We take active steps to promote equality of opportunity and celebrate diversity and will take action to prevent racial or sexual harassment, sexist or racist jokes and insults, bullying and any other form of intimidation or discrimination. We are committed to ensuring that disabled people (including those with medical conditions) are treated fairly. We will make reasonable adjustments to provision to ensure that anyone with a disability is not disadvantaged.

The College expects all students to show consideration and respect for others, in keeping with fundamental British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These are also values shared by many throughout the world.