



GORDONSTOUN

Senior School Parent Handbook

Welcome to Gordonstoun

Welcome to the Gordonstoun Senior School Parent Handbook. It provides the key information which, as parents and guardians, you will need to support your child(ren) in the Senior School. Its publication is part of our work to streamline communications and information. Our aim is that this handbook will answer any questions that might arise, whilst also containing links to more comprehensive documents should you need more.

We plan that this handbook is printed annually, but the most up to date version, and the version with live links to other documents and websites, is available [HERE](#). Other key sources of information are:

- The School Calendar
- Gordonstoun Parent Portal and iSAMS iParent App
- The Code of Conduct
- Your Parent Contract

Continual improvement is at the heart of our approach at Gordonstoun, so do please let us know if there are any obvious gaps or opportunities to make this handbook more useful.

This Parent Handbook forms part of your contract with Gordonstoun and the admission or retention in the school of any student requires acceptance of the following rules throughout your child(ren)'s time at school.

There will be many opportunities throughout the year for us to meet and I very much look forward to that. In the meantime... *welcome to Gordonstoun!*

LISA KERR
PRINCIPAL

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1. WHAT AND WHEN

1.1 Term Dates

Term dates for Gordonstoun are published on the School website and can be found [here](#).

Although term dates are usually published well in advance to help family and school planning, they sometimes have to change (for example because of changes to national examination dates). Changes are made to the published dates online as quickly as possible and significant changes are emailed to you. Before making any plans, please check the most recent edition of the term dates.

We expect every student to attend the Flag Services at the start and end of each term. These mark the formal beginning and end of term, and are important bookends to the intervening weeks. The only exception to this is the end of summer term when students who have finished their public exams in Years 11 and 13 are free to leave after their final exam (and do not need to wait for the Flag Service).

1.2 The Calendar

The online calendar gives a day by day overview of life at school and is regularly updated. The calendar is available on the Gordonstoun Parent Portal and on the iSAMS iParent App..

You can also save a link to the calendar by following the instructions [here](#).

The school calendar is also subject to change – sporting fixtures might be cancelled in bad weather, or additional activities might be planned as the term goes on – but this online calendar is kept as up-to-date as possible. It is an easy way to see:

- The main term events – including sporting fixtures, socials, exam periods
- Leave out weekends and half terms
- Inter-House competitions
- Senior pastoral on-call staff for the weekend
- House staff on duty over weekends

1.3 The Daily Timetable

There is a lot going on at Gordonstoun and, with teenage independence emerging, students don't always find time to contact home as often as parents might like! The Gordonstoun parent portal website and iSAMS iParent app will enable you to see your child's academic timetable, as well as other activities they are involved in; you will also be able to download school reports.

The parent portal is a secure area accessible via a link at the foot of the school website. You will receive unique registration details for the portal one week after joining the school – the process is quite straightforward and should only take a few minutes to complete. Once registered, the iSAMS iParent app can be installed from the Apple app store or Google Play store – the school code required for registering the app is GORD.

The parent portal and app contain other important and useful information about your child's subject and activities teachers, boarding House staff and tutor, and includes contact details for them.

Your login details for the parent portal will also be used to access SchoolCloud which is the online system used for parent meetings.

You can see more about the shape of their day below:

1.3.1 Monday to Friday

During the week the formal school day begins after breakfast with Chapel (a secular whole school assembly) in St Christopher's Chapel. An example of the daily routine follows - timings vary slightly by Year Group.

0730 - 0810	Breakfast
0815 - 0840	Chapel (Tutor period on Tuesday)
0845 - 1050	Lessons 1 and 2 (1 hour each)
1050 - 1115	Morning break (snack is served)
1115 - 1215	Lesson 3
1220 - 1320	Lunch (Years 9-10) / Lesson 4 (Years 11-13)
1320 - 1420	Lesson 4 (Years 9-10) / Lunch (Years 11-13)
1420 - 1520	Lesson 5 / Activities / Sports / Services / ISC (International & Spiritual Citizenship)
1530 - 1630	Activities / Sports / Services / ISC (International & Spiritual Citizenship)
1630 - 1730	Clinics / music ensembles / Services / drama rehearsals / clubs / quiet time in Houses
1800 - 1845	Supper
1900 - 2100	Prep in Houses *
2015 - 2130	Relaxation and voluntary clubs, recreational activities/rehearsals and music
2130 - 2200	Bedtime and lights out *

*Prep time and bedtimes vary depending on Year group

Y9s finish prep at 2030 and start bedtime routine from 2130 with lights out at 2145

Y10s finish prep at 2030 and start bedtime routine from 2145 with lights out at 2200

Y11s finish prep at 2100 and start bedtime routine from 2200 with lights out at 2215

Y12s finish prep at 2100 and start bedtime routine from 2215 with lights out at 2230

Y13s finish prep at 2100 and start bedtime routine from 2230 with lights out at 2300

1.3.2 Weekends

On Saturdays there are lessons until 1215. After lunch there are organised activities or games fixtures for all students. Curricular and House expeditions often take place over the weekend. Social events are organised for the Year groups.

The school's curriculum runs seven days a week and therefore much of the curriculum, such as expeditions and voyages on the school's sail training vessel, takes place at the weekend.

Some clubs meet during the day on Sundays and there are frequent inter-House competitions as well as drama and music rehearsals and performances. The school's creative facilities, as well as the library, are open during the weekends for students. Optional outings and activities also take place on either a school, Year group or House basis.

1.3.3 Meals

Meals are taken in the refectory and all students are expected to attend all meals. The award-winning food provided by our outstanding catering team is nutritious and varied, and students can always expect to find something (if not several things) that they will enjoy at every meal.

Meals times are scheduled by year group, and timings are as follows:

Breakfast (Monday to Saturday)		
Year 9 and Year 10	from 07:30	
Year 11	from 07:40	
Year 12 and Year 13	from 07:50	
Lunch	Monday to Friday	Saturday
Year 9 and Year 10	from 12:15	from 12:15
Year 11	from 13:20	from 12:25
Year 12 and Year 13	from 13:00, if no lesson or from 13:20	from 12:35
Supper (all days)		
Year 9 and year 10	from 17:30	
Year 11	from 17:45	
Year 12 and Year 13	from 18:00	
Sunday Brunch from 10:00 until 11:15 for all years		

We cater for a wide range of dietary requirements and allergies. If your child has a particular requirement, please contact the refectory team on refectory@gordonstoun.org.uk to discuss their needs and how we can support them.

Food for snacks is also provided in boarding Houses, and is typically fruit, bread and spreads.

1.3.4 Chapel

Chapel is both a place and an occasion.

St Christopher's Chapel sits at the heart of our campus, overlooking the North Lawn. Designed by an OG (Old Gordonstounian), Patrick Huggins, and appearing as the prow of a boat when viewed from the North Lawn and an open book from inside, it is where the whole Senior School meets on a daily basis. It also plays host to concerts, lectures and community events.

Daily chapel is a key part of school life, uniting our community and reinforcing our ethos. We sing, listen to each other, and reflect. Although Christianity provides the basis of our spiritual ethos, Gordonstoun welcomes students of all faiths and none. From Monday to Saturday (except Tuesday, which is given over to Tutor-led meetings), there is a morning assembly in Chapel. In these, both staff and students make presentations to the school on a wide variety of issues, ranging from reports on exchanges, to current affairs, to issues of world spirituality, to charitable concerns. All members of the School attend.

On Sundays, the service in Chapel is inclusively Christian. Those of other faiths are not obliged to attend provided that parents have requested this in writing to the Head of Senior School. There is provision for Roman Catholics, Quakers and Muslims to attend Sunday Mass, Quaker Meetings and Friday Prayers outside the School, as well as the opportunity for students to attend religious festivals of their own faith.

As well as providing general guidance and emotional/spiritual support to all students, we also seek to assist students in the matter of their religious development through our Small Groups programme. This ordinarily includes a Muslim Prayer Group, a Christian Food & Faith Group and a Confirmation Class to consider being confirmed in the Scottish Episcopal (Anglican) and Roman Catholic churches, or becoming a member of The Church of Scotland (Reformed).

The Chaplain is always happy to discuss spiritual, ethical and religious matters with students and parents and can be contacted on +44 (0)1343 837896 or chaplain@gordonstoun.org.uk.

2. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH SCHOOL

2.1. Open Communication

Keeping communication open is vital, and we encourage the triangle of parent-school-student conversation. Parents & guardians build very close relationships with House staff and we hope you will always feel comfortable making contact. Early intervention and honest communication are helpful in preventing problems from escalating and ensuring that the quality of care we give is always at the highest level.

2.2. Contacting Staff

Contact details for your child's teachers and House staff are kept up to date and most easily accessed in the iSAMS iParent App (see above).

For more general enquiries, please contact the Principal's Office on +44 (0)1343 837758 or principalpa@gordonstoun.org.uk

If you need to speak to any specific member of staff on the telephone, please phone the main switchboard on: +44 (0)1343 837837. When reception is closed, you can leave a message or, if urgent, select the emergency option to speak to the on-call member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Please remember that it is not always possible for staff to respond to emails immediately, and that their wide ranging and extensive duties mean they may not read your email for several hours, or even until the next day. Be assured however that they will always get back to you as quickly as is practicable within their extensive working hours. Your patience and understanding in this is hugely appreciated.

If you need to contact school urgently, please telephone.

2.3. Useful Emails

Useful email addresses include:

Principal, Lisa Kerr	principal@gordonstoun.org.uk
Head of Senior School, Richard Devey	seniorhead@gordonstoun.org.uk
Bursar, Pamela Muir	bursar@gordonstoun.org.uk
Director of Admissions, Sabine Richards	admissions@gordonstoun.org.uk
Deputy Head, Curriculum, Danielle Cowan	DHC@gordonstoun.org.uk or curriculumoffice@gordonstoun.org.uk
Deputy Head, Pastoral, Philip Schonken	DHP@gordonstoun.org.uk or pastoraloffice@gordonstoun.org.uk
Travel	travel@gordonstoun.org.uk
Healthcare Centre	healthcare@gordonstoun.org.uk
Child Protection	childprotection@gordonstoun.org.uk
Exams Office	exams@gordonstoun.org.uk
IT Helpdesk	IThelpdesk@gordonstoun.org.uk

2.4. Useful Phone Numbers

Reception	+44 1343 837837
Healthcare Centre	+44 1343 837847
Travel	+44 1343 837821
Fees	+44 1343 837914

2.5. Houses

Altyre, Justine Walker	Altyre@gordonstoun.org.uk
Bruce, Jack Hoskins	Bruce@gordonstoun.org.uk
Cumming, Dan McLean	Cumming@gordonstoun.org.uk
Duffus, Ryan Denyer	Duffus@gordonstoun.org.uk
Hopeman, Kelly Goldring	Hopeman@gordonstoun.org.uk
Plewlands, Nell Taylor	Plewlands@gordonstoun.org.uk
Round Square, Stuart Wright	RoundSquare@gordonstoun.org.uk
Windmill Lodge, Kathy Taylor	Windmill@gordonstoun.org.uk

There are times when the Assistant Houseparent, Resident Tutor or another member of staff is on duty. Using the House email address, rather than that of an individual, means that the Houseparent, the Assistant Houseparent and the Matron of the boarding House will receive the email, making a swift response easier.

Daytime telephone numbers for Matrons in each House:

Altyre:	01343 837996
Bruce:	01343 837780
Cumming:	01343 837781
Duffus:	01343 837782
Hopeman:	01343 837784
Plewlands:	01343 837785
Round Square:	01343 837786
Windmill Lodge:	01343 837787

2.6. In an Emergency

If you need to contact school in a genuine emergency, please do not rely on email as staff may not have access to email outside working hours, or may be away from their desks due to other duties.

A member of the Senior Leadership Team is on call 24 hours a day and can be reached via reception on 01343 837837. When reception is closed, you can select the option to speak to the duty member of the Senior Leadership Team. If, having selected the option for the duty member of the Senior Leadership Team your call goes to answerphone, please leave a message with your phone number. If you do not receive a response within ten minutes, please call again.

2.7. Parental Involvement in School Life

We wholeheartedly welcome parental involvement in school life. There are many opportunities to attend events and interact with the school. In order to keep our community safe, please ensure you adhere to the guidance in section 4.1.5.

The school year begins with an opportunity to hear from the leadership team and meet other parents. We hold regular parent days, usually the day before half term holidays, and you will receive information about these well in advance, via the Principal's email updates. The most significant of these is Open Weekend, just before the summer half term, and we encourage all parents to attend.

As we have such an international community, we also hold parent webinars so that those further afield, or who are unable to attend in person, can receive important information about issues such as GCSE and A Level choices, pupil wellbeing and career support.

Other events such as our annual Fireworks Event are open to parents and details are shared via the Principal's regular email updates.

2.8. School Reports

Students are assessed at key points in the academic year allowing their teachers to comment on how well they are performing in class and in their prep. At Gordonstoun these assessments are known as **contracts** and are graded according to the effort put in and the quality of work produced. The grading system is as follows:

BE – Below Expectations – students are working at a level below that we would expect for someone of their ability

WE – Working Towards Expectations – the student is striving to meet our expectations for someone of their ability, but is not yet achieving that level consistently

ME – Meeting Expectations – the student is working at the level we would expect for someone of their ability

AE – Above Expectations – the student is consistently working at a level that is above our expectations for a student of their ability

Students who have worked consistently hard in both class and prep are “Commended” for their efforts and will receive a certificate. Students who fall behind their expected trajectory will have individual discussions with their Tutor and Key Stage Leader to implement targeted support and intervention strategies.

During the year parents will receive a combination of short summary contracts (i.e. a short summary of progress) and full reports commenting on academics and the broader curriculum, with comments from the Houseparent, Tutor and Head of Senior School.

2.9. Parent Teacher Meetings

Online parents' meetings are held on a regular basis for parents to talk to teachers and tutors. These enable parents from across the country and around the world to meet with staff; the system allows parents in multiple locations to join the same meeting.

A week or so before the meeting date (dates are published in the school calendar well in advance so that you can reserve the time in your diary) you will be sent an email inviting you to book appointments.

The meetings are necessarily brief to allow all parents to meet their child's teacher(s), and provide you with an update on your child's progress in that subject. If you require a more detailed conversation with a subject teacher please email the member of staff concerned and arrange this separately.

2.10. Website and Social Media

Our lively social media feeds are a great way to feel connected with school life. Please follow the school social media accounts:

Twitter	@gordonstoun
Instagram	@gordonstounschool
Facebook	@GordonstounSchool
LinkedIn	www.linkedin.com/school/gordonstoun-school/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/c/gordonstounschool

There are also social media accounts for the Houses which can be found at:

• Bruce	Twitter	@brucehse
• Cumming	Instagram	@cumminghouse
• Duffus	Instagram	@duffusbull
• Hopeman	Twitter	@HopemanHouse
	Instagram	@Hopeman.House*
• Plewlands	Instagram	@plewlandshouse*
• Round Square	Twitter	@RoundSquareHse
	Instagram	@roundsqarehse
• Windmill	Twitter	@WindmillLodge
	Instagram	@windmilllodge

* Although these are official school House social media feeds, they are slightly different from the others because they are run by the students of the relevant House.

Whilst there are other accounts on other feeds, these are the ones that are used most frequently and on which you might catch a fleeting glimpse of your child(ren).

And for many of the teaching departments:

• The Art Department	Instagram	@Gordonstoun_art
	Twitter	@gordonstounart
• Business	Twitter	@stounbusiness
	Instagram	@stounbusiness
• Dance & Drama	Instagram	@gordonstoun_dance_and_drama
• English	Instagram	@gordonstounenglish
• Geography	Instagram	@gordonstoungeography
• History	Twitter	@GstounH
	Instagram	@gstoun_history

•	Languages	Instagram	@Gstounlanguages @Gstounlanguages
•	Media	Instagram	@Gordonstoun_media
•	Music	Instagram	@gordonstoun_music
•	Outdoor Adventure	Twitter	@GstounOutdoors
•	Sociology	Instagram	@gstounsociology
•	Sport	Instagram	@gordonstounsport
		Facebook	@Gordonstounsport

Social media is an expedient way of sharing news, updates, adventures and general information, but not every family wishes to participate. If you wish to opt out of having images of your child(ren) used for marketing/ social media by the school, or you would like to give permission having previously opted out, please contact marketing@gordonstoun.org.uk.

Whilst social media can have many benefits, careless or malicious online activity can be extremely damaging to young people and can harm the school's reputation. Our parent contract contains important reminders of the importance of responsible online behaviour from all members of the school community.

2.11. Photography

Photos and videos on our social media and in other communications are an easy way to see life at school. Students at Gordonstoun feature in our social media feeds, newsletters, brochures, the school magazine and sometimes in local and national media. These are good opportunities for students and we always make sure that students present well and will endeavour to alert you if your child is appearing in high-profile media.

Whilst we fully support parents who do not wish their child to be on social media, in order to carry out this instruction, we may not be able to feature their child in certain internal communications or offer them the same media opportunities.

Students may take photographs at school and during school-related events but should make sure any photographs they share are not detrimental to their peers, staff or the school. Any photographs which cause concern should be removed immediately.

Students may bring a drone to school but must have staff permission before flying it because of the need for security clearance due to our proximity to RAF Lossiemouth.

2.12. School photographs

Across the year a range of whole School, House, group and team photos are taken.

These can be ordered online and delivered to your door. The Tempest Photography website is tempest-orders.co.uk.

For assistance at Tempest please call 01736 752411 - Option 3 to place an order or Option 5 for Customer Service.

3. THE CURRICULUM

Gordonstoun is famous for its broad curriculum, providing an education which takes place both inside and outside the classroom.

3.1. By Year Group

General information on the specific curriculum for each Year Group is available in booklets which are available online:

Life in Year 9:	http://publish.gordonstoun.org.uk/books/djrd
Life in Year 10:	http://publish.gordonstoun.org.uk/books/dizl
Life in Year 11:	http://publish.gordonstoun.org.uk/books/xyly
Life in Year 12:	http://publish.gordonstoun.org.uk/books/peex

For further information or clarification please contact the Curriculum Office:
curriculumoffice@gordonstoun.org.uk

3.2. Tutors

On arrival at Gordonstoun, your child will be assigned a tutor. This person is a member of the school staff who is associated with your child's House, and who is there to mentor and support them through their time at the school. Tutors are grouped by Key Stage, managed as follows:

- Key Stage 3 – Years 7-9
- Key Stage 4 – Years 10-11
- Key Stage 5 – Years 12-13

At each new Key Stage, your child's tutor will change, and they will be allocated a specialist tutor for that Key Stage, helping them through these important blocks in their educational journey. The tutor is a key first point of contact for any issues relating to your child's academic or personal life at the School. They work closely with your child's Houseparent and House team to ensure that your child is happy and thriving at school, and to manage issues such as workload, academic and broader curriculum balance etc. They will be in touch with you during the first few weeks of the term to introduce themselves to you; do contact them during the term to keep up-to-date with how your child is progressing.

3.3. Clinics

Academic departments run evening clinics, typically from 1630-1730, to allow students with specific questions to see teachers and to go over work covered in class that they may wish to revisit. Most departments run one or two clinics each week, and a timetable is published by the Curriculum Office at the start of each term.

3.4. External tuition

Our classroom provision, as well as subject clinics, overseen by the student's personal tutor, and the occasional provision of individual tutorials, are sufficient for almost all of our students to succeed academically at each stage of their careers. On exceptional occasions parents may feel that further assistance outside school is desirable.

Any parent wishing to arrange for such external tuition must first contact the Curriculum Office as they can advise as to the need for such tuition and provide introductory information and advice on suitable agencies. For information on charges for external tuition please contact the Fees Administrator on fees@gordonstoun.org.uk.

3.5. Academic Qualifications

The academic element of a Gordonstoun education follows the English system of GCSEs/iGCSEs and A levels/BTEC awards; with the corresponding national exams taking place in the summer terms of Year 11 and Year 13 respectively.

In order to work towards these nationally recognised qualifications, internal exams and assessments comprise a regular part of the academic provision at Gordonstoun, as follows:

- Year 9 students have substantial internal exams in the summer term.
- Year 10 students have substantial internal exams in the summer term. Public examinations are not taken in Year 10.
- Year 11 students take public examinations (GCSE and iGCSEs in some subjects) in the summer term. Internal mock examinations are taken during the spring term of Year 11 to help students prepare. In addition to the core subjects of English (most students take English literature and English language), Maths and Science (where students choose double or triple science), students can choose up to four additional subjects at GCSE.
- Year 12 students sit end of year examinations in the summer term. These are used as the basis upon which predicted grades for university entrance are set.

- **Year 13** students take public examinations (A Level and/or BTEC) in the summer term. Mock examinations are taken during the spring term of Year 13 to help students prepare. It is typical to study three subjects – which provides the best chance for most students to obtain the points required for university application. Some students also study for a fourth exam and/or an Extended Project Qualification (a dissertation-like qualification which also earns points for university).

FCE and IELTS exams are available for non-native English-speaking students.

SAT exams are available for students who may wish to attend university in the USA.

Internal tests and examinations are an important piece of evidence regarding a student's academic progress and we encourage all students to take them seriously. Additionally, throughout Years 10-13 some subjects require students to complete controlled assessments or coursework which will contribute to a subject's overall score.

There is a charge for entering public examinations.

For more information on examinations please contact the Exams Office: exams@gordonstoun.org.uk

3.6. Student Support

Our curriculum is inclusive, and we recognise that students develop at different rates and have different learning needs. Where required, our Student Support Department provides additional intervention in Learning Support and English as an Additional Language.

3.6.1. Learning Support

Learning Support lessons are available within the core curriculum for students with additional support needs (usually as outlined in an Educational Psychologist's report). In Years 9 -11 lessons focus on English, maths and study skills.

On joining the School, students with a diagnosed learning difference will meet with the Learning Support department to construct their learner profile, a document that is shared with relevant staff to ensure they understand how to support the individual. Where required, additional meetings with students, parents and the Learning Support department will be held to ensure the support structures are correct. The Learning Support department is able to advise on assessments as required.

Some students receive Learning Support lessons in place of a curricular subject, for example in Year 9 it is offered instead of an additional language.

The school provides exam access arrangements appropriate to the student's needs and within the guidelines and regulations of the examinations authority (JCQ). Standardised assessments are used to identify whether specific access arrangements are required for examinations e.g. additional time. There is an additional charge for these assessments. Parents should contact the Head of Student Support to find out more about the requirements.

Gordonstoun offers a bespoke online literacy acceleration programme in partnership with Redwood Literacy. This integrated programme enables students with dyslexia to read with automaticity so they can focus on comprehending what they are reading. The programme uses the latest research-based tools to support students with dyslexia to achieve significant academic growth as well as discover more fully who they are as learners. There is an additional charge for this programme.

Individual and small group lessons are available for an additional charge. For information on charges for additional tuition and assessments please contact the Fees Administrator on fees@gordonstoun.org.uk. For any questions regarding Learning Support please contact the Head of Student Support on studentsupport@gordonstoun.org.uk.

3.6.2. English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Gordonstoun is very proud to call itself an international school, and its diverse, global community is a huge part of what sets the school apart as a remarkable place in which to live and learn.

That said, all students who come to Gordonstoun need to have a good enough standard of English to make friends and understand what is taught in lessons. The older the student, the more fluent their English needs to be to manage the rigour of the academic programme. Although English is assessed as part of the admissions process on arriving at Gordonstoun students may also receive a further interview and assessment by the EAL department. Where EAL support will be helpful, students will be assigned to an EAL class.

Please note that additional charges may apply for the specialist support offered by the department.

Year 9

EAL lessons take place instead of a modern language option. These lessons are typically conducted in small groups to help students build confidence and develop the language skills needed to access the wider curriculum. At the end of Year 9 most students are expected to have reached level CEFR B2 and should be ready to sit the internationally recognised Cambridge First Certificate in English in the summer term. Once this level has been reached, students generally move on from EAL to participate in the full curriculum in Year 10.

Year 10

In Year 10, it is expected that most students will join a GCSE English class. However, EAL lessons can be arranged within the timetable where support for English is needed, or where a qualification in English is needed at the end of Year 10. EAL students are expected to sit the internationally recognised Cambridge First Certificate in English examination at the end of Year 10.

Year 11 (moving up from Year 10)

These students focus on improving their language across the curriculum.

Year 11 (one-year programme)

In Year 11, students need to have a good level of English already to cope with the demands of accelerated GCSE courses in English. At least a very good level CEFR B1 or preferably CEFR B2 or C1 is required.

Year 12 – International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

At this level, a formal English language qualification is often needed to satisfy university entry requirements (equivalent to GCSE English, CEFR C1 or higher, or IELTS Band 6.5 or higher).

Students may be offered up to 5 lessons per fortnight within the timetable to help them prepare for IELTS, and to provide support with academic English in the curriculum. If additional help and support is needed, this can be offered on a one-to-one basis, and there will be an additional cost for such lessons.

The IELTS examination is held by special arrangement at Gordonstoun in the summer term.

3.7. Higher Education and Careers support

The Higher Education and Careers Co-ordinator is the school's point of contact for Higher Education and career advice. They can be contacted via highered@gordonstoun.org.uk.

3.7.1. Support with higher education

All students will be given support if they apply through the British university application process UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions System). Comprehensive provision is also available to support Oxbridge/Medicine/ Veterinary/Law students.

There are annual visits to Oxbridge and to other universities, though families usually wish to organise personal visits as well.

We provide counsellor recommendations for those students who apply to the USA through [Commonapp](#), or

individually to universities across the globe. The school is a centre for SAT and SAT with Essay testing which is offered three times a year. The school can arrange for SAT tuition and also supports applications to other overseas universities.

3.7.2. Support with career pathways

At the start of Year 11 students take part in 'Morrisby' careers profiling (which helps to match their skills and interests to possible careers) which is then followed by a one-on-one interview with the Higher Education staff to talk about their aspirations for life beyond school. Individual meetings are held again in Year 12, and students are encouraged to visit the Higher Education department throughout the two years of the Sixth Form. There are numerous lectures from a number of Universities and organisations to support this process too; as well as visitors who give talks on a variety of careers and experiences, and the school encourages students to attend University Open Days.

We are also able to support our students to apply to the Armed Forces and are regularly visited by careers liaison officers from the Royal Navy, RAF and Army who present to our students; this could be a practical workshop, group lecture or a one-to-one interview depending on the level of interest.

In June, all Year 12 students participate in the Futures Programme, where they will continue to explore the various pathways available to them beyond school; apprenticeships, HND/C at college, University, Armed Services, gap year opportunities and the world of work. They will spend time preparing a personal statement, which is applicable for university applications, and a Curriculum Vitae. We also have strong links with a number of Universities who visit the school on an annual basis, supporting our students with the University application process.

3.8. Activities

Gordonstoun has one of the most comprehensive and varied activities programmes of any school in the world! Activities take place on most afternoons, and students choose their activity rotation at the start of the term in discussion with their tutor. It is important that they achieve balance in their lives and so, as well as the usual sporting options there are a wide range of cultural and cognitive options which mean all students get variety in their programme. Importantly, our activity programme is compulsory for all students, and means that by the time a student leaves Gordonstoun they will have a wide range of experiences and skills to draw on.

3.9. Sports

Playing sport is an important part of education at Gordonstoun and students have the opportunity to play on three afternoons a week, as well as having PE as part of their academic curriculum in Years 9, 10 and 11, and thereafter if they chose to continue studying it at GCSE, and BTEC in Years 12 and 13.

The primary sports on offer at Gordonstoun (for males and females) are:

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Football
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rugby
- Swimming
- Squash
- Tennis

There are also opportunities to participate in a range of other sports such as badminton, basketball, volleyball, mountain biking, cross-country and skiing. There are yoga and dance classes, supervised sessions on the indoor climbing wall and access to a gym and weights room.

Parents are welcome to attend fixtures either home or away; please keep an eye on the online calendar for final confirmation of time and place. If you are attending a sports fixture on campus, you do not need to sign in at reception but should not visit any other part of campus.

3.9.1. Mouth Guards

We have a safety policy in place that makes it mandatory for all pupils involved in rugby and hockey to wear mouth guards in practices and matches. All Year 9, Year 10 and PE students will play rugby and/or hockey at some stage during their time at the school and must have a mouth guard. Year 12 and 13 students need only purchase a mouth guard if they participate in rugby, hockey or any contact sport that requires protection. Mouthguards are available in many sports shops, and some students have several as they are often lost! Grays Teamsports offer an online ordering service [here](#).

3.10. International and Spiritual Citizenship

International and Spiritual Citizenship (ISC) is a unique element in the Gordonstoun curriculum. This programme is run by our ISC co-ordinator and is timetabled for all students from Year 1-12. ISC lessons explore the following key areas.

- International citizenship - understanding different cultures, laws, and traditions as well as international organisations such as the UN.
- Spiritual citizenship - different world faiths, school's ethos and guiding principles, values and beliefs of individuals and the impact on society.
- Citizenship - preparing students for life, including topics such as relationships, mental health, physical health, being part of a community, preparing for working life and careers beyond school.

3.11. Services

Being of service to others was core to Kurt Hahn's educational ethos. Since our school's foundation in 1934 it has been one of the core tenets of a Gordonstoun education, and is built into school life for all students.

Formal membership of one of the school's Rescue or Community Services begins in Year 11, for the last three years at school. We are always reviewing our Services to ensure that students have meaningful opportunities to contribute to society. Example of Services include:

- Conservation service
- Community service
- Lifeguards
- Fire service
- Coastguards
- First aid
- Sports
- Tech and Performing Arts
- Outdoor Leadership

At the start of Year 11, students (and students who are new to the school in Year 12) will have the opportunity to apply for their preferred Service. Following selection interviews and activities, students will be assigned to a Service.

3.12. Music

As with Sport and PE, Music is a compulsory element in the school's academic and classroom-based curriculum until the end of Year 9. Music is also available to study at both GCSE and A-Level.

Students also have the opportunity to study orchestral, jazz, rock and traditional Scottish instruments. These individual weekly lessons are complemented by a comprehensive and diverse ensemble programme, weekly lunchtime concerts and regular evening concerts.

Learning to play a musical instrument provides important benefits for each student by:

- increasing their self-confidence, self-motivation and self-discipline.
- improving their social interaction and contributing to their sensitivity.
- broadening their educational horizons and forming an important part of their overall holistic education.
- improving their fine motor skills.

- allowing them to gain extra qualifications.
- providing a major source of joy and achievement.
- enabling them to take part in numerous performance opportunities throughout the year.

3.12.1. Instrumental Music Lessons

The Music Department offers individual tuition in the following instruments:

- Strings: Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Double-Bass, Harp
- Brass: Cornet, Trumpet, Trombone, Tenor Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, French Horn
- Woodwind: Saxophone, Clarinet, Oboe, Flute, Bassoon, Recorder
- Guitar: Classical, Acoustic, Electric, Bass, Ukulele, Mandolin
- Percussion: Drum Kit, Orchestral Percussion
- Singing
- Keyboard: Piano, Organ
- Bagpipes, Pipe Drumming
- Music Technology / Studio Techniques

These lessons are at an additional cost. For information on charges for instrumental music lessons please contact the Fees Administrator on fees@gordonstoun.org.uk. If there is an instrument that is not listed that you would like your child to play, please get in touch and we will try to support them by finding a teacher if possible.

The music department is open for supervised practice most evenings and staff are adept at supporting students to organise practice around their busy Gordonstoun lives.

If you would like to speak to a member of the music department about any of this, or would like more information generally, please email music@gordonstoun.org.uk and your query will be directed to the appropriate member of staff.

3.12.2. Instrument Hire

Although students are encouraged to purchase their own instrument, the school also has a stock of orchestral instruments available for hire. The hire fee is £60.00 per term for students wishing to use a School instrument. For those learning piano, organ and percussion/drum kit, a nominal maintenance/tuning charge of £20.00 per term is applied.

3.12.3. Changing or Stopping Lessons

We will assume that instrumental tuition will continue whilst a student remains at Gordonstoun.

To commence, amend or cease tuition please use this [Instrumental Music Lessons at Gordonstoun form](#). In accordance with the Parent Contract, one term's notice, or a term's lesson fees in lieu of notice, must be given for a change in lessons.

If your child wishes to change instruments, a term's notice is required; however some requests can be implemented part-way through a term. Please get in touch if you wish to discuss this.

3.12.4. Playing in ensembles

All students who play musical instruments are encouraged to play in ensembles. Practice sessions are held on a regular basis.

3.13. Dance and Drama

3.13.1. Dance and Drama within the Curriculum

Dance and drama provide a scaffold for students to develop their confidence whilst enhancing their listening, speaking and physical skills.

In Year 9 students participate in dance and drama lessons on a rotational basis. To support students with the

transition to Year 9 and to help build confidence all students are required to perform in the Performing Arts Showcase during the first term.

Dance and drama can be chosen as one of four optional subjects in year 10 as part of the GCSE course. Theatre studies can be chosen as one of the optional subjects at a-level.

There are opportunities for students to be involved in dance and drama as part of the activities programme. Workshops run by visiting performers and trips to performances are organised on a regular basis by the department.

3.13.2. Production Opportunities

There are numerous opportunities for students to experience and participate in dance and drama showcases and productions. All performances take place in our state-of-the-art facilities, including a fully equipped theatre and dance studio.

All students are encouraged to participate in productions either as part of the cast or the backstage crew. Students working as part of the backstage crew may be involved in activities such as set building, sound, lighting or make up. Rehearsals for productions take place during activity time or in free time before and after prep.

The following performances occur on a yearly basis:

- Autumn Term – Year 11-13 Production
- Spring Term – Whole School Dance Show
- Summer Term – Year 9 & 10 Production
- Summer Term – Year 11-13 Production

3.13.3. Individual lessons

Individual dance lessons on an individual or small group basis can be organised upon request for an additional charge. Please contact the curriculum office for more information.

3.14 Expeditions, Seamanship & Sail Training

Expeditions, Seamanship and Sail Training are perhaps the most famous aspects of Gordonstoun's broader curriculum and they play a key part in the day to day education of every student at Gordonstoun. Kurt Hahn, the school's founder, believed in the huge value in the lessons learnt in the mountains and on the sea; lessons in team work, in how to face challenges, to develop resilience, to broaden your sense of the possible, and how to solve problems. These are all skills that are also invaluable to more conventional classroom-based learning and we actively teach students how to transfer their learnings from outside the classroom to inside, and vice versa.

3.14.1. Expeditions

Within a week of arriving at Gordonstoun, new Year 9 students go out on a year group expedition and this marks that first of a series of forays out to the local coast or into the highlands which punctuate their time at school.

These expeditions include:

- Year Group expeditions in Years 9 & 10
- House expeditions in Years 9 & 10
- Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Expeditions in Year 11 (after GCSEs)
- Year Group expeditions in Year 12 – unaccompanied
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Expedition in Year 12 & Year 13.

It is important that students have the right equipment for their expeditions – and a list of what is required is available on the iSAMS iParent app and Gordonstoun Parent Portal [here](#).

For students staying for two terms or less, certain items can be bought or hired from the school.

All of the items listed above are available from TISO, Scotland's leading outdoor specialist retailer, and the school has negotiated a special discount for items purchased online. At checkout simply add the code GORD15 to the promo/discount code box to receive 15% off your order.

3.14.2. Seamanship & Sail Training

In Years 10 & 12 students take part in a Sail Training Voyage on Gordonstoun's 80-foot Oyster Ketch, Ocean Spirit of Moray. These voyages are for five or seven nights respectively – sailing around the Western and Northern Isles of Scotland.

There are also opportunities for students to join extended summer voyages including regular expedition voyages to Spitzbergen in the High Arctic.

Seamanship practices the skills and techniques required for handling a boat at sea. The primary training boats are the school's two dipping lug cutters which, like Ocean Spirit of Moray, are moored at Plockton on the West Coast. This takes place for Year 10 and 12 in either the autumn or summer term.

All specialised clothing and safety equipment required for seamanship and sail training voyages is provided by the school.

3.14.3. Sailing and Watersports

The School sailing and watersports activities are run from our base at Hopeman. The School owns a fleet of smaller vessels including, Lasers, SB3's, dinghies and Devon yawls. All our small boat activities are run under the aegis of the RYA and our site at Hopeman is a RYA Training Centre.

In Year 9 all students participate in a watersports course during the spring term. This course provides students with the opportunity to experience a wide variety of craft before spending time on Ocean Spirit in Year 10.

3.15. Practicalities

3.15.1. Study Planners

At the start of each term all students receive a Study Planner. This contains all the information a student will need including: blank timetables to be filled in by the student for lessons, activities and prep and key pastoral contacts. Students are expected to keep their Study Planners up to date, and to produce them when requested for discussions with their Tutor or Houseparent.

3.15.2. Laptops/computers

Every student is required to have a personal laptop and whilst the school does not recommend any specific make or model of computer, one costing not more than around £350 (UK price) should be perfectly adequate – the school uses Dell laptops running Microsoft Windows, but any other well-known make would be fine (e.g. Acer, Asus, Sony, Toshiba). Just a basic specification for running Windows 10 would be sufficient, though something a bit more powerful would be advisable (e.g. 8GB RAM, 1TB hard drive, Intel processor) - a touchscreen is not essential, as a mouse/trackpad is perfectly adequate and cheaper! You might also wish to consider having an SSD drive rather than a traditional hard drive - pricewise, a 256MB SSD drive would be an adequate alternative to a 1TB hard drive. Some students have Apple laptops, which would be fine too, although these tend to be more expensive.

With regard to software, it would be best to have Microsoft Office installed on the laptop - student pricing in the UK is available on this (and other applications software) through the website: software4students.co.uk

There are other cheaper, open-source, Office-style applications available, but having Microsoft Office will provide compatibility with resources on the school network.

Laptops often come with pre-installed antivirus software on a trial basis (e.g. Norton) - however, on Windows PC laptops you could just use the Microsoft Security Essentials software which comes free as part of Microsoft Windows. Installing antivirus software on an Apple laptop is recommended too.

3.15.3. Wifi Access

At school, a student's laptop will be connected to the campus Student Wi-Fi network - details on connecting to the Student Wi-Fi network will be given to students as part of their induction programme.

Connections to the internet through school systems are filtered to help protect students from access to inappropriate material. Access times to the Wi-Fi system are controlled and are currently as follows:

Years 1-8	0815 to 2030	
Year 9	0600 to 2145	(0600 to 2330 on Saturday)
Year 10	0600 to 2200	(0600 to 2330 on Saturday)
Year 11	0600 to 2215	(0600 to 2330 on Saturday)
Years 12-13	0600 to 2300	(0600 to 2330 on Saturday)
All Years	0600 to 2400	(For Leave Out Weekends)

3.15.4. Email

On joining the school, every student is assigned a user account on the computer network which provides them with their own area for storing documents, access to local learning resources, a connection to the internet and a school email account. While students will most probably already have one or more other webmail accounts, it's important to separate the use of those personal accounts from the day to day communications between students and staff – and those are best facilitated through our own email system, which provides a safe and efficient service.

Students are also able to access their work and email from outside the school through the internet; this is particularly useful if a student needs to complete work, submit work whilst on exchange, or revise during the school holidays!

3.15.5. Digital learning

Teachers use Google Classroom to share key resources and assignments with students. Students can login to Google Classroom using their school login details. Google Classroom can be accessed on any device inside and outside of school. Every student will have a Google Classroom for each subject they study. If students miss a lesson they can use the Google Classroom to access the missed work and communicate with their teacher. Teachers share prep tasks on the Google Classroom so students can easily see upcoming deadlines using the 'to do' function on the homepage.

3.15.6. Mobile phones

The Code of Conduct contains the details of how we manage student usage of mobile phones and other electronic devices. We know that these have revolutionised young people's social contact, ease your communication with them, and can be useful within a digital learning environment. However, we are acutely aware of their dangers and downsides.

We ask, therefore, that your child brings no more than one mobile phone to school with them. If a student is found to have more than one phone, their Houseparent will confiscate the excess number and contact you.

3.15.7. Online safety

Along with the growing power and expansion of technology comes an ever increasing need to use ICT safely, sensibly and appropriately. Gordonstoun's ICT Policy forms part of the Code of Conduct and provides guidelines and expectations to students for the use of digital technology; all students are bound by this policy which covers the use of their own computers, mobile phones, cameras and other digital equipment, as well as school and other external systems.

3.16. The Gordonstoun Diploma

The students' involvement in this extensive and broad curriculum is recorded within the Gordonstoun Diploma. This is a system which brings together all the diverse elements of a Gordonstoun curriculum into one single award looking at a student's commitment and approach in four areas:

- Academic Learning
- Outdoor Learning
- Arts, Culture and Sport
- Citizenship and Service.

These grades will result each year in a final Diploma grade of Distinction, Merit and Pass (or not achieved) at the end of their career at Gordonstoun. Certificates are awarded as part of the Leavers' celebrations at the summer term Open Weekend.

4. MAINTAINING A POSITIVE COMMUNITY

4.1. Campus Safety

4.1.1. Parents driving on Campus

Gordonstoun is a park and walk campus where pedestrians and cyclists always take priority. Please stringently observe the 20mph speed limit at all times (10mph between Chapel and Plewlands), and note additional signage and one-way systems which may be in operation during building and maintenance work, or for special events.

The East and West gates on campus have barriers which are normally closed. They will automatically open to allow vehicles to leave campus, but entry requires registration with our Automatic Number Plate Recognition system or a code. Please register your car with us by completing the [Day Parent School Gate Access Form](#).

4.1.2. Students driving on campus

Students may not have a motor vehicle at school or parked nearby to be used whilst at school and they may not be driven to and from school or on campus by anyone under the age of 21.

4.1.3. Driving lessons

Learner drivers are not permitted to drive on campus. You may notice the handover of instructors and learner drivers taking place just outside the gates at the end of their driving lessons, which is permitted.

4.1.4. Parking

Please reverse park on campus at all times, no matter how short your visit. Reverse parking has been repeatedly proven to reduce accidents between vehicles and pedestrians. Please park in dedicated spaces.

4.1.5. Parent visitors on Campus

In order to ensure the safety of your children, we have strict rules about access to campus. All visitors must sign in at reception in Gordonstoun House. Staff are trained to challenge anyone who is not wearing a staff or visitor badge.

With prior arrangement, parents are welcome to visit Gordonstoun but must register at Reception and receive a visitor's pass. Throughout your visit you will be accompanied by a member of staff and this is crucial for the safety and wellbeing of the students and your cooperation is appreciated. The only exceptions to this are:

- When collecting / dropping of your child at the end or start of term
- When attending a performance (for which you must pre-book a ticket online in order to comply with fire safety regulations)
- You are welcome to attend matches, details of which are found in the online calendar. You do not need to sign in at reception if you are watching a match, but you may be asked to verify your identity by a member of staff.

Unless you have signed in at Reception *and* are accompanied by a member of staff, please do not enter boarding houses, classrooms or any other building on campus.

Please do not walk your dog on campus.

4.2. Supporting Good Behaviour

4.2.1. The Code of Conduct

At the start of each academic year, students are introduced to the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct contains the expectations by which members of the Gordonstoun Community are required to live. Because Gordonstoun is an international school and is proud to educate young people from all over the world, from vastly different cultural and social worlds and backgrounds, there can be some confusion about what is and is not acceptable in those differences. Therefore, we are very clear about what the rules for the Community at school are – in relation to how we treat each other and what we can ask and expect of each other – which is, at its most fundamental, acceptance, respect, tolerance and understanding.

The Code of Conduct which can be found [here](#) stipulates the school's expectations, and also outlines hard and fast rules about sex, drugs, alcohol use and smoking – behaviour that is illegal and/or dangerous.

A breach of common sense, kindness or courtesy is a breach of the Code of Conduct. A breach of the law is a serious breach of the Code of Conduct. Bringing the school into disrepute is a serious breach of the Code of Conduct.

4.2.2. Working Together as School and Parents

The best interests of the young people in our care are served by a joint partnership between school and home. Whilst there may on occasions be times when parents and school are in disagreement over an issue, it is important to recognise that, by being united, we can bring about the best outcomes for all young people in our care. It is therefore important that the dialogue between home and school is open and regular, and any issues are flagged early on both sides so that we can intervene and resolve them quickly, without fuss and in a unified way. A close working relationship between tutor, Houseparent and home is particularly important in this regard, and we would encourage parents to keep regularly in contact with both of these people.

4.3. When Things Go Wrong

Underlying all disciplinary responses will be a judgement of the extent to which a student appears to be listening to staff about how to meet the expectations of the school. Consequently, individual incidents will not be judged in isolation, but a student's record of need and behaviour will be considered holistically when considering the action that should be taken.

4.3.1. A restorative approach

Although a range of sanctions for disciplinary incidents are inevitable in any school, we try to focus our staff resources and time on ensuring that students learn from the mistakes they have made. Central to this is the understanding that restoration of trust or relationships that have been damaged as a result of an incident should be a priority. In this sense, disciplinary incidents have a three-phased approach:

1. Sanction
2. Education
3. Restoration

This approach means that students rarely make the same mistake twice, and we hope that it proves an important educational process in their development.

4.3.2. Minor sanctions

For classroom-based offences, often items which run contrary to the expectations in the Work Diary, teachers can set a department imposition, for example something lasting approximately half an hour, to be handed in the following day. Departments keep a record of such offences and punishments are monitored by the Deputy Head Curriculum.

Suitable sanctions for minor offences at a similar level can be set by staff in Houses or other places, while Colour Bearers at a school level and House Captains in Houses also have the authority to impose sanctions, usually reasonable tasks which will help the community. All of these sanctions are recorded and monitored by staff.

4.3.3. Gating

For various offences, some of which are listed in the Code of Conduct and some of which will relate to the need for a student to be closely supervised, students may be gated. This can be done at a House level by the HP or as a school punishment awarded by the Key Stage Leader, the Assistant Heads or the Deputy Heads, who monitor the system.

The supervision of students who are gated within their Houses is the responsibility of the HP who may, for example, require that the student is 'charted' which entails reporting in to staff on duty in the House or elsewhere, e.g. Refectory. Failure to adhere to the expectations of a period of gating will be referred directly to the Key Stage Leader.

4.3.4. Support Charts

Students may be placed on support charts following persistent failure to match the School's expectations. Although keen to maintain a 'fresh start' policy, this support may follow a student as they move through the school, where behaviour warrants this. It may similarly apply to a new student.

4.3.5. Rustication

For more serious offences, some of which are specified in the Disciplinary Policies, a student may be rusticated or suspended from School for up to two weeks. The HP will inform the parents/guardians at the earliest opportunity of a student having been rusticated although modern communication means that students are sometimes in touch with home very rapidly.

Full rustication involves a student being sent home (or placed with a Guardian and not allowed in to School) for a number of days. Full rustication may be seen in some circumstances as a final warning. The sanction is imposed by the Head of School, Deputy Head Pastoral or Curriculum or any of the Assistant Heads (who will inform the parents in writing). Fully rusticated students may not come into school for any reason.

For some offences meriting rustication, but which are not as serious as some others (or in instances where the school is prepared to take into account the effect which a full rustication would have on, for example, academic progress in an exam year) a student may instead be subject to a period of Local Rustication. In these circumstances the school endeavours (but cannot always guarantee) to find suitable accommodation locally to enable students to attend lessons only in school. In these circumstances' parents have the right, even when local accommodation is offered, to take their children home for the rustication period if they so wish.

There is no reduction in fees when students are rusticated and the cost of the accommodation element of rustication is passed on to parents. If using one of the school guardians, there are fees for administration, transport and guardianship. The system is supervised and monitored by the Assistant Head Boarding with the Deputy Head Pastoral.

Following rustication, there will be a pre-arranged re-entry meeting and usually a period of monitoring with appropriate support.

4.3.6. *Withdrawal or Expulsion*

Very occasionally a student will be required to leave the school permanently; full details on this are set out in the parent contract. The reasons are broadly threefold:

- a) those listed in the Code of Conduct.
- b) individual acts of gross misbehaviour which may put a student too far outside of the school's accepted codes and expectations for them to remain in the School.
- c) a pattern of behaviour usually involving a series of offences which means that the student is either unable or unwilling, or both, to subscribe to the school's values and expectations and is effectively putting themselves in a situation where they cannot remain as a member of the School community.

In the case of the last example there will have been considerable communication with parents over a period of time with matters carefully documented. It may have arisen due to failure to observe the terms of Head of School's probation.

Expulsion as a punishment can be affected only by the Head of School or the Deputy acting in their absence. There will always be contact with the student's parents before the final decision is made. The Principal is always consulted, and a nominated Governor always informed, regarding the expulsion of a student.

If the expelled student is a foreign national, Gordonstoun has a statutory obligation to inform the UK Border Agency immediately that the student is no longer resident at the school.

5. PASTORAL CARE

5.1. Our Approach

Gordonstoun has comprehensive systems in place to ensure the wellbeing, safety and protection of students in the school's care.

There is an extensive team to whom a child can turn – including their Houseparent, Assistant Houseparent, Tutor and Matron. The school's pastoral team is led by the Deputy Head Pastoral and Assistant Heads in charge of Boarding and Wellbeing. Students are also cared for by Healthcare staff, the Chaplain and indeed all staff, every one of whom is trained in Child Protection.

We are committed to supporting each student in any way that they require to ensure their mental health, and urge parents to share any concerns with the school as appropriate, or to urge their children to do so.

5.2. Our Child Protection Responsibilities

The Gordonstoun Wellbeing and Child Protection Policy and Procedures set out:

- the rights of children and young people to have their wellbeing promoted and developed;
- the responsibilities of those working at Gordonstoun;
- the role of Gordonstoun as a directing authority under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014;
- a description of the Child Protection systems and procedures at Gordonstoun, and the roles of key agencies;
- what Gordonstoun must do to fulfil our wellbeing, safeguarding and child protection responsibilities;
- guidance on the recognition of child abuse;
- what action to take if child abuse is suspected;
- direction regarding how to access child protection advice in specific circumstances;

The document has been developed to reflect changes in legislation and national policy including the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (implemented in 2013), the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021, which builds on the four-part structure of the 2014 Guidance and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

The full policy is available online [here](#) and a summary essential guidance document can be found [here](#).

5.3. External Support

Keeping children safe and happy takes teamwork. We are well supported by fellow professionals in healthcare, mental health and child protection. We have an excellent relationship with local police who work with us and our students to help them understand the law as it applies to them, and can support them through difficult times. We also work closely with local Social Services as necessary, and these partners enable us to provide the best possible care and support to all students.

Should we need to involve an external agency in a matter relating to your child, we will contact you as soon as possible, whilst ensuring we adhere to our statutory reporting responsibilities. A member of staff will be assigned to support you and your family in such circumstances.

5.4. Pastoral Support System Flowchart

If you have a pastoral concern about your child please following the flowchart below in terms of escalating your concern, or talking about the support in place for your child:

Tutor → Houseparent → Assistant Head Boarding → Deputy Head Pastoral → Head of Senior School → Principal

5.5. Aligning with National Standards

5.5.1. National Guidance

The school's Wellbeing, Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is updated each year, building on case reviews and to ensure that it is in line with the local council policy and with the National guidance for child protection in Scotland 2021.

5.5.2. Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

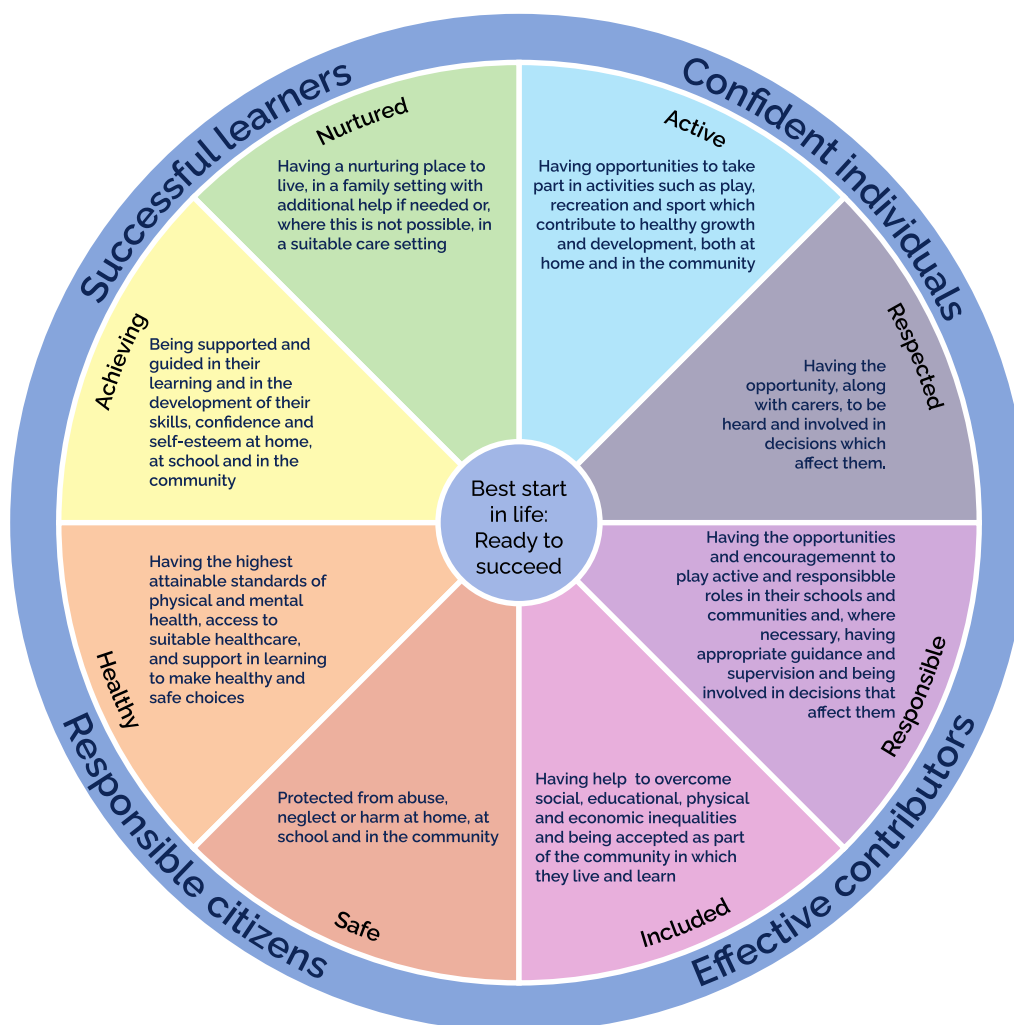
Within Scotland, support, safeguarding and protection from harm for children and young people are within the wider context of the 'Getting it right for every child' (GIRFEC) approach.

All children and young people have the right to be cared for, to be protected from harm and abuse, and to grow up in a safe environment in which their rights are respected and their needs met. At the heart of the GIRFEC approach is early, proactive intervention in order to create a supportive environment and identify any additional support that may be required for a child as early as possible.

GIRFEC places children's and young people's needs first, ensuring that they are listened to and understand decisions which affect them and that they get more co-ordinated help where this is required for their wellbeing, health and development. It requires that all services for children and young people - social work, health, education, police, housing and voluntary organisations - adapt and streamline their systems and practices to improve how they work together to support children and young people and their families, including strengthening information sharing.

5.5.3. The SHANARRI Wellbeing Indicators

Eight indicators of wellbeing have been identified as areas in which children and young people need to progress in order to do well, now and in the future. These wellbeing indicators are illustrated and defined in the SHANARRI wheel diagram below. The Wellbeing Indicators are an important part of the GIRFEC national practice model and are used by Gordonstoun to ensure we are supporting young people and that they are thriving.



5.6. Counselling

The school employs qualified counsellors, who work closely with house and pastoral teams to provide the best support possible for any child or young person who would benefit from professional counselling. Together, these staff promote the full and active participation of each child in the experiences offered at Gordonstoun, which will enable them to flourish and thrive.

The counselling service signposts support for young people, provide drop in sessions, assessments and interventions for the students at Gordonstoun.

If students require ongoing counselling, additional charges apply.

5.7. Guardianship

All students whose parents are living abroad must have a guardian or educational guardian resident in the United Kingdom and, preferably, within travelling distance of the school. This is part of the school's responsibility to safeguard and promote the student's wellbeing, to be an extra source of security for the student, to be involved, in the parents' absence, in school activities (particularly Parents' Days) and to provide accommodation over Leave Out/Open Day Weekends if required.

Parents may appoint a Guardian who is a close relative or trusted friend. In this case there are no legal requirements for checking and monitoring. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that appropriate checks are in place and to have satisfied themselves that the personnel and accommodation are appropriate for their child. Please inform the school of the Guardian's full name, address, telephone numbers and email address. Where it is a parent appointed guardian, these should not be guardians that are already part of the school's guardianship programme i.e. private arrangement with school appointed guardians. This ensures accurate records can be maintained and that guardians will not be oversubscribed with charges.

Parents may also appoint Guardians through an agency (which must be AEGIS Accredited). In these circumstances, the address of the agent is not sufficient – the school would expect the contact details of the person with whom the child may stay.

The school provides an Educational Guardianship Service and, in the event of you not having a guardian/ educational guardian for your child in this country, we will select a carefully chosen family on your behalf. This fee is added to the termly bill and is subject to change. Please note that fees are reviewed annually.

For further details contact the Pastoral Office on pastoraloffice@gordonstoun.org.uk

6. HEALTHCARE

Gordonstoun has a highly qualified and skilled healthcare team to ensure that your child's physical and mental health is well supported. We enjoy excellent links with the local NHS professionals, including Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin, a local GP practice, CAMHS and physiotherapists.

6.1. Your Child's Medical History

You will have completed a full Health History Form for your child/children when signing a contract to join Gordonstoun. It is vital that you keep us informed of any changes in your child's health including:

- Information regarding any serious illness, injury or allergy occurring during the holidays to ensure continuity of care.
- Information regarding any infectious disease your child has been in contact with during the holidays. If you are concerned about onward transmission, please contact the School Healthcare Centre.

6.2. Gordonstoun Healthcare Centre

Gordonstoun Healthcare Centre has a team of qualified nurses, including those with paediatric specialism. Nurses are supported by Healthcare Assistants, who offer a range of skills and experience including mental health and general health and wellbeing support and advice. Staff are available 24 hours a day and there are dedicated treatment rooms and resting beds for those who need overnight observation and care.

Students are encouraged to access Healthcare Centre support at time which do not interfere with their learning, though can attend at any time during the school day providing their teacher knows and has given them permission.

If you have any queries on medical matters, please feel free to contact the Healthcare Manager on healthcare@gordonstoun.org.uk

6.3. Seeing a Doctor

6.3.1. Registering With a Doctor – Arrangements for Boarders

While we provide 24/7 healthcare cover for every student at Gordonstoun, there is still a need for our students, particularly our boarders (international and domestic) to be registered with a local GP practice.

Maryhill Practice is based in Elgin and, while this is part of the NHS, it is also required to operate under the guidelines set out by MOSA – the Medical Officers of Schools Association: www.mosa.org.uk. This requires them to have a registration as well as a fee for every boarder that is registered with the practice. As all boarders at Gordonstoun are registered with Maryhill, a fee is levied and added to your bill. This fee also includes the administration cost of transferring medical records from previous practices and passing this information back when requested, and for the GP to be on call specifically for Gordonstoun students, as per the MOSA agreement. This is all on top of normal NHS provision.

Whilst it is your right not to have your child registered with the Maryhill practice, the concern with having students not registered with the Maryhill Practice in this manner is that they will have to be treated via out-patients at the local hospital, and appointments may not be as easy to arrange.

We would strongly recommend therefore that boarding students stay registered with the Maryhill Practice

and this is completed for every boarder by the staff in our Healthcare Centre.

Appointments with the doctor are usually via video or telephone call. If a student needs to be seen in person at the GP practice, the cost of transport will be added to the student's school account.

Boarders can attend their own GP when at home using a temporary registration form.

6.3.2. Registering With a Doctor – Arrangements for Day Pupils

Day students can be registered with their own GP locally. We will normally contact parents if a day student needs to see a GP in order that family arrangements can be made.

6.3.3. Arrangements for International Students

Pupils entering the UK on a Child Student Visa will be granted access to the National Health Service (NHS) as part of their application and will be registered with our local medical practice. The few pupils entering the UK for less than six months will be able to access NHS treatment through holding an EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) or a GHIC (Global Health Insurance Card). The school requires a copy of this card so they can be registered with our local medical practice. Short term pupils from outside of the EU will normally be required to hold private medical insurance. Please see the [Visa Information Sheet](#) for further guidance.

6.4. Medical Insurance

The school does not offer a private medical insurance plan but parents may arrange their own, if they so wish.

6.5. Vaccinations

The NHS provides routine vaccinations as per Scotland's National Health Service information – see immunisationscotland.org.uk for further information. Your child will be asked to attend these vaccinations according to which vaccination is being administered, their vaccination history and the consents you provide for the School.

The Flu vaccine is offered to all students in the autumn term. Senior School students are offered the Flu vaccine by the school Pharmacist and there is a charge for the vaccine which will be added to the student's school account.

The school supports the Covid vaccination programme which is offered to children in the UK aged 5+.

In the case of an objection to any immunisations, this should be clearly marked on the student's Health History Form.

All immunisation required for foreign travel can be given at school and there is an additional charge.

6.6. Orthodontic and Routine Dental Care

This must be attended to during the holidays, wherever possible, and parents are asked to make suitable appointments well in advance with their own dentists. Leave will not usually be given during term for routine visits to the dentist. Costs for travel and staff support for travel to specialist appointments/Orthodontic and Routine Dental Care will be added to the student's school account.

6.7. Specialist Appointments

To prevent disruption of school activities, only urgent specialist appointments can be made during term. Non-urgent conditions should be dealt with during the holidays by your own local GP/specialist.

6.8. Hospital stays

If your child needs treatment at hospital, you will be notified in advance wherever possible. If we are unable to contact you, we will notify your nominated representative, as indicated on the Health History Form. Our nearest hospital is Dr Gray's hospital in Elgin, 6 miles away, and students will always be accompanied there by a member of the school staff. In the event that a longer stay in hospital is required, we will organise a staff rota to support the student with visits etc until such time as family are able to visit. There will be a cost associated with this support, particularly if it is outside of the term time.

7. SCHOOL UNIFORM

7.1. Overview

Gordonstoun students wear a smart, practical and comfortable school uniform. The uniform consists of:

- a Day Uniform (sometimes known as Morning Uniform)
- a Going Out Uniform (for formal occasions)
- Sportswear

Information regarding clothing and equipment required for expeditions can be found within the curriculum section of this handbook.

All items are machine washable with the exception of the Going-out Kilt and Blazer which are dry clean only. The blue and green jumpers are machine-washable on a cool wool wash. It is recommended that uniform is line-dried rather than tumble dried.

The total cost of an entire new Uniform varies from £750-£900.

Your boarding house Matron will be able to advise on any questions not answered here.

7.2. How to Buy and Return

Our uniform supplier is the well-established, online supplier: School Blazer www.schoolblazer.com

Schoolblazer are working to build an environmentally responsible and sustainable business. Their ethical trading policy can be found [here](#) and their environmental policy can be found [here](#).

Please set up an account with them through their website, and you will be able to order items of uniform at anytime from anywhere in the world. It is easy to find the correct uniform for your child's year group, and the company's intelligent sizing system makes it easy to find the right fit for your child. The order is delivered within three working days.

Wherever possible, please arrange for large orders of uniform to be delivered to your home during the school holidays so that your child arrives at school with all the items they require. However, uniform can be delivered to any address (including school), and we recognise this may be more convenient for international families. There is a fast track 24-hour service for any emergency orders.

All items can be returned free of charge, with a 120-day return policy. Replacement items are dispatched even before the returned item is received by School Blazer, often the same day.

School Blazer's Helpline is 0333 7000 703 or email customerservices@schoolblazer.com and they will help in any way that they can.

7.3. What to Buy

You will see that whilst most of the uniform is compulsory, some items are optional. The School Blazer site also tells you when items are available from other suppliers.

We do not have a male/female uniform but instead offer the option of skirt/trousers etc. To help you choose the right item, descriptions on the School Blazer website explain whether items are designed for a typical female or male body shape. If you have any questions about gender uniform choices, please contact the Assistant Head Wellbeing by emailing pastoraloffice@gordonstoun.org.uk.

If staff find that a student is missing essential items of clothing for their uniform, or if items no longer fit, they will contact you to ask you to buy the necessary items and, should this not be possible, will order the items directly, adding the cost to your bill.

7.4. Sports items

Some items of sports equipment not supplied by School Blazer can be purchased from Grays Teamsports (https://www.graysteamssports.com/collections/School-collection?page_num=2). When discounts are available they are advertised on the webpage.

7.5. Labelling Items

It is vital that all your child(ren)'s clothes and personal possessions are labelled with their name to prevent items becoming lost.

School Blazer will sew name labels onto your child's clothes for a minimal charge. The name should be in the format JANE SMITH (first name, surname) and does *not* need to include their House.

Other items of school equipment, such as hockey sticks, water bottles etc, should also be named. Stikins (stikins.co.uk) provide a very fast service and their labels are dishwasher proof and difficult to remove. They can also be attached to the labels of clothing and so providing your child with a pack of stick-in labels to bring to school can be useful.

7.6. Exchange / Short-stay Students

Exchange students or the few students who are only coming for one term should purchase the checked shirts and grey skirt or trousers from the Day uniform, with appropriate shoes. Other items of uniform can be hired at a total fee of £200 per term (to cover wear and tear). Please contact your child's Matron to arrange this.

7.7. Second Hand

The School Blazer website also includes a link to grownoutfit.co.uk. This is a website through which you can both buy and sell second hand uniform items.

8. BOARDING AT GORDONSTOUN

Gordonstoun is one of a handful of schools which can still boast that it is truly a 'full boarding' school and we enjoy a vibrant and homely atmosphere within our Houses.

Day students are assigned to boarding houses and are required to stay for a period of prep (homework) in the evenings. They are also encouraged to join in our social programme on a Saturday night and inter-House activities on a Sunday.

8.1. Boarding House Staff

To care for the boarders there is a dedicated House Staff Team comprising:

- Houseparent (HP),
- Assistant Houseparent (AHP)
- Matron(s) (most Houses have two Matrons who work from 0700 to 1830 Monday to Saturday).
- Some Houses also have a resident tutor who live in the Boarding House.
- Teaching staff are assigned to Houses as 'Tutors' and assist in the House each weekday evening, on some weekends and participate in House expeditions.

8.2. Communication

You are always welcome to contact your child and they can contact you.

The use of mobile phones is permitted outside of the school day; this is normally the best means of contact. If you are having difficulty contacting your child, please email their Houseparent who will prompt them to get in touch.

8.3. Going Out

The Senior School is a full boarding school and therefore we do not offer Weekly or Flexi Boarding. With the exception of special occasions, boarders are therefore limited to going out at Leave Out Weekends, Half Term breaks and holidays only.

Visits by parents during the term are welcome and students are allowed out with the consent of their Houseparent, which is usually granted provided they will not miss an important school commitment. Permission for students to leave at other times, with good reason, should be sought from the Assistant Head Boarding by emailing boarding@gordonstoun.org.uk.

8.4. Pocket Money

Boarding students should bring sufficient pocket money with them to last the term. There are organised opportunities to shop in Elgin (Elgin Leave) and students are permitted to visit the Duffus Post Office (DPO). House shops, which are run by Year 12 students as an avenue for raising funds for projects, are open at specified times and, on a Sunday night, it is not uncommon for the students to order a takeout.

A maximum of £10 per week is more than enough for students to enjoy a treat. For security, most students use electronic payment methods, such as bank cards or ApplePay on their phones. Cash can be withdrawn at the Duffus Post Office. We advise that parents give their children a modest monthly allowance rather than large sums on deposit.

Please contact your child's Houseparent if you require assistance in setting up a UK bank account for your child.

8.5. Authorisation for Expenditure

Although boarders will have some pocket money, it may not be enough to cover expenditure on books, stationery or other exceptional purchases (such as House hoodies or t-shirts) or trips.

To avoid confusion and to ease administration, authorisation in advance from parents permitting expenditure up to a set amount will save unnecessary telephone calls. Therefore, for any purchase or trip, over the value of £30, parental authorisation will be sought for these costs to be added to the school bill. Control over expenditure will be maintained and only essential purchases will be authorised. We shall assume you authorise such smaller items of expenditure. If you do not wish to authorise expenditure up to £30 please inform the Houseparent before the start of the Term.

8.6. Bicycles and Skateboards

Bicycles are useful and an important source of recreation and a great mode of transport around our vast campus. Should your child bring a bicycle to school it must be in good order, have front and back lights and a helmet must be worn at all times when cycling.

It is not necessary to have a bicycle at school and it may well be a matter you will wish to discuss with the Houseparent. We do not allow the borrowing of bicycles. We are happy for bicycles to be left at school during the holidays by arrangement with Houseparents, but cannot be responsible for loss or damage at any time.

At the start of term there is a bicycle safety check and all bicycles are recorded and labelled for security. Bicycles which are considered unsafe will not be allowed to be ridden. Skateboards and scooters are also permitted and a helmet is required to be worn by students who use these items to keep them safe.

Due to fire risk, e-scooters and e-bikes cannot be stored or charged in or around boarding Houses and therefore they should not be brought onto campus.

8.7. Linen

Boarders should bring with them a flame retardant, single duvet (one), pillow(s) and their own bed linen (two sets), all of which must be named. These items will be laundered by the school. For exchange students and those who are staying for two terms or less, however, the school can provide these items.

Towels are provided but students may wish to bring their own; again, these must be clearly labelled.

8.8. Laundry

Each House is allocated two laundry days a week in which uniform and personal clothing can be laundered. All items of clothing must be clearly labelled. Washing machines are also available in each Boarding House for use by Year 12 and 13. Detergent is provided for these machines. Dry cleaning is sent to a local contractor and the cost added to your bill.

8.9. Own clothes

Boarders will need a small selection of 'own clothes' for wearing during personal time. Own clothes are worn from late afternoon onwards (Monday to Saturday) and on Sundays (other than Chapel and sports fixtures). Sturdy footwear is recommended, along with boots for the winter. If your child does not want to wear their school coat in 'own clothes' time, they will need a warm and waterproof jacket.

Formal/party clothing is needed for formal social events such as year group dinners, Christmas suppers etc.

8.10. Personal effects

Every student is allocated a lockable space in their room. Students should bring a padlock with them (preferably a combination one) and make use of this facility for the storage of their personal valuables.

Please see the travel section of this handbook for details of how passports, BRP cards and other important documentation are managed.

8.11. Personal Possessions and Insurance of Possessions

The School does not insure students' possessions. Please ensure that valuable items of equipment and clothing, which should only be brought to School if necessary, are covered in your personal insurance policies. Musical instruments, laptops and mobile phones are particularly relevant under this heading.

It is very important for all students to take care of their own property and the property of others. All personal items - uniform, casual clothes, possessions - should be named. We try to discourage borrowing and lending personal items.

Houseparents will be able to give advice on personal items that are useful and provide comfort and practicality in everyday life, particularly concerned with the equipping of a student's room.

- Please note that toasters, kettles and electric heaters of any sort are not allowed. All other electrical items will be subject to testing in school.
- For safety reasons, only LED lamps with cool light bulbs are allowed as bedside or desk-top lighting.

8.12. Storage in the School Holidays

As noted above, whilst appropriate security measures are in place, and students are taught a responsible approach to management of their own possessions, as well as appropriate respect for others, the school cannot be held responsible for the loss of or damage to student possessions.

During half term breaks and leave-out weekends, students may normally leave their possessions in their own room, using the available lockable spaces to secure valuable items. Any changes to this will be clearly communicated.

During Christmas and Easter holidays students are required to pack up their rooms. They may leave one large suitcase in the luggage store of the boarding house. It is always advised that students return home with the majority of their clothing to ensure it is still needed and fits them.

Minimal storage is available over the summer holidays and, if items are left at school there will be a nominal charge for their storage. When a student leaves the school permanently, they are responsible for taking all their possessions with them, or arranging a courier and informing their matron.

The school reserves the right to levy a charge for disposal of items left by students.

8.13. Visas

The requirement and type of visa which students require is a function of their age, nationality and the length of their stay with us. Students with British or Irish nationality do not need a visa to study at Gordonstoun, nor does anyone who has pre-settled/settled status, indefinite leave to remain, or those with a dependent visa.

Most students who come to study for a period of less than 6 months do not normally require a visa, but this is required for nationals of certain countries. This is a very useful site if students want to check:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>.

It is a requirement for these applications to be made via Holmes and Partners as the school is sponsoring the application. They work with us to ensure a guided and seamless process. We can begin the application 6 months prior to the student joining us. Further information and support can be provided by the school, please contact visas@gordonstoun.org.uk (0044 1343 837812) if you require assistance.

9. BEING A DAY STUDENT AT GORDONSTOUN

9.1. Timing

Being a day student at Gordonstoun is busy and the days are long but rewarding!

For day students to gain the full benefit of being members of Gordonstoun, they are required to subscribe to the full programme. This entails being in school by 0815 each morning, Monday to Saturday, for Chapel. Attendance at Chapel is important for a number of reasons: presentations are often made on areas of school life central to the school's ethos; the day's notices are given out; and Chapel time is also 'registration' - a legal requirement for the school.

The formal school day at Gordonstoun finishes on Monday to Friday when Prep is completed at 2030 for Years 9 and 10 and at 2100 for Years 11, 12 and 13. Unless your child is participating in an organised activity, please collect them at this time from House.

Day students should not normally be in for breakfast.

Day students participate in activities on Saturday afternoon and are usually free to leave by 1600 - although most choose to stay on for their evening social. Occasionally there may be matches and other commitments after 1600.

On Sundays, day students are welcome to attend Chapel and inter-House events but should otherwise not be in school.

Additionally, day students are required to take part in core Outdoor Education experiences - sail training voyages and expeditions - which take place during weekends.

9.2. Daily Drop-off and Pick-up

In the morning, please drop your child at their House or at Gordonstoun House. Please note, for traffic safety reasons, Chapel is not a drop-off point and you should not drop your child on the main driveway.

Please collect your child at the end of the day from their House.

Please note that, during current construction work for our new Classroom Village, one-way systems may be in place. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of these essential health and safety measures which form part of our contract with the builders, and follow all signs.

For everyone's safety it is vital that speed limits, and the reverse parking policy, are observed at all times. Ours is a park and walk campus where pedestrians and cyclists always take priority.

9.3. Reporting Absences

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please email their Houseparent and reception@gordonstoun.org.uk. This enables us to keep our registration records up-to-date and avoids us initiating a student search!

9.4. Overnight Stays

It is sometimes possible to provide occasional overnight accommodation for day students, although this inevitably depends on the availability of bed spaces once these have been allocated to boarders. Such occasions might be at the convenience of the student if, for example, they are involved in a late return to school in the evening or an early departure in the morning, or sometimes to help parents if, for example, they are away from home. On these occasions, a charge per night is made. If you have any questions about this, please consult your child's Houseparent.

In the senior part of the school, day students may also accept responsibilities which entail their staying at school overnight, such as Fire Service duties or late evening supervision in Houses. This necessity is explained to students when they take on such responsibilities and, in such cases where there is a requirement by the school that a student should stay, no charge is made.

Please also be aware that – depending on their Boarding House – some Day Students will be in a room with a bed space, in which case they are welcome to bring bed linen as stipulated above for Boarders. However, this is by exception and should not be expected.

9.5. Day Student Transport

We offer transport for day students travelling to School on two routes:

- Aberlour to Gordonstoun
- Forres to Gordonstoun

Transport is provided on both routes Monday - Saturday mornings but there is no evening return journey for senior school students due to the varying times of the end of the school day. The routes are operated (at the School's discretion) by Taxi, School Minibus or Kineil Coach.

ROUTE DETAIL	
Aberlour Square / Craigellachie Hotel	Forres / Kinloss / Hopeman
Rothes / Elgin / Junior School	Junior School

INWARD JOURNEY (Monday to Saturday)			
07.15	Depart Aberlour Square	07.30	Depart Bus Stop, Tesco Forres
07.20	Craigellachie Hotel	07.35	Applegrove School
07.35	Fogwatt	07.37	Ramnee Hotel
07.45	Old Railway Station, Elgin	07.40	Bus Stop, Kinloss
07.50	Bus Stop, Haugh Road Elgin (Tesco)	07.55	Waterfront, Hopeman
08.00	Gordonstoun Junior School	08.00	Gordonstoun Junior School

- The timings above are intended as a guide for Passengers, Parents and Drivers.
- Passengers should be at the agreed pick up point five minutes early to allow for boarding time.
- Drivers will not leave the above stops before the agreed time, nor will they wait beyond the published time.
- In the event of a problem (Bus not arriving, inclement weather, road blocked) the point of contact from 06:45 each day is as per the emergency numbers advised in contact detail above.

9.5.1. Support and Expectations

In order to provide safe transport for students, please support with the following:

- There will be no planned change to pick-up points along the route. Please contact the Transport Department to discuss additional future pick-up points.
- Delayed timings impact the safety and welfare of students awaiting collection further down the route.
- Transport is an extension of the school and students are required to behave under the school Code of Conduct.

- Consumption of food or drink is not permitted on the school transport.
- Seatbelts must be worn at all times.
- All additional reasonable requests made by the transport driver should be supported; this includes, during the global Covid-19 pandemic, the wearing of face masks, maintaining distance where possible and using hand gel.

9.5.2. **Booking Transport and Fee**

A contribution towards the transport costs is charged and details are available from transport@gordonstoun.org.uk. This will be added to the school bill termly in arrears. A new request form must be completed each year. You can book transport [here](#).

9.5.3. **Day Pupil Transport Contact Details**

The transport department can be contacted on 01343 837821 or transport@gordonstoun.org.uk. In emergency only: 07920 238708.

Other useful numbers:

- Aberlour Minibus (Driver) 07917 604546
- Forres Minibus (Driver) 07880 313464
- School designated Taxi Company: DB Taxis 07704 737508
- Kineil Coaches 01343 522777 (in Emergency only: 07973 933018)

10. **LEAVE OUTS, HALF TERMS AND HOLIDAYS**

10.1. **Leave Out Weekends**

Leave Out weekends are an opportunity for you to take your child out of school. These take place in the Autumn term, and occasionally in the Spring or Summer terms depending on the shape of the school year and they provide a welcome change to the pace of life at school.

Leave-Out Weekends normally run from Friday lunchtime to Sunday evening, but sometimes from Saturday lunchtime to Monday evening (detailed timings are provided in the Term Dates as published on our website and iSAMS Parent app). Boarding Houses remain open during Leave Out weekends (although we may merge Houses if numbers staying in are small) and a full programme operates for students who remain on campus. There is an additional charge for staying in the school during Leave Out Weekends.

Families are welcome to invite other students to stay with them over Leave Out Weekends, although this must be done at least two weeks beforehand in order that appropriate permissions and, where necessary, visa paperwork can be completed. Permission should be sought by emailing DHP@gordonstoun.org.uk.

Sports fixtures, expeditions, sail training voyages and performing arts events may take place over Leave Out Weekends and team members are expected to participate. This can provide an opportunity for you to visit the school and see your child in action.

10.2. **Half Term**

There is a half term holiday in all three of the school terms. During these times the school is closed and students must travel home or stay with relatives or friends. Overseas students may stay with their local Guardians (arranged in advance by the school). If a student is not travelling to stay with their parents then their holiday arrangements must be agreed with their Houseparent and the Assistant Head Boarding before their departure from school.

The Summer term half term is also the point at which we have our annual Open Weekend; a full programme of activities is arranged including the inter-House athletics competition, exhibitions of art work, concerts and drama productions. The Open Weekend concludes with the Leavers' celebrations, Dinner and Ball, which is attended by our departing Year 13s and their parents only. Open Weekend traditionally coincides with the last weekend in May.

10.3. Planned Absences During Term Time

We strongly discourage absences during term time as these interrupt learning, valuable experiences and social interaction. However, we recognise that there can be exceptions.

In such exceptional circumstances, written permission must be gained from the Assistant Head Boarding who may be contacted via pastoraloffice@gordonstoun.org.uk.

10.4. Holidays

Students are reminded that, when travelling to and from school, and even when on holiday, they are always representatives of their school.

10.5. Travel Days

There is an allocated Travel Day at the beginning and end of each half term. Please make sure that you book travel times to align with the dates and times set out in the school calendar. We are happy for students to be collected by car on the last full day of term, but not until the Flag Service is over (timings may be found on the Term Dates on the website and iSAMS Parent app). Those leaving by plane and train leave the following morning on the allocated travelling day.

There will be an additional charge for arriving in school before published arrival times and staying in school beyond published departure times or students will be placed with a Guardian.

Written permission for early departures or late arrivals must be gained from the Assistant Head Boarding on boarding@gordonstoun.org.uk

See below for information on how to book travel and transfers with us.

10.6. Gordonstoun Travel Service

We provide a friendly and experienced service supporting the travel of our students all over the world, and encourage parents to book through travel@gordonstoun.org.uk for the best travel experience.

The travel service can:

- Book flights
- Ensure children travel with fellow students wherever possible
- Organise airport and railway station transfers
- Accompany children to and from London Heathrow

Flights and transfers will be itemised on the school bill and charged accordingly.

You must let us know your travel details no less than 14 days before the relevant travel day. If you do not contact us within this timeframe, we will expect you to arrange your child's travel to and from school.

Regardless of whether you use the school travel service, please do let us know your travel arrangements as soon as possible to assist our planning. Please do so by emailing travel@gordonstoun.org.uk and your child(ren)'s boarding House pastoral team.

Any bespoke travel requirements can be discussed with the travel team. For further information, the team can be contacted on +44 1343 837821 or travel@gordonstoun.org.uk

10.6.1. Travel Documentation

It is the school's policy that all travel documentation such as passports, visas and BRP cards will be collected and stored securely in houses by matrons. These documents require to be stored in line with guidance from the UKVI, and we are inspected regularly to ensure compliance. It is also useful should the need arise for a student to go to hospital in an emergency.

10.6.2. Accompanied Flights to London

Since some airlines require under 16s to travel with an adult, we provide an accompanied flight service on key

flights between London and Aberdeen/Inverness ensuring younger students can travel easily to and from school. This must be booked by the school Travel Service for it to be recognised by the airline. The relevant fee will be added to your bill.

10.6.3. Unaccompanied Minors

Other airlines offer unaccompanied minor flight services and we are happy to advise on this.

10.6.4. Inverness and Aberdeen Airport Transfers

On travel days, transfers to and from the local airports are available. Coaches are available for busy flights as well as school minibuses and private and shared taxis; depending on demand and availability.

School organised transport will be staffed appropriately and the school has a preferred taxi company which has been police checked and works closely with the school.

Please contact travel@gordonstoun.org.uk for up-to-date transfer prices.

10.6.5. Germany/Edinburgh Airport Transfers

Depending on flight availability, the school often arranges for students to use specific Lufthansa and Eurowings flights into Edinburgh which are then supported with airport transfers. Please contact travel@gordonstoun.org.uk for details.

10.6.6. Coach Service to Perth and Edinburgh

An escorted coach service is provided from Gordonstoun to Edinburgh Ingliston Park & Ride, stopping at Perth Broxden Park & Ride. This service is not an airport pick up. Any excess baggage (e.g. bikes or golf clubs) need to be booked specially onto the coach.

Please contact travel@gordonstoun.org.uk for up-to-date coach prices and timings.

10.6.7. Travel Fees

Administrative fees are charged on travel bookings and changes. Please contact the travel office for details. These will be added to your bill.

10.6.8. Booking a Taxi

If you need to book a taxi for yourself or your child, we recommend:

- DB Taxis T: 0044 (0)7704 737508
- Lossie Taxis T: 0044 (0) 1343 815999

11. PROBLEMS, QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

11.1. Who to Contact

Should you have a problem, the first person to contact is usually your child's Houseparent or Tutor. They will then be able to advise you on who can deal with the matter best, or will help facilitate a discussion between you and the person you need to speak to. The following guide may also be useful:

- Houseparent – all matters to do with the day-to-day life of your child
- Tutor – all matters related to the academic and pastoral life of your child, including the broader curriculum and their general wellbeing
- Matron – logistical matters including clothing, equipment, routines, birthdays etc
- Teachers – any items specific to their particular subject and class

Should your problem not be resolved by this team, you can escalate it to the relevant Assistant Head, whose remits are as follows:

- **Boarding (Houses and discipline)**
Pete Richardson – boarding@gordonstoun.org.uk
- **Wellbeing (health, wellbeing, food, uniform)**
Charlotte Marsh – wellbeing@gordonstoun.org.uk
- **Teaching and learning (classroom matters)**
Simon Foote – curriculumoffice@gordonstoun.org.uk
- **Broader Curriculum (performing arts, sport, outdoor ed, sailing etc)**
Steve Cook – curriculumoffice@gordonstoun.org.uk
- **Student Achievement and Quality Assurance (reports, exams)**
Martin Warren – curriculumoffice@gordonstoun.org.uk

Should this escalation not resolve matters, you can further escalate to our pastoral or curricular Deputy Heads:

- Philip Schonken (DHP@gordonstoun.org.uk) – all matters pastoral and wellbeing
- Danielle Cowan (DHC@gordonstoun.org.uk) – all matters curricular

The Head of Senior School, Richard Devey, and thereafter the Principal, Lisa Kerr, may also be contacted.

11.2. Complaints

Gordonstoun deals with complaints in an open and positive manner. Where possible we aim for complaints to be resolved informally and in the spirit of partnership. Complaints can range from minor concerns which will be dealt with instantly, to major issues requiring detailed investigation. Complaints can be dealt with by any member of staff, though the normal expectation is that most complaints will be dealt with by a middle or senior manager. If the matter is a Child Protection issue then the Designated Child Protection Officer would be involved from the outset.

Formal complaints which have not been resolved informally or complaints of a particular serious nature should be directed to the Principal's Office (principal@gordonstoun.org.uk). Once an investigation has taken place a decision will be made and the complainant will be informed of the decision and reasons for it in writing.

Further information can be found in the Complaints Policy which is available [xx](#)

11.3. Regulators

All schools in Scotland are supported by Education Scotland. This is a Scottish Government Executive agency charged with supporting quality and improvement in Scottish Education. Each school is allocated its own Link Inspector and schools are routinely inspected by a team of Inspectors. Our most recent inspection report can be found [here](#).

In addition, there exists a public register of all independent schools which is maintained by The Registrar of Independent Schools, who is an official of the Scottish Government, based in Education Scotland.

The General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) manages the Register of Teachers which contains details of every teacher and college lecturer qualified to teach in Scotland. The Register of Teachers can be used by members of the public to check a teacher and lecturers' registration status and by employers as proof of registration. It is a legal requirement for all teachers working in Scottish schools to be registered with GTC Scotland

As a boarding school, we are also regulated by the Care Inspectorate. This is the national regulator for care services in Scotland, and care services cannot operate unless they are registered by the Care Inspectorate. They inspect services and evaluate the quality of care they deliver.

Our various outdoor activities are regulated by the AALA (Adventure Activities Licensing Authority) In addition to this our sail training is regulated by the RYA.

12. FEES AND FINANCE

A termly fee invoice is sent prior to the fee payer at the start of each term and fees are due for payment on or by the first day of term. Details of how to make payment are sent with each invoice. Parents living in the UK should pay fees by direct debit. Overseas parents should pay by bank transfer. Interest is charged on late payments.

There is no remission or rebate of fees. This means that full fees are expected at all times. This is for all absences including illness, public examinations when students may be revising at home, or when students have finished their exams in their final term and are allowed to leave. Contracts can only be terminated by giving a full term's notice in writing to the Principal, or by paying a term's fees in lieu of notice.

All enquiries about fees should be referred to the Fees Administrator on 044 (0)1343 837914 or email fees@gordonstoun.org.uk

12.1. Chargeable Extras

Gordonstoun's fees are uniquely inclusive, encompassing all compulsory elements of our extensive curriculum including Sail Training and Expeditions. Full details of the chargeable extras policy are available by contacting fees@gordonstoun.org.uk. Some key charges for the 2022/23 academic year are noted below.

- Music charges are £834.00 per annum for half hour lessons and £1,467.00 for hourly lessons.
- Overnight stays in school for day pupils (where available) £55.00 per night.
- Leave out weekend – £90.00 per night.
- Guardianship – £575.00 per term. Daily charge £80.00 per night.
- Rustication – Daily charge £80.00 (full rustication). Daily charge (local rustication) £55.00
There is an administration fee of £82.00 per rustication.
- A 15% administration fee is applied to all travel booked through the school (including taxis and flights).
- School transport is provided in the morning from Aberlour and Forres - A contribution towards the transport costs is charged at £5.85 per journey. This is added to the school bill termly in arrears.
- MOSA charge - All Gordonstoun boarders are registered with Maryhill GP Practice in Elgin who provide the students various medical services when required. The practice must be a member of the Medical Officers of Schools Association and are governed by this association. The fee is levied for each registered boarder per term. This is a termly charge which is currently £27.34.
- Counselling
- Individual/small-group student support
- Assessments
- Optional curricular activities

Please note that charges increase annually.

13. AND FINALLY...

13.1. How to Support the School?

Philanthropy has been an essential part of Gordonstoun's evolution and existence since our foundation in 1934 and without your generosity Gordonstoun would not have survived to become the world leader of character education we are so proud of today. The Gordonstoun community is deeply grateful to all our supporters who allow us to continue to make a difference in young people's lives. Since our foundation in 1934 we have helped make a profound difference, often life changing opportunities to deserving young people.

Our founder Kurt Hahn said upon the foundation of the school, *"...No school can build up a tradition of self-discipline and vigorous but joyous endeavour unless at least 30 percent of the children come from homes where life is not only simple but even hard."*

To this end we are committed to ensuring that our level of bursarial support remains at least at this level and strive to grow our bursarial support fund and the Prince Philip Gordonstoun Foundation.

As well as our commitment to providing life changing opportunities through bursaries, we are committed

to improving Gordonstoun's facilities. As we approach our centenary we have begun work on our exciting 2034 Masterplan which will see new classrooms, a Sixth Form centre, a Science centre, new and refurbished boarding provision, as well as the creation and improvement of social and sports facilities around campus. These builds will be done in keeping with our environment as well as being sustainable and eco-friendly. We also plan to look towards generating our own power through the building of our own solar farm.

None of this can be done without your ongoing support. Whether you wish to join our Campaign Cabinet, work with us on bursaries or buildings we would love you to get in touch by contacting development@gordonstoun.org.uk. You can find out more on our website:

<https://gordonstoun.org.uk/supporting-gordonstoun>

<https://gordonstoun.org.uk/ways-to-donate>

13.2. Our role within the sector

Gordonstoun is proud to play a leading role within the sector, participating actively in the development of national policy and practice, and benefiting from, and contributing to, support networks around the country.

Gordonstoun is a member of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools (**SCIS**) which promotes choice, diversity and excellence. Gordonstoun has representation on the SCIS Board.

Gordonstoun is an HMC School, meaning its Principal is an HMC member. **HMC** is the world-leading body for independent schools.

Gordonstoun's commitment to excellence in boarding is cemented by our membership of the Boarding Schools' Association (**BSA**). We were early adopters of its Boarding Charter which includes a commitment to mandatory reporting.

Gordonstoun is the only Scottish school within Rugby Group, a network of around two dozen leading UK boarding schools which deliver holistic education.

14. GLOSSARY – learning to speak 'Gordonstoun'!

A glossary of important terms, abbreviations, acronyms used by the Gordonstoun Community: *(in alphabetical order)*

AHP	Assistant Houseparent.
Brew	A brew is a social event which generally involves food and drink – it can be a tea party, a birthday party with cake and crisps or in the Sixth Form, with staff in attendance, a social event with pizza and perhaps a glass of wine on a Saturday night, as appropriate.
CB	Colour Bearer. In other schools this might be known as a prefect.
Chapel	A Senior School gathering, usually on a daily basis at 0815, except on Tuesdays which is Tutor Period, and with times varying on Sundays.
Contract	A parent report on your child's progress.
Credit slip	A computerised record of noteworthy achievement or action of a student.
Diploma	A holistic school award of accumulated grades and evidence from across the curriculum.
DHC	Deputy Head Curriculum.
DHP	Deputy Head Pastoral.
DPO	Duffus Post Office, on the edge of the campus; the nearest shop.
EAL	An abbreviation for English as an Additional Language – an educational support for students for whom English is not yet sufficiently fluent.
Elgin Leave	An occasional shopping trip to Elgin in place of activities afternoon. Trips are organised by year group and this is a privilege which may be withdrawn.
Exped	Exped is short for expedition – which is the name for outdoor adventure and learning activities

which take place throughout the year at school. Generally an exped involves camping, but an exped can also be a day trip into the hills.

G House	Gordonstoun House is the main House of Gordonstoun, the administrative hub of the school where many social events also take place.
GISS	Gordonstoun International Summer School.
Guardian	In other schools, this would be the Head pupil. At Gordonstoun we appoint two CBs as Guardian each term. They assist the Head of Senior School and Senior Leadership Team in running the school.
HCC	Healthcare Centre.
HoD	Head of Department.
HP	Houseparent.
ISC	International and Spiritual Citizenship; a non-examined course taken at all levels in the School.
KSL	Key Stage Leader; a member of staff who oversees students in Years 7-9 (Key Stage 3), Years 10 & 11 (Key Stage 4) or Years 12 & 13 (Key Stage 5).
Leave Out	A holiday or exeat weekend which runs from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening, or Saturday lunchtime to Monday evening.
Mixed Com	Each of the Boarding Houses has a 'Mixed Com'. This is an abbreviation for 'Mixed Common Room'. It is the only room in the House in which members of the other boarding Houses may socialise. Some of the bigger Mixed Coms are also used as meetings rooms or social spaces.
OG	Old Gordonstounians – or alumni of the school, to whom much of the above would be familiar.
Prep	Homework.
Rustication	Suspension from school.
Seamanship	Seamanship is a particular part of the school's Broader Curriculum and takes place in and around the school's Seamanship department at Hopeman Harbour, and on the West Coast where the school's larger sailing boats are moored.
School Exec	Principal, Bursar and Head of Senior School.
SEN	Special Educational Needs.
SLT	The Senior Leadership Team.
Social	The word used to describe social events, usually on a Saturday evening, that take place during term time; age appropriate events which can take place inside and outside and might be a dance, a brew, a trip to the cinema, a quiz or a barbecue.
STV	Sail Training Voyage and (which can be confusing) Sail Training Vessel. Students across the school have the opportunity to go on two Sail Training Voyages during their career at Gordonstoun. They do this on the school's Sail Training Vessel, Ocean Spirit of Moray.
Work slip	A computerised recording completed by a teacher and sent to the HP and tutor to record work which has not been completed by a pupil and ensure its prompt completion via the House.

15. INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOCAL AREA

This information is provided based on our most up-to-date knowledge. However, we do not undertake inspections or checks, and therefore cannot make official recommendations about local businesses.

15.1. Accommodation

Following are the contact numbers and, where possible, website addresses for local Airbnb providers, B&B's, hotels and restaurants:

DUFFUS

Duffus Estate (Air BnB)	(o) 7812 017386	www.duffusestate.com
Mossyards	(o) 7831 945204	www.mossyards.co.uk

BURGHEAD (approx. 3 miles west from Gordonstoun, 10-minute drive)

Salty Dog Holidays	(o) 7786 071163	hello@westbeachcaravanpark.co.uk
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LOSSIEMOUTH (approx. 3 miles east from Gordonstoun, 10-minute drive)

Norland Guest House	(o) 1343 813570	www.norlandbandb.com
Links Lodge Guest House	(o) 1343 813815	www.links lodge.co.uk
Cliffside Apartment	(o) 7831 386172	chloe.mcdowell@gmail.com
Bowmore, 4 Marine Court	(o) 7492738549	jenniferjones76@gmail.com

ELGIN (approx. 6 miles south from Gordonstoun, 10-minute drive)

Mansefield House Hotel	(o) 1343 540883	www.themansefield.com
The Lodge Guest House	(o) 1343 549981	www.thelodge-elgin.com
Laichmoray Hotel	(o) 1343 540045	www.laichmorayhotel.co.uk
Linkwood Lodge (Premier Inn)	(o) 1343 550747	www.premiertravelinn.com
Travelodge	(o) 8719846560	www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/671/Elgin-hotel

ALVES (approx. 8 miles, 15-minute drive West from Gordonstoun)

Ardgye House	(o) 1343 850 618	www.ardgyehouse.co.uk
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FORRES (approx. 12 miles, 20-minute drive West from Gordonstoun)

Blervie House, Rafford	(o) 1309 674 629	www.blervie.com
Cluny Bank Hotel	(o) 1309 674 304	www.clunybankhotel.co.uk
Ramnee Hotel	(o) 1309 672410	www.ramneehotel.com

FOCHABERS (approx. 15 miles, 30-minute drive East from Gordonstoun)

Trochelhill Country House	(o) 1343 821 267	www.trochelhill.co.uk
Gordon Castle	(o) 1343 820 244	www.gordoncastle.co.uk/stay/cottages
The Gardeners Cottage	(o) 7786 111 100	mel.collett2015@outlook.com

ROTHES (16 miles south of Gordonstoun, 30-minute drive)

Roths Glen Luxury Castle	(o) 1340 832 335	www.rothesglenspeyside.com
The Station Hotel	(o) 1340 832 200	www.stationhotelspeyside.com

CRAIGELLACHIE (approx. 19 miles south from Gordonstoun, 35-minute drive)

Craigellachie Hotel	(o) 1340 881 204	www.craigellachiehotel.co.uk
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ABERLOUR (approx. 19 miles south of Gordonstoun, 35-minute drive)

The Dowans Hotel	(o) 1340 871 488	www.dowanshotel.com
Burnroy House	(o) 7798 758146	www.burnroyhouse.co.uk

FINDHORN (19 miles west, 25/30-minute drive)

Findhorn House		www.findhornhouse.com
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AULDEARN (20 miles west, 30-minute drive between Forres & Nairn)

Boath House (o) 1667 454 896 www.boath-house.com

NAIRN (25 miles west, 40-minute drive, en-route to Inverness Airport)

Invernairne Guest House (o) 1667 452 039 www.invernairne.co.uk

INVERNESS (approx. 39 miles west from Gordonstoun, 1-hour drive to the city centre)

Courtyard by Marriott (o) 1463 423111 www.marriott.com
 Rocpool Reserve (o) 1463 717 274 www.rocpool.com
 Loch Ness Hotel (o) 1463 230 512 www.lochnesscountryhousehotel.co.uk
 Glenmoriston Town (o) 1463 273 777 www.glenmoristontownhouse.com
 Bunchrew House Hotel (o) 1463 234 917 www.bunchrewhousehotel.com
 Kingsmills Hotel (o) 1463 257 100 www.kingsmillshotel.com
 Culloden House Hotel (o) 1463 790461 www.cullodenhospital.co.uk
 Loch Ness Lodge (o) 1456 459 469 www.loch-ness-lodge.com

AVIEMORE (approx. 45 miles, in the Cairngorm National Park. Allow 1hr15min for travel)

Premier Inn www.premierinn.com

ABERDEEN (70 miles east of Gordonstoun. Allow 90 -120 minutes for travel)

Courtyard by Marriott Hotel (o) 1224 770 011 www.marriott.com
 Crowne Plaza (o) 1224 608 350 www.cpaberdeen.com
 Hampton by Hilton (o) 1224 984 584 www.hilton.com/hampton/aberdeen
 Marcliffe of Pitfodels (o) 1224 861 000 www.marcliffe.com
 IX The Chester Hotel (o) 1224 327 777 www.chester-hotel.com
 Malmaison (o) 8446 930 649 www.malmaison.com/locations/aberdeen
 Thainstone House Hotel, (o) 1467 621 643 www.crerarhotels.com/thainstone-house

ROYAL DEESIDE (area to south of Aberdeen Airport, Scottish home of the Royal Family - allow at least 2 hours to drive, some small roads)

The Fife Arms, Braemar (o) 1339 720 200 www.thefifearms.com
 Hilton Craighendarroch (o) 1339 755 858
 Raemoir Hotel, Banchory (o) 1330 824 884 www.raemoir.com

15.2. Local towns and villages

Duffus Post Office, village shop and children's playpark.

Hopeman (3 miles West): Harbour, beaches, coastal walks, village shop and post office, butcher, café, ice cream parlour, fish & chip/Chinese take away, public bars, gallery, children's playpark.

Cummingston (3.5 miles West): Pebbled beach, children's playpark, bistro (seasonal).

Burghead (4 miles West): Working harbour, beaches, coastal and woodland walks, village shop, post office, bistro, public bars, Chinese take away, children's playpark.

Covesea (1.5 miles East): Lighthouse, beach, café.

Lossiemouth (5 miles East): Harbour, beaches, ice cream parlours, children's playpark, choice of eateries/cafés/take away and a larger selection of shops.

Elgin (6 miles South): Elgin Cathedral, high street shopping and shopping centres, extensive choice of eateries/cafés/take away and amenities.

Findhorn (12 miles West): Bay with water activities, beach, village shop and post office, public bars, café.

Aviemore (56 miles South): An excellent base for exploring the beautiful Cairngorms National Park, great for walking, winter and summer climbing, skiing, mountain biking and shopping for the great outdoors.

15.3. Visitor attractions & places of interest

Duffus Castle	A typical Norman Castle (ruins) with a small coffee shop.
Spynie Palace	(Near Elgin): Dating back to the 12th Century and at one time residence of the Bishops of Moray. Beautiful surroundings and substantial wildlife and birdsong.
Pluscarden Abbey	(Near Elgin): The only medieval monastery in Britain still inhabited by monks and being used for its original purpose.
Gordon Castle	(Fochabers): Walled garden with organic cafe, gift shop, children's playpark.
Logie Steading	(a few miles south of Forres): A Visitor Centre with arts and crafts, shopping, walled gardens, lovely river walks, an adventure playground and café.
Brodie Castle	(4.5 miles west of Forres): French furniture, paintings, European and Chinese porcelain, Japanese artefacts, picnic area, tea room and gift shop. Adventure playground with timber fort for children, woodland walks, gardens and a lake.
Brodie Countryfare	(on the A96 towards Nairn): Shopping for gifts and clothing.
Cawdor Castle	(29 miles): Cawdor Castle, said to be the most romantic castle of the Highlands.
Ballindalloch Castle	(nr Aberlour): A family home in beautiful grounds - open to the public for viewing.
Fort George	(6 miles west of Nairn): An outstanding artillery fortification.
Culloden	Site of the last hand-to-hand battle fought on British soil.
Malt Whisky Trail	The World-famous Malt Whisky Trail with 7 distilleries in Moray and the Speyside Cooperage.
Ice-cream Trail	Five Moray shops have been included in Scotland's first ever 'Ice Cream Trail'.

15.4. Walking and outdoor pursuits

Loch Na Bo Wood	3.5km loop near Elgin suitable for all skill levels. Walking or Mountain biking.
Roseisle Woods	Long stretch of beach, connecting Burghead to Findhorn, and forest walks/mountain biking behind the dunes.
Quarrel Woods	5.5km loop near Elgin. The trail is primarily used for walking and running of all skill levels.
Hopeman harbour	Try Harbour jumping or stand-up-paddle boarding in the calm of this recreation harbour
Burghead Bay	This shallow bay is ideal for sea kayaking, stand-up-paddle boarding or open water swimming. In windy conditions it is a kite surfers' paradise. Fishing charters available for hire for the keen sea fishing enthusiasts.
Findhorn Bay	Sailing is the primary activity in Findhorn Bay with stand-up-paddle boarding, open water swimming and sea tours to spot dolphins, porpoises and basking sharks departing from Findhorn Bay.
Culbin Forest	(along the A96 west from Forres) Lovely walks, mountain biking and watch tower viewpoint.
Spey Bay	A rugged river mouth. Dolphin watching and Wildlife centre.
River Spey	A Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation.
Winding Walks	(near Fochabers): This circular walk heads up the side of the Small Burn with the option of taking one of the winding paths through the trees.
Ben Aigan	(off the A95) 275m ascent. Ben Aigan is largely covered with forestry plantations but the summit area rises clear to give some of the most extensive views over Moray, from the coastal plain to the distant Cairngorms. The ascent is a straightforward hill walk.
Ben Rinnes	(near Aberlour) 541m ascent. Ben Rinnes is the dominating summit of Moray and is a very popular hill walk. The views, as might be expected, are extremely extensive, taking in much of northeast Scotland.
Glenmore Estate	A beautiful forest for walking and mountain biking.

- Rothiemurchus** (Estate approximately 1.5 miles south east of Aviemore): Loch an Eilein (loch of the island) with its 13th century island castle, magnificent ancient pines, great mountain bike and walking trails.
- Loch Morlich** (at the foot of the Cairngorms) Great for water sports.
- Grantown-on Spey** Mountain biking trails (red, blue and green) and pump track.