

SCHOOL HOUSE

PLEASE SIR, MAY I BOARD?

*Boarding prep schools are rewriting the rules
and the pupils are loving it,
says Victoria Lambert*



Aysgarth School, Yorkshire, values independence and community

At the Dragon School, children can contact their parents via email and phone, but the school also upholds the important boarding tradition of a weekly letter home.

In North Yorkshire, Aysgarth School fosters values such as independence and community, while also preparing children for life after school ends altogether.

Headmaster, Rob Morse, explains, 'Independence might be the greatest gift we as parents can give to our children. Boarders are required to take responsibility for their actions and choices and, because parents are not there to shield them from natural causes and effects, the children will experience both success and failure in a controlled environment.'

Tom Dawson thinks the bonds the pupils make at Sunningdale are one of the key advantages. 'In a questionnaire about remote learning that we have sent out during the enforced COVID-19 isolation period, the things they miss the most by far are their friends. They love being able to see them on screen, but that cannot replace being able to go outside whenever they want to kick a football, bowl in the nets or just run around.'

Bunbury adds: 'The key factor is that our boys are happy, which of course reflects in their academic results at the end of the day.'

For parents, that equals job done – however much they might miss their children at night. ■

