BOARDING TIMES

A guide to boarding at Millfield Prep

WHAT TO EXPECT

busy HAPPY

abc HELPFUL INFORMATION

work ☆ live ☆ thrive

Friendship FUN

BEREWALL · CHAMPION · CHESTNUT · EDGARLEY MANOR · HOLLIES

Everything you need to know but forgot to ask...

HOME FROM HOME

MILLFIELD
PREP SCHOOL

hello

guten tag

HOLA

HALO

ПРИВЕТ

namaste

Salam

Olá

HABARI

bonjour

大家好

KONNICHIWA

Ciao

HELLO



Welcome to Millfield Prep.
We are thrilled that you have chosen to come and board with us.

You may be feeling nervous, which is only natural when you start something new. When you get into the swing of life here you will be taking part in lots of fun activities, making friends and trying new experiences and you will soon forget any first day wobbles.

I, like you, will join the school for the first time in January 2022, with my wife Emi, two children and two Golden Retrievers Humphrey and Parsnip, and will live in a house on the campus. You will be invited to have dinner and BBQs with us.

We look forward to meeting you and warmly welcoming you to our boarding family and we are sure that you will love your time with us.

Mr Thornburn
Headmaster



Your first evening in your new boarding house

When you arrive you will be helped to settle in by the duty staff and two evening helpers. You will have time to unpack and staff will show you where everything goes. Remember to bring some posters, pictures, books, games and any special things you want to have close by. We want you to create your own space and make it feel homely.

You will have a tour of the house so that you know where everything is. You might be feeling worried about getting lost or forgetting something. Please don't worry - you will have your own buddy in the house and in school and they can help with anything you need.

You will also meet your housemates, some could be new too, so you'll have lots in common already. There will also be time for a nice snack and a chat before you get ready for bed. It might feel strange to be in a new place on the first night but after such a busy day, you'll soon be fast asleep!

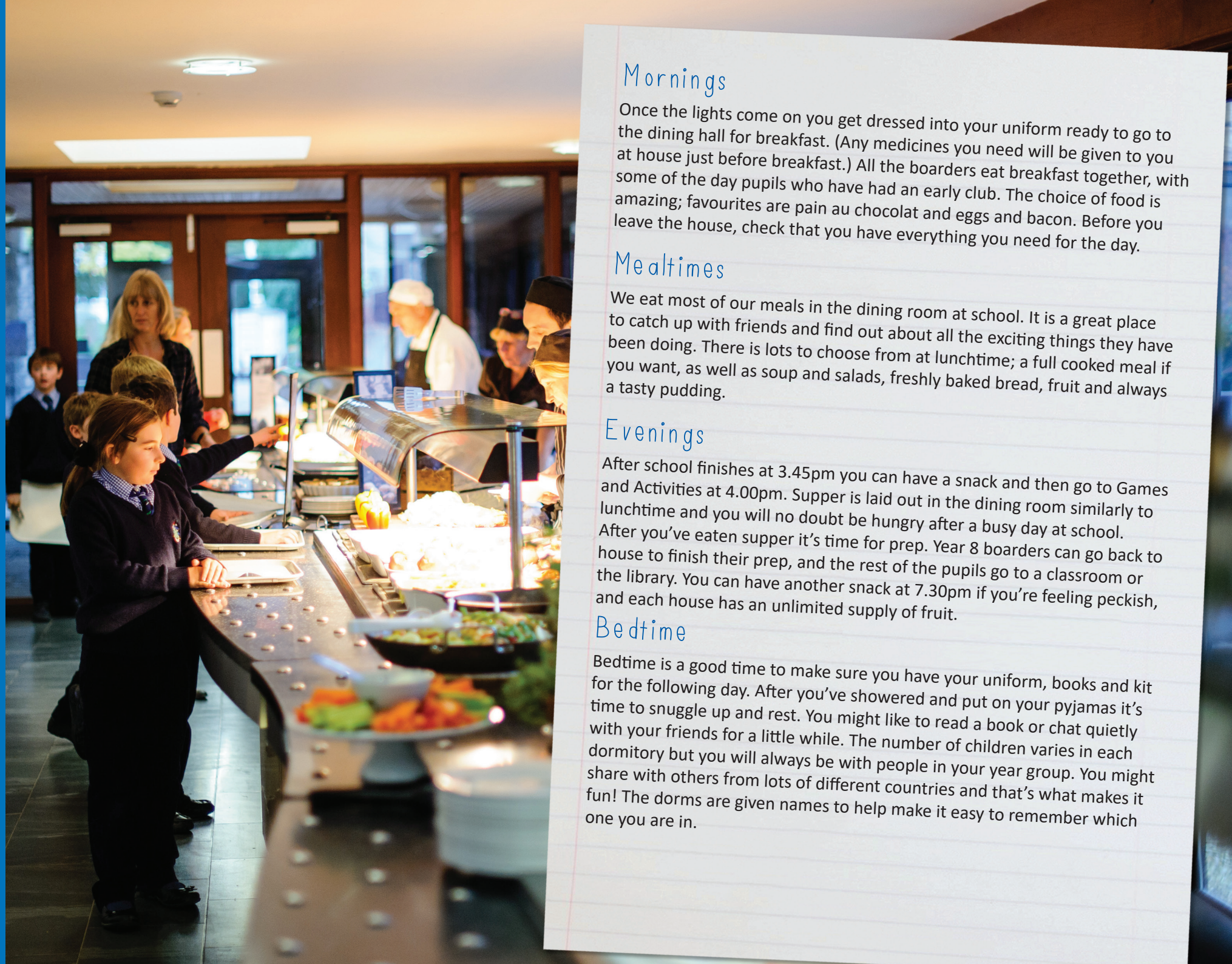
It's bound to be a busy day tomorrow - what exciting things will you do?



Weekday Routine

7.00am	Time to rise and shine and prepare your things for the day. Remember to make your bed and make sure you have everything you need for school and sports
7.30am	Meet in the common room and staff will hand out notices and take a register
7.35am	Time for a good breakfast to start the day
8.25am	The school day starts
3.45pm	School ends
4.00pm	Snacks and then off to Games and Activities
5.00pm	Supper time in the dining room
5.30pm	Homework and reading
6.30pm	It's time to have showers and get into your home clothes. Relax and enjoy some free time
7.30pm	Evening snack - and sometimes tuck treats!
8.00pm	Pack your bags for the next day at school
8.15pm	Bedtime routine starts
9.15pm	Last lights out for Year 8

Mornings, mealtimes and evenings



Mornings

Once the lights come on you get dressed into your uniform ready to go to the dining hall for breakfast. (Any medicines you need will be given to you at house just before breakfast.) All the boarders eat breakfast together, with some of the day pupils who have had an early club. The choice of food is amazing; favourites are pain au chocolat and eggs and bacon. Before you leave the house, check that you have everything you need for the day.

Mealtimes

We eat most of our meals in the dining room at school. It is a great place to catch up with friends and find out about all the exciting things they have been doing. There is lots to choose from at lunchtime; a full cooked meal if you want, as well as soup and salads, freshly baked bread, fruit and always a tasty pudding.

Evenings

After school finishes at 3.45pm you can have a snack and then go to Games and Activities at 4.00pm. Supper is laid out in the dining room similarly to lunchtime and you will no doubt be hungry after a busy day at school. After you've eaten supper it's time for prep. Year 8 boarders can go back to house to finish their prep, and the rest of the pupils go to a classroom or the library. You can have another snack at 7.30pm if you're feeling peckish, and each house has an unlimited supply of fruit.

Bedtime

Bedtime is a good time to make sure you have your uniform, books and kit for the following day. After you've showered and put on your pyjamas it's time to snuggle up and rest. You might like to read a book or chat quietly with your friends for a little while. The number of children varies in each dormitory but you will always be with people in your year group. You might share with others from lots of different countries and that's what makes it fun! The dorms are given names to help make it easy to remember which one you are in.







Activities

There are lots and lots of activities that you can choose from after school. You can try cooking, riding, drama, gymnastics, languages, pottery, woodwork, kit car building and all sorts of crafts. As well as this there are lots of sporting and music practices that go on. The list is endless. You can sign up for what you want to do each term.

Prep (Homework)

You do your prep at school, unless you are in Year 8 when you can go back to house and study at your desk. You do have time to do extra prep later in the evening or at weekends if you want to. Prep is a quiet time so that you are able to concentrate and work on your own, although there is always a teacher who can help you if you need it. If you finish your prep you can always read a book or do some revision on the computer or iPad.

Weekends





POSTCARD

THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY



On Sundays there is the option to go on a whole range of exciting trips, and sometimes use the amazing facilities on site. This year we've been paintballing, to the cinema, bowling, watched a falconry display, surfed on the beach, had days out at theme parks, worked at a blacksmith's forge, explored a zoo, raced around a go-kart track and played laser tag! On site we can use BMXs, mountain bikes, the shooting range, the climbing wall, go kayaking, take part in pottery and crafts, visit the school riding stables, play squash and sometimes we have giant inflatables in the pool and the sports hall. No wonder the day pupils always want to come and join us on Sundays!



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There is always a plan for the weekends that you can be involved in, either with the whole boarding community or your house. On Saturday you have school in the morning, matches or an activity in the afternoon, and also have time to do your own thing. Some Saturday nights after supper, you go back to house to watch a movie and have late night snacks. On Sunday you sometimes have a chapel service, as well as doing an activity and spending time relaxing. Weekends are also good for spending time with your friends, not only from your own house but from other houses too.



House Outings

On the last weekend of each term you will go on a house outing. You might get to go shopping, go to the theatre or white water rafting, for example. Everyone in your house has a vote on some options and you go on the most popular activity. Sometimes you go on a mystery trip arranged by your houseparents – you can guarantee it will be fun!

You'll usually have a packed lunch while you're out and you can take pocket money for snacks and souvenirs. Sometimes you'll have a treat afterwards and go to a restaurant or have pizza for supper.

Exeat and Half Term

An exeat is a weekend break where the houses close and you go home to your parents or guardians. In the autumn term there are two exeats and one half term; in the spring there is one exeat and a half term, and in the summer one half term week. For the exeats and ends of term, you leave on Friday at around 4.00pm and come back on Sunday between 5.00pm and 8.00pm.

These exeats and half terms are a good chance to have a break from school and relax for a little while. Sometimes, you might like to offer to have one of your school friends for the weekend.



Keeping in touch





Phone calls, Skype and FaceTime

Every house has at least two landlines including a payphone that you can dial out on. Boarders can call their family on the landlines or use their mobile phones. Each house also has Skype or you can use the FaceTime app on your iPad. We ask that you only use FaceTime when you are in a communal area. There are plenty of rooms in which you can find a quiet place to call home. You can call home every day if you want, although when you first start, your houseparents may advise on how often they think is enough - to make sure you have enough time to get involved in all the fun things going on.

Emails and post

You are encouraged to write emails and letters to family and friends. We will remind you if there is an important day that you should be sending a card for. Your friends and family are welcome to send letters and parcels to you too. It's a brilliant surprise to arrive home from school and find that a special treat has arrived for you!



Birthdays

Birthdays are always a special occasion for boarders. Even if you are missing home on your special day, everyone will make sure you are having fun and enjoying yourself. You will have a party organised with your friends and houseparents and a special cake can be delivered. Your friends might even sing Happy Birthday, but we can't guarantee how good they'll be! Whatever happens, you will be made a fuss of and will have a day to remember.

Fire Drills

Fire drills happen every term and are good practice in case there is ever a real one. If you hear a fire alarm and you're in bed, or in the shower, put on your dressing gown and slippers and then move sensibly out of the house as soon as you can. If other people are asleep in your room, then you wake them up before leaving. After you leave the house, you go and meet everybody outside and line up with your housemates in the area that you have been told to go to. Staff will always check that everyone is out of bed and safe before they leave the house.

Boarding Council

The Boarding Council consists of the pupil heads of house - and sometimes a deputy head of house - who meet to discuss issues with Mr Stubbs, the Director of Boarding. These five people will represent the views of the other pupils in the house. You talk about issues that have come up, or things that you might like to change. Your houseparents will actively ask you for thoughts as to how they might improve things in your house. There is a suggestion box in each house where you can drop a note giving your views, in case you don't want to bring it up at a house meeting.

Laundry

All of the laundry is done in the house. Each night our evening helpers do lots of washes of play clothes, uniform and sports kit, and the next afternoon the clothes are washed, dried and ready for you to collect and put away. Bedding is done once a week and you will need to help with changing your own bed.

It is really important that all your clothes can be both machine washed and tumble dried. All clothing, bedding and uniform must also be named. This makes life easier for the staff when they are sorting the laundry.







Packing

At the beginning of every term the staff will help you unpack and make your room feel a bit like home. We encourage you to bring posters, cards and photos to personalise your noticeboard. You will need a weekend bag for exeats but you can opt to leave some of things here over the longer holidays. The first and last weekends of each term are great times to stay in and catch up with your friends.

Medical Centre

There are three nurses at Millfield Prep and a doctor who visits every day during the week. We also have a physiotherapist who can help you if you pick up a sports injury. Between them, they are at school from 8.00am to 6.00pm from Monday to Saturday, and there is always someone on call in the evenings and on Sundays. So, if anything is wrong with you – if you feel sick or have hurt yourself while out playing – you can always go to the Medical Centre and the nurses will patch you up! They are really kind and friendly so there is no need to worry.

Valuables

At the beginning of every term when you arrive at school, please give all your valuables to the staff so that we can keep them safe for you. Valuables are things like passports, jewellery and money. Your houseparents can keep pocket money for you, so just ask when you need some. You hand in your phones and other electrical devices overnight so they can be charged. It also stops the temptation to be looking at them when you should be getting some well-earned rest. All electrical items will be labelled to stop them getting lost.









Rewards

Taking pride in your house and dorm, keeping tidy and helping others means your house is a happy place to be. Staff take notice of good behaviour and a willingness to help and you can be rewarded and enjoy treats with your friends. Rewards vary slightly according to the house you are in and your age, but they will be clearly set out on the house noticeboard and explained by staff.



Tuck and late-night snacks

You are allowed to keep certain snacks and treats in the kitchens of your house, and your houseparents will talk to you about what is a sensible amount to have. You can have these in the evenings. Your houseparents will also run a tuck shop in house. Sometimes you can earn extra tuck as a reward for good things that you have done around the house. Occasionally, on a Wednesday evening or at the weekend, staff will take you shopping to stock up.

Who to talk to











Feeling homesick or lonely?

Worried about school or homework?

Being ignored or left out?

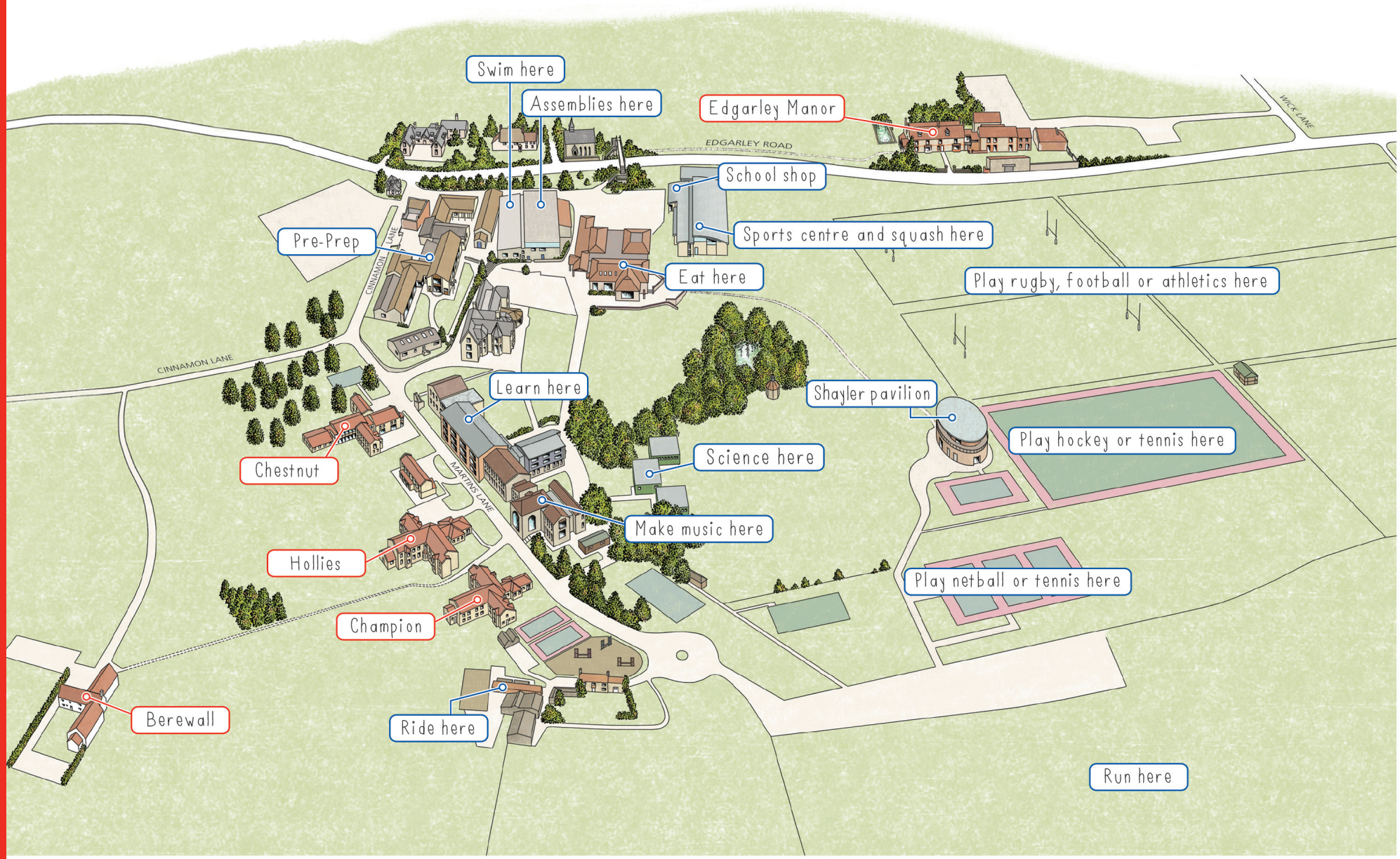
There is always someone to talk to, someone who can help:

- Your houseparents and assistant houseparents
- The Director of Boarding - Mr Carl Bingham
- Your Group Tutor or Head of Year
- Mrs Hazell (Deputy Head) - Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Teachers
- Your friends
- Medical Centre staff
- Independent Listener - advertised on the house noticeboards
- Childline: 0800 1111
- The Children's Commissioner for England: 0800 528 0731 or advice.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk
- Somerset Direct – Children's and Young People's Service: 0300 123 2224 or childrens@somerset.gov.uk

Campus map

Our School

MILLFIELD PREP SCHOOL



Useful contacts

Berewall (Boys)

Mr and Mrs Collins (Houseparents)
01458 837236 berewallhouse@millfieldprep.com
Mrs James (Assistant Houseparent)
01458 837237 james.m@millfieldprep.com

Champion (Girls)

Mr and Mrs Leonard (Houseparents)
01458 837770 championhouse@millfieldprep.com
Ms Smith (Assistant Houseparent)
01458 837771 smith.l@millfieldprep.com

Chestnut (Boys)

Mr and Mrs Duke (Houseparents)
01458 837229 chestnut@millfieldprep.com
Mr French (Assistant Houseparent)
01458 837230 french.t@millfieldprep.com

Edgarley Manor (Boys)

Mr and Mrs Close (Houseparents)
01458 836240 edgarleymanor@millfieldprep.com
Mr McNulty (Assistant Houseparent)
01458 836241 McNulty.B@millfieldprep.com

Hollies (Girls)

Mr and Mrs Bingham (Houseparents)
01458 837774 hollies@millfieldprep.com
Mrs Morgan-Hughes (Assistant Houseparent)
01458 837775 morganhughes.k@millfieldprep.com

If you ever have a problem or any questions, remember the house staff are here for you and want to help you get the best out of your time at Millfield Prep.

Some helpful advice from current and previous boarders:

Everyone feels a bit homesick from time to time, talk to staff and especially your mates, it's amazing how helpful they can be.

Get organised! As a Junior I struggled a bit when I first arrived. It was mainly that I didn't use my planner. My tutor helped me a lot and even though I wasn't sure at first, his advice has helped me do really well.

Don't phone home first if there is a problem. Speak to a prefect or a member of staff and they will help you.

Use your pupil planner. It actually helped me get on top of things.

I missed home at first but sound it worse the more I rang them.

Get involved in everything you can, both in school and in boarding. Things like sport and music will mean making lots of new friends.

Reflecting on the year

After my first week I felt...

After my first term I felt...

At the end of the year I felt...

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