



Mayfield

# ST GABRIEL'S HOUSE

HANDBOOK 2025-26



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# Welcome

St Gabriel's or 'Gabs' as it is affectionately known, is our Middle School Boarding House for our Year 9 and 10 boarders.

We aim to foster a sense of community and family, based on respect for each other, creating a home from home experience. We all work together to create a relaxed and happy environment where everyone can be themselves.

If there is anything you do not understand, please do not hesitate to ask. The staff are here to help you learn how to live together, problem-solve and achieve.

## **Mrs Hannah Robertson**

Housemistress



## HOUSE STAFF

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Girls in St Gabriel's House are cared for by a full-time Boarding Housemistress who has overall responsibility for the House, an Assistant Housemistress, Resident Tutors, and a Graduate Assistant.

The Resident Tutors combine House duties with teaching or another role within the School during the day.

The House Staff are also supported by several Housekeeping staff.

Housemistress

**Mrs Hannah Robertson**

Assistant Housemistress

**Miss Jessica Tompsett**

In order to care for the girls in the best possible way all staff work on a rota system so, if you need to contact the House urgently, please use the House number in the first instance to speak with a member of staff on duty.

## KEY CONTACT DETAILS

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### **St Gabriel's House Staff Office**

Tel: +44 (0) 1435 874600 Ext: 475 – please leave a message if there is no one available at the time you call. Staff come on duty at 18:00 on Mondays - Thursdays and at 16:30 on Fridays when the girls return to the Boarding House. During the normal school day, the main School Office may also be contacted (details below).

### **St Gabriel's House email address:**

stgabriels@mayfieldgirls.org

### **Housemistress**

**Mrs Hannah Robertson**

Email: hrobertson@mayfieldgirls.org

### **Main School Office**

Open Monday - Thursday 08:00 - 18:00

Friday 08:00 - 17:15

Tel: +44 (0) 1435 874600

## ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES

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On the ground floor of St. Gabriel's House we have a large Common Room for both year groups, a computer room which is used to charge devices overnight, a storage room and a quiet room. A dining room is situated on the first floor, along with the kitchen and laundry room for the girls' use. Above are four further floors of dormitories, which are divided with partitions so each girl has her own private space or cubicle ("cubi"), with a bed and wardrobe space.

There are washing and toilet facilities on each floor. Wi-Fi is available throughout the House until the bedtime routine starts. There is always a member of staff sleeping in the house overnight who is contactable in an emergency.

## PERSONAL BELONGINGS

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All girls must wear School uniform during the School day. Girls may change into casual clothes when they return to the House and at

weekends. The only items of jewellery which may be worn in School are: a watch, a cross and chain or other discreet necklace and two pairs of plain stud earrings/huggies. It is advisable to have one smarter outfit, to wear for more formal occasions.

In addition, boarders are required to have the following:

- Three sets of nightwear;
- A dressing gown or equivalent;
- One pair of slippers, sliders or flip flops;
- Two sets of bed linen (single fitted sheet, duvet cover and pillow case);
- Two bath towels;
- Toiletries;
- Sanitary items;
- An airtight box for Food and Nutrition;
- Duvet and pillow;
- Coat;
- UK adapter;
- Water bottle.

## LUGGAGE

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As the House is spread over several floors, we recommend lightweight medium sized suitcases be used as luggage, as girls must carry their own belongings upstairs. However if large suitcases are necessary they can be unpacked in the Common Room and carried upstairs in smaller loads. Empty suitcases and storage bags are then stored in the House during term time until the end of term.

Girls may leave two suitcases or boxes, as well as their bedding, in the House during the school holidays if required. Unfortunately there is not room for girls to store more than this so if they have more things that they would like to leave at School they will need to contact their guardian for assistance.



## LAUNDRY

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A laundry allowance of £55 per term is included in the School fees to cover normal requirements. Laundry is collected from School on Tuesdays and returned on Saturdays. Girls list each item that they wish to send out in their laundry book, which is placed in their bag. Laundry bags are then left in the Cloister for collection. The cost of each bag sent out is written in the girls' books so that they can keep track of how much they are spending each term to avoid exceeding their limit. If girls spend more than their £55 per term allowance, this additional cost will be added to their School bill. There are washing machines and tumble dryers for girls' use in our own laundry room and all girls will be shown how these work at the beginning of the year to enable them to do their own basic washing each week. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly named with first name and surname, including home clothes, bed linen and underwear. As there is limited drying space it is ideal if all items of clothing are suitable for tumble drying.

## SCHOOL SHOP

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Our on-site School Shop is open Monday to Friday between 08:00-15:30. The girls can purchase a variety of stationery supplies, toiletries, sanitary items, storage boxes, bags and School uniform etc. Purchases can either be put on their School account with parents' permission or paid for with cash, debit or credit card.

## ROUTINE

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### MONDAY - FRIDAY

07:00	Wake up
07:30	Breakfast begins
08:10	Bell for School
08:10 - 08:15	Leave House for lessons
08:20	Registration in Tutor groups
12:10	Lunch (Year 9)
13:10	Lunch (Year 10)
16:30	Tea in Main School
16:45	Study or activities begin in Main School on Mondays to Thursdays On Fridays, girls may return to St Gabriel's at 16:30
17:55	Study ends
18:00	Registration, House prayers and notices
18:10	Supper in Main School
19:00	Supervised Study, followed by free time depending on year group Year 9 - 45 minute Study Year 10 - one hour Study
21:00	Year 9 to own rooms
21:15	Year 9 quiet time
21:30	Year 9 lights out Year 10 to own rooms
21:45	Year 10 quiet time
22:00	Year 10 lights out.

On Friday evenings, bedtime for Year 9 is 22:00 and Year 10 is 22:15.

## SATURDAY

08:45	Breakfast
10:00 - 12:00	Study, sports fixtures, horse riding lessons, dance, cookery or textiles
12:00	Lunch
14:00 - 16:00	Afternoon activities or trips for Years 9 and 10
18:00	Supper
22:00	Bedtime Year 9
22:15	Bedtime Year 10.

## SUNDAY

09:15 - 10:00	Breakfast in House
10:45	Registration
11:00	Mass
12:00	Lunch
Afternoon	Optional activities or trips for Years 9 and 10
16:30	Registration
18:00	Supper.

Evening free time for all. Bedtime as per Mondays to Thursdays.

## STUDY

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Girls study in their year groups in silence either in House or in main School. All girls may use the quiet room or stay where they are after Study has finished if they have more work to complete. House Staff and Sixth Form Prefects supervise Study and are on hand to help when needed.

## MEALTIMES

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### Breakfast

From Monday to Friday breakfast is served from 07:30 in the Main School Dining Room. Girls must be in full School uniform, including School shoes. Hair should be tied back if long, and must be neat and tidy. At weekends the House is more relaxed and girls may come down to breakfast in St Gabriel's in dressing gowns and slippers. On Sundays we prepare breakfast in the House which often includes pancakes, waffles, smoothies or pastries.

### Tea

Tea, which is available after Period 6, is in Main School and is optional from Monday to Friday.

### Supper

All boarders come to supper in Main School every day of the week.

### General

We have a well-equipped spacious kitchen in St Gabriel's, which is available for the girls to make drinks at any time. Fruit is always available for girls in the kitchen. We also provide a variety of snacks they can make for themselves; cereals, bread, yogurts, juice etc. Girls can have these snacks, or something of their own, after Study or during the weekend. For more elaborate cooking, the House has specific times over the weekend to ensure girls can be supervised while using the hob and oven, and you will often find girls cooking pancakes, pizzas, making smoothies, noodles, pasta or whatever takes their fancy. There is a fridge and small freezer for girls to use too - all items must be named and dated.







On a weekly rotation, there is a team of girls responsible for the washing up at the weekend and a general tidy up at the end of the evening. This helps the girls to learn to be respectful of their surroundings and to take care of their belongings.

## WEEKENDS AND WEEKEND LEAVE

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There are plenty of things to do at the weekend at Mayfield. Girls are often involved in sports fixtures on Saturdays and these take place in the morning and afternoon. There are also riding lessons, textiles and cookery amongst other activities and workshops. Each week the Year 9 and 10 girls sign up for an activity on a Saturday afternoon and these range from trips to London to cookie-making and launching water rockets – the options are varied! In addition to this, we run our own in-house excursions and activities. There is always a party at Christmas and an Easter egg hunt at Easter, not to mention shopping trips, visits to the cinema, trampolining, strawberry picking and a wide range of other activities.

Year 10 girls may travel to Tunbridge Wells with two friends using the local bus service on a Sunday afternoon in the Spring and Summer terms.

All boarders must attend Mass on Sunday morning at 11:00. They are required to dress appropriately. Of course, there is plenty of free time for weekend study as well as socialising with friends and relaxing.

Girls may go home or travel to stay with friends or guardians on any weekend providing they have permission. Permission must be granted by the Housemistress by the Wednesday evening prior to the weekend they would like to go out. This includes an invitation from the family inviting them out and permission from their own parents, which should be granted via email to the Housemistress.

All weekend travel arrangements should be made through the Housemistress. If a taxi is required it must be requested by Wednesday at 17:00 at the latest, including the weekend minibus service to London which leaves at 16:45 every Friday and returns back to School early on Sunday evenings.

## EXEAT

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There is one School Exeat weekend in the year where the Boarding House closes at 18:00 on Friday 1 May 2026 and reopens at 18:00 on Monday 4 May 2026.

Parents will need to make arrangements for their daughters to travel home or stay with their Guardian or a friend for this Bank Holiday weekend.

## HOUSE MEETINGS AND SHARING INFORMATION

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St Gabriel's has a daily House meeting at which the Housemistress or Assistant Housemistress will deliver information and notices. Any House decisions will be discussed at this meeting when appropriate. At the end of the meetings, we have an 'Open Forum' in which girls can raise any issues. There is a House Council, which meets each term and is chaired by our Head of House and Prefects. The Council consists of representatives from each year group, has a formal agenda and is minuted. There is an 'anything goes' box by the House Office for requests that girls might not feel comfortable making in person. Reminders and messages are displayed on a whiteboard by the front door for girls to see as they leave and arrive at the House.

## HOUSE RULES AND BEHAVIOUR GUIDANCE

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Parents, relatives and friends are always welcome in St Gabriel's. As a matter of courtesy they should always be introduced to the member of staff on duty. Friends from other Houses and day girls are also welcome to visit. Please ask them to sign in the Visitors' Book before going upstairs. Male relatives and friends may not go upstairs.

We have Netflix, Disney+ and Prime accounts that the girls may use during the weekend and we regularly run age appropriate movie nights for each or collective year groups. Girls are reminded not to download films of an unsuitable age certificate onto laptops

as this may result in the laptop and/or other equipment being removed.

On weekdays, once girls leave the House for morning registration with their Tutor, the House is not accessible to them until they return for supper that evening so they need to take everything they will require for the day, including PE kit, in the morning.

Girls must respect other people's belongings and not borrow them without permission. Each girl's cubicle is their own private space. Please respect each other's privacy and knock first before opening the curtain. Do not enter another girl's cubicle if she is not present. Girls may put pictures and posters up in cubicles but please make sure to use the noticeboards only.

Candles are not allowed in the Boarding House.

Girls all have lockable drawers under beds upstairs. Please ensure all belongings are put away safely and keys are kept safe. The School cannot accept responsibility for items lost if not stored in a locker or handed in for safekeeping. Please make sure everything is named.

During the lighter Summer evenings girls often like to play tennis, table tennis or watch the sunset after dinner.

To ensure everyone gets a proper night's sleep we ask girls to hand their devices in before bed Sunday - Thursday. Unfortunately if a girl chooses to keep her device it will be confiscated for up to one week.

## REWARDS AND CONSEQUENCES

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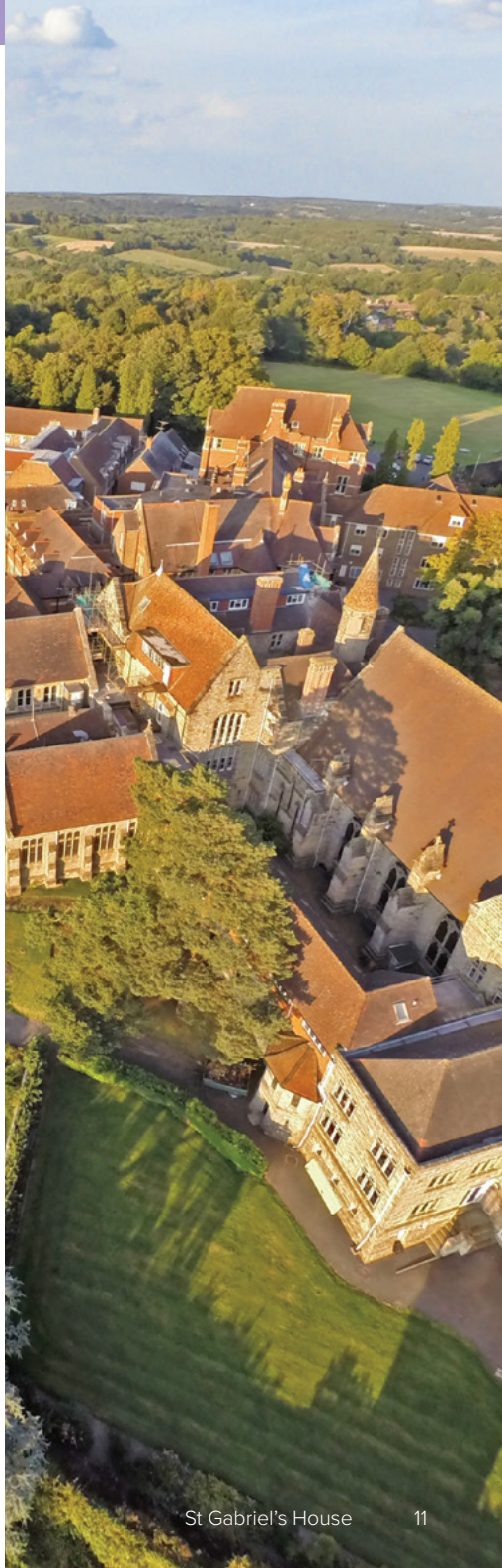
### REWARDS

We focus on, and reward, good behaviour in St Gabriel's. House staff will recognise and report any extra effort made by any girl for the House. The Housemistress will reward this suitably with either House Stars, or recognition at House meetings or a voucher for the tuck shop! At the end of the year House Colours are awarded to those girls who have made significant contributions to life in St Gabriel's and a special prize awarded on Mayfield Day to the boarder who has contributed the most to the House in a variety of ways.

### CONSEQUENCES

Consequences are given for unsocial behaviour. Please refer to the Behaviour, Rewards, Consequences and Pupil Voice policy on the School website for further details.

Generally, a timely reminder of the behaviour and attitude expected is enough to ensure everyone conducts themselves appropriately, and we do not have to administer many consequences. However, persistent poor behaviour will result in a Boarding warning and accumulating three of these leads to a Boarding Detention. For serious and persistent misdemeanours the Deputy Head may have to place a girl on 'House Report' and, as a last resort, the girl's parents will be contacted to discuss the situation and the Headmistress will be informed.







## WHOLE SCHOOL RULES AND POLICIES

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Information on Whole School Rules is given to the girls and School Policies are available on the School website.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

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### WELLBEING

The health and welfare of all the girls is the priority of all staff. If girls feel unwell or have a minor complaint, the Housemistress should be seen in the first instance (or any another member of House staff in her absence). If necessary, girls will be referred to the Wellbeing Centre.

The Wellbeing Centre is staffed by two Nurses and a timetable of who is on duty, and when, is displayed on the notice boards. The Wellbeing Centre is open Monday to Friday between the hours of 07:30 and 18:30 and there is a Nurse on call in the evenings and at weekends.

If girls are struggling emotionally they are able to talk to their Housemistress, Tutor, School Chaplain or any other member of staff they feel comfortable with. We also offer an in-house counselling service for drop in or more regular sessions.

### PUPILS REQUIRING MEDICAL ATTENTION/ADVICE

Girls requiring medical attention from the Wellbeing Centre during lessons, between 08:20 and 16:30 inclusive, should seek permission from the teacher. If the Wellbeing

Centre deems that a girl should remain out of lessons for a period of time, they will issue permission. After 18:00 or at weekends girls must go to a member of House staff who will telephone the Nurse.

If you are taken ill during the night, please alert the member of staff on duty.

Girls who bring any medicines into School from home **MUST** take them to the staff in the Wellbeing Centre who will log them and decide how they should be safely stored and administered. Please do not send over the counter medicines such as paracetamol, ibuprofen, cold and flu remedies or similar. We have plenty here and it is important that girls do not ever self administer medication so that we can best look after them.

### FIRE DRILLS

Please read the notices in the House regarding fire drills. It is essential you know how to get out of the building safely, it could save lives. The fire escapes are only to be used in an emergency. In the event of a fire, it is vital that staff know who is in the House, therefore girls must use the signing in and out book accurately. There will be a number of fire drills in the House throughout the year including one when the House is asleep to ensure everyone is fully prepared in the event of a real fire.

### SAFETY

For safety reasons, it is absolutely forbidden to have any flammable substances, matches, candles, incense sticks, etc in the House. All electrical items brought into the House

will be PAT tested by a qualified electrician. Please be aware that some of the cheaper replacement phone and laptop chargers can be faulty and present a fire or electrocution hazard. If any charger or wire is damaged do not use it as it might be dangerous.

### **SMOKING/VAPING/ALCOHOL**

Any girl caught smoking (or vaping), taking drugs or drinking anywhere in School, should expect consequences to be imposed. Any girl caught in the company of those drinking, taking drugs, smoking or vaping should also expect the same consequence.

For more information please see the Drugs, Substances, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy.

### **POCKET MONEY**

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There is a limit that the Housemistress will keep for the girls in the Boarding House. Please note that this money should be brought in cash in various denominations and not in £50 pound notes.

- Years 9 and 10 will be £200 per term.

Please note that this amount also includes any money brought into School in any other currency.

At the beginning of each term, parents may top up their daughter's pocket money but it must remain within the above-mentioned sum.

We encourage the girls to open bank accounts in the United Kingdom and to have a bankcard.

There is currently not a cash point in the village but girls are able to get money out at the local Post Office.

We would expect a UK boarder to open their account whilst at home.

If an overseas boarder arrives in the UK before School starts, please take this time to open an account in person.

### **ACCESS TO THE VILLAGE**

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Girls may go into the village after School on Fridays, and at weekends when not in Study or an activity. The village car parks and the recreation ground (Court Meadow) are out of bounds. Please see the map on the St Gabriel's noticeboard for out of bounds areas.

### **CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS**

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If any girl needs help or has a problem there are a number of options open to them. They can:

- Talk to Mrs Robertson or any other member of the House staff;
- Speak to Ronan Lavery, the Lay Chaplain, who visits the House once a week and is also available during the School day as well;



- Speak to their Form Tutor, Head of Year, Director of Boarding, Head of Pastoral or another member of the teaching staff;
- Contact the School's Independent Person (details on the House noticeboard);
- Contact an external helpline (listed on House noticeboard);
- Place a note in the 'anything goes' box in the House, either signed or anonymously, or email a member of staff;
- Discuss their problem with one of the Nurses in the Wellbeing Centre;
- Chat with a Prefect.
- Talk to Mrs Deborah Bligh, Headmistress.

The School's Complaints Procedure is available on the School website if anyone has a complaint which the Housemistress cannot help you with.

## ENGLISH SPEAKING POLICY

In St Gabriel's House, girls are expected to speak English most of the time. Not only does this improve fluency, but it prevents anyone feeling excluded from conversations, increases friendships and promotes unity within the House. Towards the end of the evening girls can speak any language on their floors as they are winding down for bed.

## FLEXI AND OCCASIONAL BOARDING

St Gabriel's House welcomes girls who wish to flexi-board one, two or three nights a week, perhaps to fit around early or late games practice, or to accommodate parents' commitments. Parents are welcome to contact the Housemistress to discuss their requirements before requesting flexi-boarding in writing. Flexi-boarders should register at 18:00 in St Gabriel's on the nights they are boarding. Please complete the 'Flexi-Boarding Request Form' to request a flexi-boarding place. This is available to download from the School website.

Parents should email or telephone the Housemistress if their daughter is not staying in on a night. Once booked in, you will be charged for the number of nights you are signed up for. Half a term's notice is required. Boarding is very popular so please request any change or extra nights in good time to ensure we have a bed available.

Occasional boarders are also welcome if, for example, parents are going to be away for a period of time. Please complete the 'Occasional Boarding Request Form' to request an occasional boarding place. This is also available to download from the School website.

Please telephone or email the Housemistress if any further information is required.





## TRAVEL

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Travel arrangements are made through the School's Travel Co-ordinator, whom your parents can contact directly by email at [travel@mayfieldgirls.org](mailto:travel@mayfieldgirls.org).

### AIRPORT TRANSFERS

We are able to organise transport to and from UK airports (e.g. London Gatwick or London Heathrow). This is done through our transport partner: Vectare - [https://mayfieldgirls.vectare.co.uk/taxi\\_bookings/create](https://mayfieldgirls.vectare.co.uk/taxi_bookings/create).

We can, if necessary, also provide transport to other airports. However, please bear in mind that travelling to or from other UK airports (e.g. Luton, Stansted, London City) may incur an expensive taxi fare. Transport charges will be included on the School bill issued to the bill payer at the end of each term. We ask parents to let us know in good time details of flights, including e-tickets, Unaccompanied Minor forms and any other requests for transport. Please note that we need flight details four weeks prior to departure date.

Parents are expected to make all flight bookings to coincide with the School's academic term dates, details of which can be found on the School website [www.mayfieldgirls.org](http://www.mayfieldgirls.org). In exceptional circumstances only, requests for authorised absence should be made by going to 'Leave Requests' on the iSAMS parent portal - <https://mayfield.parents.isamshosting.cloud/>.



## LUGGAGE

Please ensure that your daughter keeps her luggage to within the airline allowance (usually 20kg for economy class). It is essential that you check this carefully with the relevant airline.

## WEEKEND LONDON BUS SERVICE

The London bus service can be booked via the Mayfield School Travel Services website - [https://mayfieldgirls.vectare.co.uk/booking\\_form/](https://mayfieldgirls.vectare.co.uk/booking_form/). Transport is by School minibus or an escorted executive coach to and from Central London. Bookings for journeys during term time must be made three days prior to travel. For all other occasions, we ask for places to be booked 4 weeks in advance. Please be aware that the arranged transport cannot wait beyond the given departure time due to parking restrictions.

## POSTING PARCELS AND LETTERS

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The School Office will post letters for the girls. Please take your envelope with the address written clearly to the Office to be franked. The cost will be added to the School bill.







# Educating girls to respond to the needs of the age

Cornelia Connelly, Founder



Mayfield

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[mayfieldgirls.org](http://mayfieldgirls.org)