A Day in the Life of a *Knox* Boarder

An outline of a typical school day for a Knox Boarder:

**Wake up time**

The day begins at 6.45am when boys are woken by their Housemother. Each boy showers (in their ensuite) and dresses in his uniform, after which boys are required to make their bed and tidy their room ready for room inspections. Once everything is in order the whole house is expected to attend breakfast (in the Dining Hall), their arrival is expected between 7.15am and 7.35am. Boys who have extracurricular activities are able to attend breakfast earlier through prior arrangement with the Head of House.

**School Time**

After breakfast the boys return to the house to collect their books and belongings and get ready for the day ahead at school. The boys sign out with the House Mum and exit the house before 8.00am (the senior boys before 8.15am).

**Recess and Lunch**

Boarders need to go to the Dining Room at recess and lunch to eat, after which time they are able to join their day friends in the appropriate Year area or attend lunchtime activities.

**End of School**

At the conclusion of the school day boys return to the Boarding Centre where they are greeted by their House Manager. Afternoon tea is provided for them in the kitchen located on their level. At this time boys are able to change out of their uniform and enjoy some free time including local leave to the Wahroonga Shops or relaxing in the lounge areas and recreational room. Some boys have sports training or music practices to attend during this time. All boys must be showered and ready for dinner at 5.30pm.

**Dinner**

Dinner commences at 6.00pm sharp in the Dining Room with Grace. Boys are expected to be polite and considerate of others in their speech and behavior at the dinner table. School uniform is not to be worn to dinner unless there is a special event, for example Chapel. Boys must wear a collared shirt and closed shoes at all times in the Dining Hall (with the exception of weekends).
Prep

Prep is a quiet time for study and homework. The boys are required to do two prep sessions. During these sessions the House is kept quiet to allow boys the necessary time and peace to do their study and homework. During prep, boys are required to sit at their purpose built desks in their rooms and are able to use their laptops for their homework or research. Headphones and group work is permitted in second prep only.

Tutors attend prep on scheduled nights to help boys with specific problems or study techniques. If boys need help with their homework when a tutor is not available, the Evening Prep Tutor will help them. The Evening Prep Tutors are in every night and are teachers from the day school.

Larger tutorials are able to be held in the kitchen areas which double as classrooms. This is particularly popular with the younger boys and during exam periods.

After prep, boys are allowed to use their mobiles until bed time. At this time all phones and laptops are locked away for the evening.

During daylight savings, we often have an early prep session before dinner and get the boys out on the oval playing games after dinner and then sit them down once again for another prep session before they can relax and get ready for bed.

We try as best as possible to mimic the home routine.

Bedtime

Our youngest boys in Gilmore House need to be in bed by 9.00pm. Often they are given reading time before lights out. Bed time for Gillespie boys (Stage 5) is 9.40pm. A request for late prep may be obtained through the Head of House, should need be. The senior boys on the Ewan and MacNeil Levels and in the Gillespie Heritage House are able continue with late prep until 11.00pm with special permission, otherwise lights out is at 10.30pm.

Weekends

Weekends in the Knox Boarding Centre are a bit more casual and relaxed. Saturday mornings are similar to that of weekdays due to sporting activities, however after lunch they are able to have some free time. On Sunday the boys are allowed a sleep in and eat brunch at about 11.00am. The older boys are allowed to go on outings unsupervised however the younger boys are usually taken out by the resident on duty for some sort of outing.
Frequently asked Questions by New Students:

How often am I allowed out on leave?

You are allowed out every weekend throughout the term except for specified ‘Closed Weekends’ where all boys must remain in. Other than that you are allowed out with you parents, friends or guardians as long as it has been pre-arranged with the Housemaster and the proper procedures followed with Child Protection Forms on weekends or week nights for dinner.

Who will I be living with?

The Knox Boarding Centre promotes horizontal Boarding. Boys are divided onto their specific floors by Year groups. Level 2 Gilmore House is where Years 7-8 live, Level 3 Gillespie House is where Years 9-10 live and Levels 4 (MacNeil) and 5 (Ewan) house is where our most senior boys in Years 11-12 live. With increased numbers in the senior years we have now renovated the original boarding house (Gillespie Heritage House) into a state of the art Senior Boarding facility, where boys enjoy the same facilities as the KBC but live in a more boutique boarding lifestyle in large single rooms.

You will be living with boys in your Year group and either the Year group above or below. This gives you a change to make many new friends of the same age, who are also living away from home. However, there are numerous activates where all boarders are involved, for example meal times and Chapel where boys are able to interact with any age group.

What is the food like?

The food is provided by SODEXO Catering. The food they serve is tasty and healthy. The menu is released at the beginning of each week, students and parents can access this on The School Portal (Docushare). As each student has different tastes and dietary requirements, SODEXO often asks for feedback and alter the menu accordingly. If you have any special dietary requirements please let your Housemaster know so it can be relayed to the kitchen.

Do I have to keep my room tidy?

As at home, you will need to keep your room tidy. In the Boarding Centre this is largely due to the fact that you are sharing your space with other people and the cleaners need to be able to clean your space each day. You will be notified at inspection if your room needs to be tidied.
How do I get my washing done?

The laundry resides on Level 1 of the KBC. All items of clothing that you bring with you to the boarding house must be labeled with your full name. Your uniform, casual clothes, sheets and towels are to be placed in your house laundry bin when you need them washed. The laundry ladies will wash your items and have them returned to your pigeon hole located on your specific level, you should check this often for your clean clothes. If you have something that needs washing urgently there are washing facilities for the boys to do their own washing, if they forget to hand it in for washing as they laundry is not open on weekends.

Do I have to dress up for dinner?

Traditionally boarders’ dinner at Knox was a formal affair however these days it is a bit more relaxed. Boys are required to look smart. They must wear a collared shirt to dinner on school nights and closed shoes.

What time do I have to go to bed?

Depending on what Year you are in there are different times. You must go to bed at your specified time. There is some flexibility on weekends.

Can I watch television?

You are able to watch what you please on television during your free time. Each floor is equipped with large plasma screen TVs, DVD players and Foxtel.

Can I bring my mobile phone with me?

We would prefer you bring your mobile if you own one. They are very useful on outings and in general to gain contact with students and also to call home with. Boys must not use mobiles at school, during prep, during dinner or after lights out. Additionally there is a land line available for parents to access their son.

Can I access the internet from the Knox Boarding Centre?

The Knox Boarding Centre is part of the wireless network at Knox. You are able to use the internet in your free time as well as for homework and research. There are some restrictions on specific sites however this is no problem for most boys.
Can I stay during the holidays?

The school is looking at this possibility for the increasing number of overseas and remote students. If you require this please mention it to your Head of House.

Do I need my own pillow?

The school will provide you with all the linen you need including sheets, towels, doona, blankets and pillow. However, if you wish to bring your own to make your room feel like home this is acceptable. You are also able to bring personal items such as photos to have on your walls or favourite toys you have at home.

What is the school address for sending mail to the students?

Student Name
Gillespie House
Knox Grammar School
7 Woodville Ave
WAHROONGA NSW 2076

What are the School Bank Account details?

Knox Grammar School
BSB: 032-189
Account No: 000018
Bpay Biller Code: 7898