21ST CENTURY BOARDING AT KNOX: A POSITIVE CHOICE FOR BOYS AND PARENTS

Our boarding is as diverse as the world today; with boys from across the globe. The Boarding House staff and the Boarding Office work with each family in regular and open communication, with opportunities for families to visit and boys to go home. All this in a secure and safe environment with specialist boarding staff, fully trained in residential care, first aid, child protection and general safety.

21st Century Boarding at Knox provides

- Structured and supervised homework and study sessions, assisted by visiting tutors in core subjects and major electives.
- Individual work spaces within a wireless network environment.
- Extended use of school facilities.
- Secure, hotel type accommodation in the Knox Boarding Centre (KBC), with a maximum of four to a room in junior years, and single rooms for most Year 11 and all Year 12 students, with ensuites for every two boys.
- In addition Years 11 and 12 boys are accommodated in a suite of newly renovated and appointed single rooms in Gillespie House, adjacent to the KBC.
- Live-in Housemasters who, with their wives, work as a team to oversee and support your son.
- House Managers (‘House Mums’) to work with individual boys and families.
- Dedicated International Student Liaison Officer.
- Fully integrated ‘Whole of Life’ programs for Years 7-12, involving independent living skills, outdoor education, personal development and deportment, and even assistance in driving lessons and work skills for senior boys.
- On-site 24/7 clinic, comprising two four-bed wards, and observation or isolation ward, staffed by fully qualified and experienced nursing sisters, who stay in overnight accommodation within the clinic.

Developed and implemented after extensive research in the United States and United Kingdom, 21st Century Boarding at Knox is responsive to the needs of students and their families in the 21st century, and provides a stable, supportive base for your son.

21st Century Boarding is where you grow and we welcome your sons, just as we have been doing since 1924

21st Century Boarding at Knox is a unique blend of personal care and support and individual attention, housed within the most modern of hotel-type accommodation of the Knox Boarding Centre. It is a practice and a culture, developed and developing after extensive research into boarding worldwide. It establishes Knox as a leader in boys’ boarding. It is not just where you get your mail; it is home, it is school, it is where you make lifelong friends, it is where you develop as a person, developing confidence and independence, tolerance and respect for others. It is full of opportunities and challenges; it is a lot like life.

Heads of House and their families live on the premises, as do Assistant Heads of House. Special staffing arrangements ensure that supervision and support comes from a small number of adults, so that consistency, trust and respect are established. House Managers (or ‘house mums’ as they are known) take an active role in the running of the boarding house, in the pastoral care of the boys, and in establishing a strong relationship with parents. This important position has received immense and wonderful support from boys and families alike.

Julien and Rebecca Manuel (top right) look after Years 7 and 8 on the Gillespie Floor, with Rebecca also undertaking the role of ‘house mum’. Both have been in boarding at Knox for some years, and have a wonderful rapport with the younger boys, as they settle in and become part of the Knox community, and boarding community. They have two young boys, Luke and Ryan.

21st Century Boarding at Knox is ideally suited to deal with those transition years, as boys grow and as they move through their academic journey. The ‘house mum’ for Years 9 and 10 is Mrs Pauline Lovitt.

Brian and Fiona Sullivan (top centre) look after Years 11 and 12, and both come with extensive boarding experience in Australia, the United Kingdom and Europe. Senior boys receive maximum support and a high level of independence, and are accommodated on the Ewan and MacNeil Floors, and in newly renovated and appointed single rooms in Gillespie House, the original school boarding house and located adjacent to the KBC.

Additional support is provided by

- Boarding Senior Academic Master Mr Les Harvey who works with the Heads of House, Evening Prep Tutors and Academic Tutors to ensure that each Boarder is reaching his academic potential.
- Boarder Liaison Officer Mrs Helen Clarke, who works with boys, parents and staff to ensure that the welfare and interests of each and every boy are followed.
- International Student Liaison Officer, Mrs Denise Weeks, who works with the families and boys from overseas to ensure that their particular circumstances are looked after.

Overseeing Boarding at Knox is Deputy Headmaster, Scott James, who also holds the position of Head of Boarding.

Knox Grammar School is a Uniting Church school for day boys K-12 with boarding for up to 150 boys from Years 7-12.

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THE KNOX ‘WHOLE OF LIFE’ PROGRAM

The 21st Century Boarding ‘Whole of Life’ Program is unique to boarders, and recognises that whilst the School cannot literally be ‘home’, it can provide many of the developmental experiences parents would like for their sons, and takes into account the diverse ages and backgrounds of those in the boarding community.

‘Whole of Life’ aims to develop resourceful well rounded young men, equipped for personal growth and ready to live purposeful lives, in themselves and in society. There are five elements:

- Living Skills
- Citizenship
- Academic
- Faith
- Co-curricular

At each stage of the boarding journey all of these key elements have a focus to promote character building and mental fitness. This unique Knox program is supported by specialist, experienced and qualified staff. Boarders are challenged to extend themselves and discover what their individual talents are and how to develop them to their full potential. With a strong emphasis on community and leadership, Boarders are both supported at all times, as well as given the opportunity to support each other.

Boys participate in the following activities, as well as those pictured, as part of the ‘Whole of Life’ program:

- Community Service which includes Clean up Australia Day and Wesley Mission special projects
- Year 11 Cockatoo Island leadership Program
- Salsa Dancing Lessons
- Surf Awareness and Water Safety
- Toastmasters Public Speaking Course and Competition
- First Aid Program teaching Boarders how to react in an emergency
- Cultural Awareness
- Barista, Responsible Service of Alcohol and Responsible Conduct of Gambling courses for senior boys

Boarders from Year 7 are mentored by Year 10 Boarders to help them in their first year as a Boarder. Together they attend the Boys to Men Camp.

Boys to Men Mentoring Program

Boys to Cooks
The Year 7 Boarders complete an eight week Cooking Program where they gain basic cooking skills that will help them for life. Boys in Years 8-10 continue this program.

Boys to Cooks

Senior Driving Course
Year 11 boys attend a RYDA driver awareness education day at the purpose built practical arena at St Ives. Many of these boys have their L and P plates and benefit greatly from this course.

Senior Driving Course

Within the framework of traditional Knox values, Boarders grow in confidence, independence and respect for others.
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