

The Grange

Boarding Handbook 2023-24



Taunton School International Middle School
The Grange
Kingston Road
Taunton
TA28HP

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The Grange Family

We have produced this handbook to help you through the first few days in the house, during which time everything may seem a little scary and confusing. Do not worry however things will very quickly start to fall in to place and you will feel fully at home. We pride ourselves on the friendly family like atmosphere within The Grange and if you find this guide does not answer your question then please do not be afraid to ask any member of staff you see- we are all here to make life easier for you!



The Housemaster

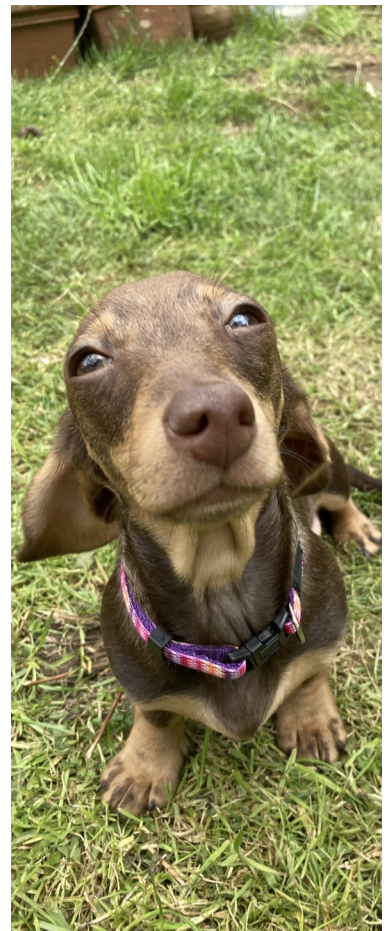
Mr Dunn lives on site with his wife Mrs Dunn and his two dogs Archie and Barney. Mrs Dunn is the Summer School Co-ordinator at TSI, and Archie and Barney enjoy the good life, spending their time relaxing in the house and walking through the local fields! A lover of Theatre and the outdoors Mr Dunn has been involved with boarding for the past 6 years and has worked in three different boarding houses. Mr Dunn is in overall charge of the houses and is always available to advise and help sort out any problems you may have. He is on duty on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and every other weekend.





The Deputy Houseparent

Miss Badby supports Mr Dunn in the running of the boarding houses, but has a particular focus on supporting student wellbeing in the girls' boarding house, she lives onsite with her two daughters, Rosie and Lily and their miniature dachshund Lottie. Miss Badby loves everything creative including baking and enjoys swimming and bodyboarding. She is on duty on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, alongside every other weekend.



House Staff

The Grange is very lucky to have a strong team of House Staff who are there to help and support each student through their journey at TSIMS. They each bring with them a number of different skills and backgrounds which contribute to a positive environment in the house.

Mr Elliot Reeves

Assistant Houseparent



Mr Reeves is the Assistant Houseparent. He manages all of the sports provision at TSIMS and is a huge football fan and gamer. Mr Reeves lives onsite and is on duty on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday along with every other weekend.

Mr Harry Elliott

Assistant Houseparent



Mr Elliot is the Assistant Houseparent and having spent some time in an international school in Malaysia as a student himself, can appreciate the difficulty of going to school in another country. He is a big football fan and can regularly be found cheering on his beloved Luton Town FC, although often with limited success! Mr Elliot is on duty on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday along with every other weekend.



Miss Drew Turner

Graduate Resident Assistant



Miss Turner is new to the house this year as a Graduate Resident Assistant, having recently graduated from Bath Spa University with a photography degree. Along with her love of photography she also enjoys baking, painting and reading. She looks forward to spending time with you all over the next year.

Miss Millie Heal

Graduate Resident Assistant



Miss Heal is a Graduate Resident Assistant, she is an avid sports and music lover and loves baking in her free time. Miss Heal has recently come back from living in France so understands the difficulty moving away from home for the first time.

Mrs Claudia Burr

Pastoral Assistant



Mrs Burr is a Pastoral Assistant. This is her third year in the house, Mrs Burr is on duty on a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. She is an avid lover of yoga and having moved from Mexico to the UK can appreciate the difficulty of moving away from home.

The Grange– Domestic Staff

Miss Alison Wooler



Domestic Team

Angie and Ali are the two most important members of the house team. They are the people that make The Grange a pleasant place to live. They are the real stars of the team and it is your job to help them, help you. It is not their job to make your beds and tidy up after you! They are great characters, love to chat and have some great stories to tell and have worked in the house for over 10 years having started when the house first opened!

Mrs Angie Kennedy





What will my bedroom look like?

Every boarder has their own bed space, which they can decorate with photographs and posters from home.

You should keep your room tidy as you can earn points from the daily room check. Students with the highest number of points at the end of each term will receive a special prize of pizza and ice cream!

There is also a common room in each house, where you can relax and socialise with friends.

In school, we have the Drawing Room the Forest Classroom and the Visitors Room, where you can socialise, play games and relax together. You can also go outside to play different sports or just enjoy the beautiful garden.



What can be brought from home?

There are several items that can be brought to school. These include:

Photographs of friends and family.

Posters.

Food Items (No nuts please).

Room decorations.

Duvet cover and bed sheets for a single bed (or this can be provided by school).

Reading books (These can be in English and another language).

A blanket.

Musical instruments if required.

Own tennis or badminton racket if required.

Mobile phone and laptop.

What should not be brought from home?

Please be aware that there are several items that are not allowed in school for safety reasons. These items include:

Weapons: Replica or toy weapons, pen or craft knives and pointed scissors (rounded end scissors are allowed).

Medication that has not been prescribed. Medication will be provided from a doctor when needed.

More than one phone: You will only be permitted to have and use one mobile phone so please **do not** bring more than one with you.

What happens to my valuables?

There is a safe to store valuables in each bedroom. Valuables such as purses, wallets, jewellery, watches or kindles can be stored in there. Students who have a bank card, should keep it in their safe until needed.

Electronic devices, such as laptops, phones and tablets can also be brought to school. All devices are collected overnight and stored securely in locked cupboards in boarding house common rooms. Items can be charged overnight in these cupboards.

At the beginning of each term, pocket money will be stored in House Bank, so staff can keep it safe. Each week, juniors can take out a maximum of £30 and seniors can take out a maximum of £50, to spend on trips or in town. Students may prefer to use a bank card and this is often the best and most convenient payment method.



If more money is required for any reason, parents or guardians should email the school to give permission. If there is a low amount of money in House Bank, parents or guardians can transfer money to the school. Please email the school office for more information.

If students would like to open a bank account, we are happy to provide a confirmation of study letter, but, students should visit the bank with a parent, guardian or host family.



What do I wear to school?

You will visit the Uniform Shop either before term starts or in the first week of school, where all uniform and sports kit can be bought. We expect all students to look smart. Please note that those who are wearing the skirt uniform can choose to wear the kilt or grey school trousers.

Term	Junior Skirt Uniform	Senior Skirt Uniform	Junior and Senior Trouser Uniform
Autumn and Spring			
Summer			
Sports Kit			
	Skirt Uniform	Short Uniform	
Senior			
Junior			



You must also bring your own:

- Formal black shoes that can be polished
- Sports trainers
- Rugby boots (boys)
- Shin pads (hockey and football)
- Mouthguard (rugby and hockey)
- Named water bottle
- White sports socks
- Swimwear, goggles and hat
- Dressing gown and slippers
- Rain coat
- Small rucksack (for trips)



What can I wear after school?

When lessons are finished you can change into home clothes. Home clothes can be whatever is comfortable. However, we do not allow offensive slogans or images on clothing, or clothing that is too revealing. If staff feel that clothing is inappropriate, you will be asked to change.

Please remember that the weather in England is varied and we often experience rain and cold weather as well as warm sunshine in the summer. Therefore, it is important that you have a good raincoat to take on trips, as well as sun cream and a sun hat.

How are my clothes washed?

There are several laundry baskets in each boarding house for dirty laundry. Everything that goes into the wash, must be labelled with names. We recommend that all clothes and towels are labelled before you arrive at The Grange. We will also provide you with a name stamper when you arrive so that any new clothes can be named. This will be added to the school bill.

All clothes are machine washed on a hot wash at Taunton School; therefore, we recommend that delicate items of clothing that require hand washing are not brought to school.

At the end of each term pastoral staff collect in all blazers, kilts and ties to be dry cleaned at a local laundrette, the cost of this will be added to the school bill.





How can I contact my family and friends?

You can collect your electronics in the morning before breakfast and may use them for contacting home between 0800 and 0825 and after lessons and activities at 1700. You will hand in your electronics when you return to the boarding houses to get ready for bed.

It is also possible to keep in touch with friends and family by writing letters or emails. You can buy stamps from the Post Office in town and either post letters in town or hand them to the office. Students also like receiving parcels if your parents would like to send you a parcel please use the below address:

Taunton School International Middle School, The Grange
Kingston St Mary
Taunton
Somerset
TA2 8HP

On arrival, you will be issued with a school email address and are given access to Wi-Fi.

How can the School be contacted?

If you need help and are on a trip or in town, you should call one of these numbers.

Mr Dunn: +44 740 240 1468 **OR** 01823 703240

Duty Mobile: +44 736 638 6735

Mr Duncan: +44 797 221 9329

Parents can also use these numbers in an emergency during hours the office is not manned.

If parents need to contact the school during office hours, they can call Mrs. Kierstan-Matthews in the office on +44 182 370 3234 or they can email tsims@tauntonschool.co.uk.

If parents need to contact our travel co-ordinator please email TSITravel@tauntonschool.co.uk

What will the first week be like?

When you arrive at The Grange, you will be met by pastoral and academic staff. Documents and passports will be checked and handed in, before you will be shown to your room to unpack and meet new friends.

Over the next few days, you will take part in an induction programme, where you will learn all about life at The Grange. This will include English and Mathematics tests, collecting new uniform and workshops that will help you to understand the rules and routines.

At the end of the induction week you will participate in outdoor activities off site. In previous years, this has included team building activities and camping overnight in tents



What happens in the mornings?

0715



Wake Up

A member of House Staff will come around and gently wake everyone up in the house. This is the time to put on uniform, brush hair and make the bed. Do not get too used to this though, after the first week you will need to get yourselves up!

0740

House Callover

All students meet in the house common room at 0740 to register and share any notices. You may collect their electronics at this time.

0745



Breakfast

You then make your way to the dining room for a delicious breakfast, the perfect way to start a new day!

0800

Calling Home

After breakfast, you can use your electronics to contact home. Phones are handed in to the lockers at 0825.



Brush teeth and collect school bags

You can return to your room to brush your teeth and get your school bag.

0830

Tutor Time

You will meet your tutor at 0830 in your tutor room for registration and notices.



0840

Lessons Begin

Tutor period will finish and you will go to your first lesson.



What happens after school?

1700**Free Time after school and clubs unless in a club at Taunton School**

All boarders can collect their phones at 1700. You can call your family and friends, play games or chat with friends in the Drawing Room, in the garden or practice musical instruments.



Boarders in clubs at the Taunton School campus will return to The Grange at 1730.

1730**Supper**

At 1730 the bell will ring for supper time in the dining room.

1755**Get ready for prep**

After dinner you should be organised and ready to start prep. You must have your workbook, a reading book, stationery and a laptop that is fully charged. Some students will do prep in their bedrooms and others will be in the school.

1800**Prep starts**

Students in Year 7 and above have two preps to complete and have forty minutes for each. Years 6 and below will only have one prep.



What clubs and activities are available?

Every student must take part in at least two clubs a week, one club must be at TS/TSI or TPS. There will be an opportunity to sign up for clubs at the beginning of term. We have a great variety of clubs for all interests for example; football, aikido, cookery, water colour club and choir. In total there are over one hundred clubs to choose from. It is a great way to meet new students from other parts of Taunton School. There are also activities for seniors such as swimming, fitness gym, basketball and badminton from 2000 until 2100. Some students may be selected to participate in sports fixtures and represent Taunton School.

Types of clubs:

- Airfix
- Art
- Basketball
- Chess
- Choir
- Coding
- Cricket
- Cross stitch
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Film Club
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Horse riding
- Multi Sports
- Newspaper Club
- Orchestra
- Rugby 7s
- Squash
- Table Tennis
- Warhammer



What happens in the evening?

1930

Callover

We all meet in the Drawing Room to register and hear notices.

1950

Snacks and Tuck Shop



After callover, you can have a snack in the dining room. The school provides cereal and toast but if you would prefer an item from your tuck box such as noodles you may have that instead (you will have an opportunity to buy some food from town or from the tuck shop). On some evenings students can enjoy toasted sandwiches, crepes and smoothies,

2015

Juniors go into the boarding house from 2000.



Juniors must hand in electronics then shower, brush teeth and organise bags for the next day. Once you are finished you can have free time and watch a film in the common room.



Seniors go to activity or enjoy free time

Seniors enjoy free time or an activity at The Grange. You also have the option of attending a sporting activity at Taunton School such as basketball, badminton, football, swimming or use of the fitness suite.



Juniors get into bed from 2100

2100

Juniors get into bed and can read until lights are turned off from 2100.



Seniors return to the boarding house at 2100 and hand in devices at 2115

Seniors must hand in electronics then shower, brush teeth and organise school bags for the next day. Once you are finished you can have free time and watch a film in the common room.

2200



Seniors lights are turned out.

Seniors should be silent and remain in your rooms from this time. If you need a member of staff you can knock on their door.

Can I have music lessons?

If you have been playing an instrument for an number of years or would like to try something new, we offer a large range of music lessons. Music lessons usually happen during the school day, however sometimes we can arrange these lessons in the evenings. These lessons do cost money so your parents or guardians will have to confirm they agree to lessons.

If you wish to play for fun or practice, you can use the visitors' room or the forest classroom. We also have three pianos on site for practice. If you are particularly musical, there are a number of occasions where you can play to an audience, for example in church, at celebration assemblies, in a Teatime Concert at Taunton School, and at the Christmas Music Morning. You also can play in music groups such as the Taunton School orchestra.



What happens at the weekend?

On Saturday morning, wake up and breakfast are at the normal times. There are three lessons for all students.

On Saturday afternoon, you will take part in organised activities. Some of you may be involved in sports fixtures. After the activities you can visit the local town of Taunton. Years 8 and above may go into town with a small group of friends. Years 7 and below are always accompanied by a member of staff. Taunton is a very pleasant, safe town with lots of shops, cafes and restaurants.



On Sunday mornings you can have a lie in. Juniors wake up at 0815 and senior wake up is dependant on the trip. There is usually a trip organised on Sundays, such as local outings to a shopping centre, theme park, paddle boarding or surfing, as well as beach trips. Cultural trips are also organised to the theatre or pantomime, as well as cities such as Exeter, Bristol or Bath. For activities on site such as art and cookery workshops, team building or laser tag, we are fortunate to be able to use the beautiful buildings or grounds of The Grange. The trips will be advertised in advance and students can sign up. The cost will be added to the school bill. There will be some compulsory whole house trips.

Students that choose not to go to town or on a trip will spend time at The Grange and participate in activities planned by the pastoral staff. Activities range from walks, Kwik Cricket, movie nights, art workshops, board games, playing with Lego, playing table tennis or revising if it is close to exams.



Trips and Activities

Weekend Trips:

- Clip and Climb
- Flip Out
- Laser Tag & Go Karting
- Cinema
- Paddle Boarding
- Kayaking
- Surfing and Beach trip
- Adrenalin Quarry
- Exeter or Bath Visit including shopping
- Pantomime
- Thorpe Park
- Exeter Chiefs Premiership Rugby Game
- Splashdown Water Park
- Paignton Zoo
- Longleat Safari Park

Academic Trips:

- English trip to the Theatre.
- Geography trip to the coast.
- Science and Geography trip to the Eden Project.



News and Photos

All photographs of our trips are shared on the Parent Portal so that your parents and guardians can see what you have been doing. Photographs are sometimes emailed to parents directly. Parents can also follow the school on social media using the following:



Facebook: Taunton School



Instagram: @tauntonschool



Twitter: @tauntonschool





What will I eat?

We eat every meal in our dining room at The Grange where you are encouraged to have conversations in English and show good table manners.

Providing the right food throughout the day is hugely important to ensure that you are healthy, focused and energised for your busy life at The Grange. You will learn about the importance of a healthy, nutritious and balanced diet and you will be encouraged to choose healthy options at mealtimes.

We cater for all tastes and dietary requirements and the highly qualified and experienced catering team provide a delicious choice of food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are cooked and continental breakfasts and a choice of cereals to start the day, followed by a selection of hot dishes to satisfy meat eaters as well as vegetarians at lunch and at dinner. There is also an extensive salad bar. Desserts, homemade treats and plenty of fresh, seasonal fruit are available daily.

Every evening there is a Boarders' Tuck Shop, where you can buy crisps, sweets or a drink, using your pocket money from House Bank. You can store your own snacks in a small box that we provide but these must not be eaten in the boarding houses. You will be given opportunities to purchase tuck and healthy snacks. Please be aware we are a 'nut-free' school.

What do I do if I am unwell?

If you do not feel well or have had an accident, you should see a member of the House Staff (Housemaster, Deputy Houseparent, Assistant Houseparent, Pastoral Assistant or a Graduate Resident Assistant). You will be taken to the Health centre where you will be assessed.

If you need to go to the doctors, dentist, physiotherapist or the optician we will organise this and take you there. The local hospital, called Musgrove is very close, in the town of Taunton for any emergencies.

What happens on birthdays?

There are lots of boarders who celebrate birthdays during term time. At The Grange we understand how important birthdays are and always ensure there is a cake to share at evening snacks with friends, after we have sung “happy birthday” of course! Parents may also send cards and presents in the post.



What happens in the holidays?

During the holidays, you may go home to your parents, stay with a guardian or a host family. On each arrival day you should return to school between 1200 and 2000. On departures day you should leave the school between 0700 and 1200. You can travel by taxi or train or be collected by parents or guardians.

At least two weeks before departures day, the Travel Co-Ordinator must have your travel details. Failure to provide these details breaks the VISA agreement. The TSI Travel Co-Ordinator can be contacted on this email address:

tsitravel@tauntonschool.co.uk

During the autumn term there is a ‘Reading Weekend’. This means that there will be no Saturday morning lesson. You may leave school after lessons on Friday to visit your family or stay with a host family for a break. If you decide to stay at school, it will be a very relaxing weekend with a trip on the Sunday.

If parents or guardians would like to take you out of school at any other time, they must email TSIMS@tauntonschool.co.uk at least one week before, detailing the trip and the contact details of who you will be staying with.

How do I keep safe?

At The Grange, we have a set of rules that you must follow in order to keep safe. These will be discussed in detail during your induction sessions when you arrive.

How do students keep safe in town?

On your first visit into town staff will take you on an induction tour to ensure you know where you are going, the areas that you can and cannot be in and how to cross the roads safely.

Before you can go into town you will be asked to sign up in groups. When in town you must stay with your group. If you are in year 7 or below you will always be accompanied by a member of staff.

When you go into town you must have your mobile phone (charged) and town card with the contact details of the school.

How do I use taxis safely?

If you are getting a taxi from the town, you should go to the taxi rank that is behind Costa. You should check that the taxi is registered by either having a licence on the inside of the car near the passenger seat, or on the back of the car a small rectangular plate is displayed.

A1 Ace: 01823 332211

Taunton Taxi Services: 01823 248248



What do I do if the fire alarm sounds?

If the fire alarm sounds during the day or in the evening: You should remain calm and quiet and make your way out of the building via the nearest exit, to the rear lawn and line up quickly and wait to be given instructions. If you are in the shower you should quickly dress and put on shoes and leave the building immediately.

If the fire alarm sounds at night: You must put on slippers and a dressing gown quickly and make your way calmly out of the building by the nearest exit, line up on the rear lawn and wait to be given instructions. If you cannot leave the building then you should remain in your room as you will be pro-



What if I have a problem?

Most people; encounter occasional problems. It is important to know what to do if this is the case...

Share it! Do not keep it all to yourself because you think no one is interested.

Find the right person to talk to. This could be one of the house staff, your tutor, a teacher, one of your roommates, a school nurse or doctor, the chaplain.

Remember that Mr Dunn is always contactable. He will do his best to help you.

Students can also talk to Mrs Lamb if they have any safeguarding issues.

Consider the order in which you contact people! Lots of students ring home first (understandably!) and then worried parents ring Mr Dunn who then comes to talk to you about things. It is often best to share your problem with those who are here to help you immediately. They can advise you and you may then feel better before talking to your parents about it.

Of course you are always able to phone home when you are upset but don't forget that someone at school can quickly help you.

Another option is that students can talk to someone who is not involved with school.

They can call Sue Taylor, the Independent Listener on 07429 454 539

Child Line on 0800 1111

The Children's Commissioner on 0800 5280 731.

The Grange Child Protection Lead

Mrs Lamb

Rebecca.Lamb@tauntonschool.co.uk



Glossary

Callover - Callover is a time where everyone comes together and a register is taken. Also, staff give out any notices or reminders. House callover is every day at 0740. School callovers take place in the drawing room every day at 1930.

Common Room - There is a common room in each boarding house. These are rooms to relax and socialise with other students from the house.

Drawing Room - The drawing room is a social room in the school building for students to relax, play games and chat with their friends. This is also the room where we have callover in the evening.

Electronics - Electronics is the term we use when talking about laptops, mobile phones and tablets.

House Bank - House bank is what we call the system for keeping money safe at school. Each week you will have an opportunity to take out some money to spend at the weekend.

Housemaster - The Housemaster is in charge of the boarding houses.

Prep - Prep is work that teachers will set to be done in the evening. Sometimes it is called homework.

The Grange - The Grange is the name of our boarding houses. When we compete in house competitions against other houses in Taunton School we are referred to as The Grange.

TPS - TPS stands for Taunton Preparatory School.

TS - TS stands for Taunton School.

TSI - TSI stands for Taunton School International.

TSIMS - TSIMS stands for Taunton School International Middle School.



