

Leave Weekend and Holiday Guidance

In the boarding community at Bootham we strive to ensure that we are flexible and use common sense in enabling our students to plan for the times when they are not in our direct care. As such we will always look to find a balance between enabling our students to flourish, make the most of their time at the school, and live adventurously and ensuring that they are safely and appropriately looked after in line with the guidelines of the Boarding Schools' Association and the Home Office expectations for international students. In order to ensure this, we ask that parents and guardians make use of the following guidelines and expectations when planning for boarders.

Overnight Leave, Leave weekends and Holidays.

Many of our boarders form close friendships with other students and as such are sometimes invited to visit them for an evening in their homes or stay for a Saturday night or a weekend with them. We are very happy to facilitate this and see it as a wonderful opportunity to spend some time in a family home with their friends. If a student is invited to stay elsewhere we ask that we have received emailed consent from the boarder's parent or guardian and from the host's parent with at least 48hours notice. For a weekend away from the boarding house we ask for consent to be submitted to the relevant Head of House by 9pm on the preceding Thursday.

In the past some boarders have sought permission to stay in hotels or homes with friends who are young adults themselves without a parental presence. It is the view of the school and the Boarding Schools' Association of which Bootham School is a member that boarders should be staying with a parent or guardian and that if they stay with a friend the parent or guardian of that friend should be present. In order to ensure an appropriate level of care for our students we would expect there to be an adult present in the host accommodation who is over 25 or preferably over 30. As such I am sure that you will understand that we will not be able to grant leave to students unless we are satisfied that there is suitable adult supervision available to them.

Additionally, if we believe that a student is planning to stay alone (or with other students) without direct Guardian or parental supervision over a leave weekend or longer holiday we will request that an alternative arrangement is made.

In order to avoid difficult situations in which last minute changes need to be arranged or students are left disappointed by a change in plans, it would be greatly appreciated if suitable arrangements could be made well in advance of the leave weekends and holidays. You will be asked to confirm these arrangements via an online Operoo form sent to you in advance.

If any further clarification is needed, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mandy Naylor
Head of Boarding

