

Boarding at TAS

Information Book



The
Armidale
School

Boarding Information



Learning to Live
with Others

Welcome to The Armidale School

When your son is enrolled at The Armidale School he becomes a member of one of the great schools of Australia, and one with a proud history extending over 100 years.

The resolve of the founders to establish a school with a philosophy which embraced the ideals of an independent mind and spirit, and promoted the Christian ethic, has been proudly achieved.



Murray Guest, Headmaster

TAS, as it is better known, is able to offer the opportunities of a safe country atmosphere in a university city and education centre.

The surrounding gorge country and national parks are the location for the school's outdoor education program. Character training through adventure is part of the school's philosophy.

It is school policy to limit enrolment to a level which preserves the Christian values of a small caring community but which is big enough to provide the range of subjects and activities associated with city schools.

Through its membership of the international Round Square Conference of schools, TAS has links to schools such as Gordonstoun in Scotland, Wellington College in the United Kingdom, The Athenian School in California and the Doon School in India. This has enabled TAS to establish an international reputation and thus we are able to offer your son a world of opportunity.



Front of The Armidale School

Introduction

When TAS was founded in 1894 it was as a boarding school for the sons of the gentry. This first, small band of boys must have wondered how their best interests were being served by the upheaval of being sent from home to boarding school, with its concept of communal living. Yet a strong sense of spirit and community very quickly developed among the boys which resulted in greater self confidence and self knowledge.

The succeeding decades have seen significant changes in boarding styles and facilities but the strong spirit developed in those early days still persists.



Boys in the top dormitory c 1898 - times have certainly changed

Now a school for sons of families from all walks of life, TAS continues to regard the boarding experience as an educational advantage. It teaches boys to learn to live with others by sharing and respecting the interests of their fellow boarders and we believe boarding fosters self-discipline and responsibility.

Boarding Structure

TAS specialises in providing first class boarding care. Our Boarding Houses are extremely comfortable and are run by Housemasters, a Deputy Housemaster and residential duty staff. All Housemasters and Deputies are experienced, senior members of the school teaching staff. TAS undertakes seven-days-a-week care and supervision of boarders and each student's academic progress and personal development is closely monitored.

As you may be aware TAS has an academic structure that operates on three levels: a co-educational Junior School for Transition to Year 5, a Middle School for Years 6 to 8 and a Senior School from Year 9 to 12.

Within the boarding structure we accept junior boarders from Year 6 with an emphasis on Middle School boarding in Years 6 to 8. These boys are accommodated in our Middle School Boarding Houses.

Middle School Boarding

Boys entering TAS at Year 6, 7 or 8 are accommodated in the Middle School Boarding Houses and cared for by the Housemaster, Housemother and other experienced male and female resident staff. The House is also 'home' for Year 7 Day Boys which enables the boarders to get to know the non-boarding students.

Senior Boarding

Our Senior Boarding Houses - Abbott, Croft and Tyrrell, each accommodate up to 50 boys.

Within the House your son will be assigned to an advisor — a member of the teaching staff who will act as mentor and whose responsibility it is to monitor your son's development and progress.

In the lower years boys are accommodated in a dormitories but, as they achieve seniority, they move into their own study/bedrooms.

Inter-House competition, House sports, camping weekends and House social activities such as dinners all help to build House spirit and identity.



Senior boys enjoy 'time out' in one of the Boarding House common room

Middle School Boarding



Housemaster of the Middle School Boarding, Mr Ian Lloyd, his wife Sally above is the Housemother

When your son moves into his boarding House he becomes a member of a caring residential community. The Middle School Boarding Houses, are under the care of Mr Ian Lloyd whose own family live within the grounds of the House. This provides a secure, warm and friendly environment in which your son can readily adjust to boarding and school life.



Boys enjoying Mrs Lloyd's cooking

Your Son and Boarding School



Once you have made the decision to have your son board at TAS we would suggest you talk to him about this important step in his life.

Ensure he fully understands the reasons for boarding at TAS. Your son should feel comfortable with the idea of boarding and yet be challenged by the extra dimensions to be gained by living away from home.

Spending some time away from his family is good preparation: visiting friends or family, camping and excursions. Home sickness can be reduced and even eliminated with some experience of independence.

Developing responsibility is important; making his bed, picking up and caring for clothing and an awareness of personal hygiene are habits to encourage and develop. A daily routine of simple chores such as shoe cleaning, teeth cleaning and hair brushing are usually already in existence and these should be extended to prepare for boarding.

Finally, we would encourage you to bring brothers and sisters and other family members with your son as he settles into his boarding House.



Middle School Boarders' Routine

We have found that it is useful for you to have an understanding of the routine in the House so you have an increased awareness of your son's daily life.



On Weekdays

- 6.45 am Out of bed to shower, dress and clean shoes
- 7.15 am A check of dress, hair and shoes
- 7.20 am Breakfast in the school dining hall
- 7.45 am Personal areas organised & House jobs
- 8.15 am Dorms are checked
- 8.25 am Boys leave their Dorms for the day
- 8.45 am School day
- 3.30 pm After school sport, town leave or recreation time
- 5.45 pm Pre-dinner check and notices
- 5.50 pm Dinner in the dining hall



- 6.45 pm Roll Call
- 6.30 pm Television News
- 7.00 pm First Prep in Middle School classrooms
- 7.45 pm Prep break
- 7.50 pm Second Prep/junior boarders prepare for bed
- 8.20 pm Prep ends, preparation for bed/junior boarders reading time
- 8.50 pm Reading time/junior boarders lights out
- 9.10 pm Lights out

On Saturdays

6.45 am Out of bed; morning routine

8.30 am - 12.00 Sport

12.30 - 1.00 pm Lunch

1.00 - 5.00 pm Recreational time

5.30 - 6.00 pm Dinner

6.50 pm Rollcall

7.00 - 8.30 pm Gym, pool and/or video

On Sundays

7.30 am Arise

8.00 am Breakfast (not compulsory)

12.30 pm Lunch

1.00 - 3.00 pm Organised House activity

6.00 pm Dinner

6.20 pm Rollcall

6.30 pm Chapel

7.30 pm Quiet time in Dorm areas

8.30 pm Preparation for bed

9.00 pm Reading time

9.15 pm Lights out



Within the above routines, there are areas which we feel could be more detailed, to give you a better understanding of how our boarding system operates.

Meals



We take great pride in the food provided to boys here at TAS. The boarders have meals in the main dining hall in a cafeteria style. Here the boys eat together and are under the watchful eye of the master on duty who ensures they eat a balanced meal and have acceptable eating habits and manners.

All boys must attend every meal (except for breakfast on Sunday), unless they have permission otherwise from the Housemaster.

As well as the three main meals a day, the boys receive an afternoon tea and evening supper. Fresh fruit is always available.

Study and Reading Time

One of the benefits your son will derive from boarding is the opportunity to develop regular, disciplined study habits.

Supervised study time, known as Prep, occurs after the evening meal every weeknight from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Students are able to seek assistance from each other and, should your son require additional mentoring, duty staff are available to assist. Boarders also have access to our first class computer facilities during study times and the library during the week. These facilities are all supervised.

Reading is also encouraged at TAS as we regard it as an important learning tool. All the boys must bring reading material to Prep and they may read when their set work is completed. The boys are also encouraged to read in bed for a period of time before lights out.



Recreational Time

Because TAS offers a comprehensive extra-curricular program, boarders have a wide choice of activities available in the sporting, musical, dramatic and academic areas.

Boarders have access to the School's excellent facilities outside of normal school hours including the heated indoor swimming pool, tennis courts, gym and weights room.

During the boys free time the most popular activities include bike riding, roller blading, using the computer rooms, playing tennis, cricket, touch football, handball etc. Protective gear for roller blading (helmet, wrist and knee protectors) and riding bikes (helmet) is compulsory.

Outings



The Middle School Boarding House usually has an outing or a special activity every weekend. Examples of these are coast and camping trips, roller-skating, bush walking, Green Valley Amusement Park, ten pin bowling, cinema or sporting competitions.

The participation of your son on these occasions helps develop friendships within the house structure.

Video and Television

It is recognised that television and videos also have a part to play in providing the home away from home atmosphere that pervades the House. After school on weekdays and on Saturday and Sunday programs of particular interest to the boys may be watched and a video is usually shown on Saturday evenings (up to PG rating).

Birthdays

Your son's birthday will be an important day for him and one we would not like to overlook. So on request, the Housemother will organise a cake for him on this day which can be shared with friends.

Parents are encouraged to make their own special arrangements for the day and please do contact the Housemaster if any assistance is required.

House Matters



Contact with your Son

It is important that parents maintain communication with their son and the School. The Boarding House has telephones available to the boys and your son will have his own email address. Regular communication is also maintained through academic reports, the weekly school newsletter *TAS Talks* which is available on the web at www.as.edu.au, the quarterly magazine *Binghi*, social events and parent/teacher interviews.

When your son begins his boarding life at TAS there is often a period of adjustment. During this time it is normal for boys to feel a degree of homesickness.

Should you have any concerns whatsoever in this regard please do contact Mr Lloyd, the Housemaster.

Communication between the Housemaster, your son and yourselves is very important as your son adjusts to a new routine of boarding and school life.

Telephone

If possible telephone calls in the House should be received and made during the following weekday times:



- 6.45 - 7.15 am
- 7.40 - 8.15 am
- 3.30 - 5.45 pm
- 6.20 - 6.45 pm
- 8.15 - bedtime



Phone calls are limited in length to allow for use by all boys in the House.

There are three phones in White House and two in Dangar House (Middle School Boarding Houses), which are the boys' main contact numbers. The Housemaster's residence has an answer phone and fax as does the House office. These telephone and fax numbers will be provided for you when your son commences his boarding life at TAS.

Exeats and Leave

There are no set number of weekend exeats per term for the boys, however, some weekends are closed due to specific activities. Please check your School calendar for the major commitments for each term as boys are always expected to honour their School and sporting commitments unless other arrangements have been made in advance.



Should you wish your son to have an exeat involving leave with someone other than his family or to travel home independently, you must contact Mr Lloyd in writing, or via email, with your permission before such an exeat will be permitted.

All exeats for the coming week must be completed by the **end of Prep on Thursday evening**. Exeats must be signed by both the **Housemaster and the Master on Duty** before a boy may depart.

All boys must report in to the Master on Duty immediately on their return to school and present their leave slip signed by the parent or host.

Dinner Leave

Should you be in Armidale and want to take your son out to dinner you should again contact Mr Lloyd to make this arrangement. Normally your son should be back in the House in time for Prep.

Town Leave

Middle School boys may go into town once a week after school, returning by 5.15pm.

Taxis

Should your son need to use a taxi, the cost can be charged to his account by filling out the appropriate form and having it signed by the Housemaster.

Worship

All boys attend Chapel service on Sunday. They also attend Chapel once, after recess, during the week.

There are special services at Easter and Christmas along with a Combined Service with NEGS once a term.

We would also encourage your son to consider joining the Chapel Choir.



All the boarding Houses are comfortable and warm with a 'home away from home' atmosphere

Recommended Clothing

Casual Clothing

Boys may change into casual clothes (non uniform) after school and may also wear casuals at the weekends within the school grounds. However casual clothing must be tidy at all times and cannot be mixed with uniform such as uniform khaki shorts with a non-uniform pullover. Shoes must be worn; thongs are unacceptable, while socks are not necessary with shoes such as dockiders .

As a minimum guide only we suggest your son should have:

Casual Clothing for town leave

and weekends

- 2 tailored shorts/ long trousers which accommodate, and are worn with, a belt
- 2 collared shirts
- 2 pairs socks and closed shoes
- 2 pullovers

Casual clothes for weekends

- Jeans
- 2 pairs of shorts
- 2 shirts
- 2 pairs of sports shoes



Quality Clothing

When your son participates in socials with NEGS and PLC, and other formal occasions when uniform is not required, he should wear long trousers with a belt, a collared dress shirt, a pullover and leather style shoes or boots.

Other Required General Items

- Doona and doona cover, pillow
- 2 Towels
- Coat Hangers
- Letter writing equipment; stamps, paper, envelopes and a list of addresses

Hats

The wearing of a hat by your son is encouraged for all outdoor activities and is compulsory on certain days of the year such as the Athletics carnival, Speech Day and some House outdoor activities

Laundry

The boys' dirty clothes etc are collected daily from the House it is returned by the school laundry in the afternoon and sorted by the boys as a job on a rostered basis. All clothing must be clearly named in an obvious place, including shoes.

Clean linen is supplied to the House each week and with supervision, the students place the bottom sheet into the wash and make their beds with the clean linen that night.

Dry Cleaning

Any clothing that needs dry cleaning is sent into Armidale to be dry cleaned and this will be charged to your sons account

Clothing Shop

The Clothing Shop is open on Monday and Wednesday from 1:30pm to 5:30pm and Friday from 1:30pm to 5:00pm. Initial outfitting of new students and visits during holiday times are arranged via appointment through the Development Office on 02 6776 5823.

House Duties

Each boy is allocated a duty within the house and these rotate on a monthly basis. The majority of these are done after breakfast and can be completed within ten minutes. Examples of such jobs are sorting the laundry, sweeping a pathway or picking up papers in a set area.



Bookroom

The TAS bookroom opens each lunchtime and boys can obtain stationery and toilet requisites from here. A list of stationery is provided at the beginning of the year and boys tick off their requirements. These are charged to accounts. Further requirements are obtainable through order forms, which must have the Housemaster or Home teacher's signature on, again no money changes hands

House Bank

The Housemaster operates a House bank to help monitor and to look after the boys' money. These accounts are extremely convenient and enable the boys to take out small amounts regularly rather than larger amounts from a bank.

The amount of money your son requires depends on the individual. The types of items on which boys may need to spend money could include birthday presents, stamps, phone calls, tuckshop and bus fares.

Valuables



Boys are encouraged to lock items of special value away (wallets, tickets etc) in their dorms. They can do this with a lock box if it is large enough or a separate container could be used. However we recommend that all items should be engraved or named in a permanent manner.

Your son will be allocated a locker for his school books etc. To lock this and his dorm locker, he should bring two small padlocks and keys with him. Combination type locks are not advisable. Spare keys **must** be lodged with the Housemaster. When all else fails the House does own its own bolt cutter!

Health and Pastoral Care

A well appointed Hospital dispenses care and comfort to your son. Two fully qualified Sisters are rostered for duty 24 hours a day 7 days a week and the School doctor visits on alternate mornings. External medical and dental appointments are arranged for each boy. Our pastoral care network is completed by the Chaplain, Reverend Richard Newton, and Counsellor, Rob Hadfield, both of whom are available to the boarders and their families at all times.

Middle School House practices and policies are constantly under review to ensure their continuing effectiveness and quality of care of your son. Therefore, from time to time variations to information and routines set out in this booklet may occur.



Croft House, is one of the Boarding Houses at TAS

Senior Boarding Houses

Boys from Year 9 to 12 at TAS are accommodated in our Senior Houses - Abbott, Croft and Tyrrell. Parts of the information pertaining to the Middle School boarding is also relevant to Senior boarding and should be noted.

Each Boarding House is under the supervision of a responsible adult for 24 hours of every day. These include the Housemaster, his Deputy, and three Duty Masters.

Boarders Routine

To enable you and your son to have a better understanding of boarding life we have included examples of the types of routines which the boys follow in the Senior Boarding Houses. There will be minor variations between Houses and there will also be changes to these routines to accommodate the range of different activities which occur at TAS in any one term.

On Weekdays

6.50 - 7.00 am	Wake-up begins
7.10 am	Boys on kitchen duty to dining hall if their House is on duty
7.20 – 7.45 am	Breakfast
8.00 – 8.10 am	Roll call and inspection
8.30 am	All boys to class
8.45 – 3.30 am	Class
10.55 – 11.20 am	Recess
11.15 – 11.35 am	Tutor group meetings/House meetings/Chapel
1.05 – 1.30 pm	Lunch
3.45 pm	Sport and activities
5.15 pm	Boys on kitchen duty to dining hall if their House is on duty
5.30 – 6.00 pm	Dinner
7.00 pm	Roll call followed by prep
9.00 pm	End of prep and supper
9.45 pm	Year 9 s to bed
10.00 pm	Year 10 s to bed, no further movement between boarding Houses
10.00 - 10.30 pm	Years 11 and 12 either in bed or working quietly in their rooms
11.00 pm	Years 11 and 12 to bed unless they have work commitments (10.30 pm in Croft House)

On Saturdays

7.00 - 7.10 am	Wake-up
7.20 am	Boys on kitchen duty to dining hall
7.30 am	Breakfast
7.50 am	Boys with duties back in House
8.05 am	Roll call and inspection
8.15 am	Sport/activities.
9.00 am	Leave check out time
12.00 am	Leave report in time
12.20 pm	Boys on kitchen duty to dining hall
12.30 pm	Lunch





1.00 pm	Lunch ends and boys may have afternoon activities
5.15 pm	Boys on kitchen duty to dining hall
5.30 pm	Dinner
6.45 pm	Roll call and tidy up
7.00 pm	House video for all, then seniors may watch a movie at the discretion of the master on duty
9.30 pm	Years 9 ready for bed
9.45 – 10.00 pm	Years 9 in bed, lights out
10.15-10.30 pm	Year 10 in bed and lights out
11.00 pm	Final lights out

On Sunday

8.00 am	Boys on kitchen duty to dining hall
8.00 – 9.30 am	Breakfast (voluntary)
9.30 am	Roll call and inspection
9.45 am	Leave report out time.
12.00 noon	Leave report in time
12.20 pm	Boys on kitchen duty to dining hall
12.30 pm	Lunch
1.00 pm	Lunch ends, afternoon activities
5.15 pm	Leave ends, prepare for dinner (winter terms) and Chapel
6.00 pm	Chapel (Formal uniform)
7.00 pm	Barbecue (summer terms)
7.30 pm	Roll call and inspection
8.30 pm	Sunday 'slow-down' time as per individual House schedule
	Usual weekday times for lights out
10.00 - 11.00 pm	Final lights out for seniors



Within these published routines there are areas which we can detail further to enhance understanding of your sons boarding life at TAS.

Mealtimes

All meals for boarders are provided in the dining hall at stipulated times though the first and fourth terms include barbecues in House areas on Sunday evening after the weekly Chapel service. These meals are substantial, wholesome and balanced and every effort is made to vary them and to try to satisfy the enormous range of tastes displayed by our boarders.

Chapel

TAS is an Anglican School with a strong spiritual component to its everyday life. The School is served by its own Chaplain who runs services for the boys on a rotational basis. He also provides a weekly service. All of these occasions of worship take place in the beautiful Chapel at the School.

The service is, on occasions, a combined service with NEGS.

Other Church services such as the Easter Carol service, the Valedictory Day service and the Christmas Carol Service are also a traditional part of the annual TAS calendar of events. Parents are most welcome to attend any of the above opportunities for worship.



House Matters

Contact with your Son

Obviously it is important that parents maintain communication with their son and the School. The Senior Boarding House have telephones, answer phones and a fax and your son will have his own email address. These numbers will be provided when your son commences boarding.

Telephone

The Boarding Houses have an incoming line which may be used to call your son.

This facility is available to parents at any time while purely social calls are only permitted during leisure hours and not during study in the evenings. No calls are permitted after 10.00 pm as they disturb the House.

Leave Arrangements

There are no set number of weekend exeats per term for the boys, however some weekends are closed due to specific activities such as Passing Out Parade. Please check your School calendar for the major commitments for each term as boys are always expected to honour their School and sporting commitments unless other arrangements have been made in advance.



Leave with hosts is allowed following the receipt of written permission from the parents of the boy going out and a written invitation from the hosting family.

Leave may occur from 3.30 pm on a Friday to 9.00 pm on Sunday or even until Monday morning.

Boys may be permitted certain other leave at the discretion of the Housemaster. This may allow them to attend the end-of-month Markets in the Mall, the annual Agricultural Show, dinner leave for Year 12 students or movie leave.

Any application for leave by your son will be considered on its merits and, where it is considered to be safe and appropriate, leave will be granted.

Clothing

Every item of clothing that your son brings with him needs to be clearly and permanently marked with his name, preferably with sewn on tags, as boys are notoriously careless with their belongings. It is almost impossible to identify uniform items so the above requirement is a vital one. In addition no offensive slogans or illustrations are permitted on any item of clothing brought to School.

Dress Code

TAS has a distinctive and well administered dress code which is designed to present the boys in a neat, appropriate and tidy fashion.

Students may wear neat casuals (No 2 uniform) into town during the week and at weekends – collared shirt, tailored shorts/trousers with belt, pullover as required, socks, clean closed shoes. Year 12 may wear House Canterbury tops, tucked in as a shirt or as a pullover with a collared shirt tucked in beneath.

Laundry/Dry Cleaning

The School has its own laundry and the boys can send clothes there on any weekday. When a particularly quick turn around of clothes is required, they may have access to a washing machine and dryer in the House. The boys are responsible for getting the laundry ready for collection in the morning and for sorting it when it returns in the afternoon.

Pocket Money

Many of the older boys now administer their own bank accounts through the local ATM network while the younger boys bring pocket money to school and have the Housemaster look after it and to issue it to them on request.

All boys are told not to carry excessive cash as it is so easy to lose and is totally unidentifiable.

House Duties



Communal living demands a certain set of standards from all concerned and these standards must be adhered to if the boarding Houses are to run harmoniously and smoothly. All boys are rostered onto a regular set of duties which they carry out as directed. These include such things as tidying the common room, picking up rubbish around the House, helping in the kitchen and dining hall, preparing the laundry for collection and then sorting it and so on.

Older boys take on more responsible duties such as assisting the Duty Master with inspection, roll call and checking on the whereabouts of students.

Recreational Activities and Sport

Television and Video Access



Each Boarding House has a TV and DVD player for the entertainment of the boys.

Viewing times vary from House to House but are regulated and controlled to maximise study time and to encourage the students to get out of the buildings for, at least, a portion of the day.

DVDs are hired for the boys with censorship board guidelines being adhered to with the Housemaster having the discretion to decide what is suitable or unsuitable viewing.

Most Houses also have a pool table and a table tennis table which are widely utilised by the boys.

Birthdays

Most boys tend to want to celebrate their birthdays and parents are very welcome to send them in a cake or to have them out on leave on the big day. They may also take some of their friends out for dinner. However, some of the older students, like adults, would rather not recognise the occasion too openly!

Music

Any boy wishing to play a musical instrument at TAS is actively encouraged to do so. A number of bands, ensembles and choirs are very active within the School and your son is encouraged to join any of these should he wish to. The music room is open every week morning before school and again in the evenings so there is ample time for supervised practice and rehearsal.



Sport for all Boarders

TAS offers an extensive range of both summer and winter sports, all of which provide boys with the opportunity to extend their natural abilities in an area of their choice.

Some of the summer options are: cricket, rowing, shooting, swimming, tennis, squash, basketball, athletics, golf and touch. In winter sports available are: rugby, hockey, soccer, golf, shooting, swimming, tennis and cross country.



Boarding Options

Seven Days a Week Boarding

This is the boarding option of the majority of TAS boarders. However, we are able to offer flexible boarding arrangements to suit the needs of particular families and these arrangements can be readily negotiated with the Headmaster.

Weekly Boarding

Weekly boarding allows your son to board in one of the five Houses 4 to 6 nights a week, usually Monday to Friday, but spend most weekends at home.

Day Boarding

It is also possible for day boarders to arrive early and/or stay on after school finishes for sport or other activities, have dinner in the dining hall and have supervised study before going home at any time up to 8.30 pm each night. This extended day provides boys with the opportunity to be involved in all spheres of TAS life from the academic to the social, musical, sports and other activities.

Casual Boarding

This offers your son the opportunity to stay in a boarding House for one or two nights a week on a regular or casual basis.

Should you be away from your home for an extended period of time it is also possible for you to casually board your son for a short but defined period of time, usually one to two weeks.



More Information

Should you require any additional information about Boarding at The Armidale School, please contact

Mrs Pip Warrick
Registrar
The Armidale School
Locked Bag 3003
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

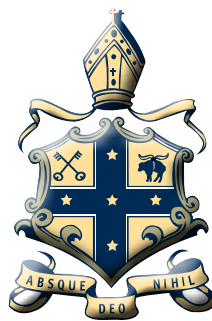
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