Welcome from the Headmaster

The Armidale School has a long history as a quality regional boarding school that prides itself on the breadth of its offering, and attention to the individual student. The only regional member of the Athletic Association of Great Public Schools (AAGPSNSW), TAS is a place where fresh air and green space abound, where educational experiences nourish the spirit, and where our aim is to develop young men and women with strength of character, decency, and a passion for life. We are a non-selective school, but one with a reputation for academic strength.

With the move to full co-education across the school from 2016, we are excited at what the future holds for the school and those who flourish within its gates.

TAS is one of the oldest boarding schools in the state, and with half our secondary students being boarders, we believe residential life is at the heart of the school.

Our boarders enjoy an environment that combines all the best qualities of home, while being supported academically, socially, and recreationally. Relationships based upon mutual respect and responsibility reflect our Christian beliefs, while a growing focus on positive psychology and its role in education seeks to promote hope, resilience and meaning, to all who live, work, and play here.

TAS unashamedly believes that a quality co-curricular program is central to the development of every student. Whether it be music, drama, sport, service or adventure activities, it is the business of the school to help boys and girls explore and experience worthwhile and engaging opportunities, and support them to excel in whatever they choose to do. As a Round Square school, we are outward looking, and seek to arm our students with the confidence to embrace challenge, as they find their way in the world. We are proud of our facilities, but equally proud of our community, where friendships are made for life.

I encourage you to read this handbook and learn more about the rich residential life at TAS.

Murray Guest
Headmaster
At The Armidale School it is important that all of our boarders feel a sense of community and connectedness; that their life in the boarding house is homely, happy and meaningful.

As Director of Boarding, I am responsible for the oversight and management of the five TAS boarding houses. In that capacity, I provide an additional layer of support for Heads of House, staff, parents and students, so that all can enjoy the best possible experience of TAS boarding.

Here at TAS we promote a climate where staff and students share mutual respect, care, trust and concern. Providing and managing the necessary expectations in terms of student behaviour, creating opportunities for boarders to develop personal responsibility and facilitating appropriate social, cultural and other activities both within and outside the school, are all areas of focus of the Director of Boarding and the Heads of House.

Open communication with parents is very important so please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of House or myself.

This handbook will provide information that will help you understand the philosophies, practices and principles that underpin our community and given the integral nature of boarding at TAS this document is to be read in conjunction with School Policies. I encourage you to familiarise yourselves with this document as well as the TAS website.

From all boarding staff, welcome to TAS and we very much look forward to sharing your boarding journey.

Michael Holland
Director of Boarding
TAS Vision

At the core of the TAS vision is the firm belief that education is about the holistic development of character and willingness to engage in life, running parallel and not separate to, the pursuit of academic achievement and effort.

What sets TAS apart is the fundamental understanding that every student can, and deserves to, experience the kind of success the promotes self esteem, purpose and confidence to tackle new challenges.

Whether it is music, drama, sport, service or adventure, our purpose is to encourage each student’s growth by promoting involvement in worthwhile and personally important endeavours. This is crucial in developing life skills such as the ability to communicate effectively, work in a team and draw on leadership qualities through resilience, tenacity and independence.

This is underpinned by Christian beliefs and the principles of respect and responsibility. Our successes in academic life, the energy and enthusiasm of our creative arts, our sporting and leadership achievements and connections to the community continue to give the school an immense sense of purpose, pride and spirit.
ABOUT BOARDING

TAS is a residential school that embraces those intangibles that transform a place of residence into all the best qualities of home. The boarding houses provide academic support giving residential students a real advantage as well as an active and rich social and recreational life.

Residential life at TAS is based on the understanding that a boarding house is a home rather than just a residence, and the presence of ‘motherly’ care and more senior adult presence provides greater consistency of supervision.

From rising time until lights out, the life of a boarder is an active and fulfilling one, with age-appropriate routines designed to help them flourish academically, physically, socially and spiritually. On weekends, activities are driven by the interests and initiatives of students with the support of the Head of House and staff.

Boarding House Structure

TAS is a fully co-educational boarding and day school. Founded in 1894, TAS has been a boarding school with day students for most of its history. In more recent years there has been a change to a balance between boarders and day students in the senior school and 2016 saw the introduction of girls in the senior school. The strong history of boarding continues to pervade the heart of the school and comprises around 220 boarders with boarding offered from Year 6.

Boarding at TAS is flexible and is offered as seven-days-a-week boarding or casual boarding.

The boarding houses provide academic support giving our boarding students a real advantage, as well as an active and rich social and recreational life.

Girls and boys reside in separate accommodation, under the care of specialist staff who understand their needs.

White House is home to all boy Middle School boarders (Years 6–8), who are under the care of the Head of Middle School Boarding and a Housemother, both being assisted by teaching and duty staff. Boys are accommodated in dormitories of between four and eight boys, with communal lounge areas and a wireless internet network.

Senior boy boarders (Years 9-12) are accommodated in the senior houses of Abbott, Croft or Tyrrell. In these houses, boarders have their own study and bedroom space in shared dormitories of between three or four boys (Years 9-10), twin share (Year 11) and all Year 12 boarders have their own room.

Girl boarders are accommodated in the newly refurbished Dangar House, creating a safe and homely environment in one of the most historic buildings on our campus. Girls reside in shared rooms with all aspects of the interior design focused on maintaining a sense of privacy within light, bright rooms. Here specialist staff including the Girls Education Director care for them with a keen interest in their happiness and welfare.

Horizontal boarding is appropriate for the Middle School age group where they relish and benefit from the interaction between children their own age. In the senior years, vertical boarding provides for interaction, which more closely mimics that of the bonds within a family. Leadership by senior students is seen as an important part of boarding both in terms of the relationship with the boarder and the development of the leader generally.

Both boys and girls take part in inter-house competition based in their senior boarding house – Abbott, Croft, Tyrrell – while day boys and girls compete for one of the three day houses – Broughton, Green or Ross.
## Boarding House Structure

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<td>Residential Staff (4)</td>
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BOARDING STAFF AND ROLES

**Director of Boarding**
The Director of Boarding is a member of the teaching staff and a member of the School Executive providing an important link between the executive management of the school and the boarding community.

**Heads of House**
Each Head of House is a member of the teaching staff and is responsible for the total welfare of the boarders in their care in their house. This involves the efficient day-to-day running of the House and includes the establishment of rules and routines that are consistent with school rules and practices with other Houses.

The Head of House is expected to have a high level of communication with parents/guardians whose contact with their son or daughter is encouraged.

**Deputy Head of House**
The Deputy Head of House is a member of school staff and a senior member of the boarding house. They are expected to understudy the Head of House in order to step into that position at any time should it become necessary. The role includes pastoral care responsibilities as well as specific duties essential for the management of each House.

**Senior Resident Nursing Sister**
The Senior Registered Nurse or ‘School Sister, is responsible for maintaining the medical records and immediate medical care for all students at TAS as well as the ongoing care and dispensary needs of boarders.

**Residential Staff**
Each House will have a minimum of three to four Residential Staff. The role of Residential Staff is seen as vital to the growth and development of boarders and each staff member is in a position of considerable responsibility for the boarders in their House. The School therefore expects a high standard of performance and example from Residential Staff.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

In Term 4 each year, a House Captain and one or two Deputy House Captains are appointed by the Head of House from the Year 11 cohort in the boarding house. Their leadership term commences in Term 4 and continues while they are in Year 12 to the end of Term 3 the following year in each of the Senior Houses.

Input will be sought from students and staff, who will vote for school leaders. Heads of House will submit nominated leaders to the Headmaster for final approval.

In addition to these formal positions, there are other opportunities for boarders to demonstrate responsibility and to develop pastoral and leadership skills.

General Role and Responsibilities include:
- Assisting with the pastoral care of fellow boarders.
- Being a positive role model
- Helping boarders overcome feelings of homesickness and loneliness
- Participating in House activities
- Giving new boarders helpful advice on boarding
- Helping to detect and report anti-social behaviour to the Head of House.
COMMUNICATION

TAS actively encourages communication between parents, boarding staff and students to support the School’s commitment to learning and to reinforce values and attitudes fostered in the classroom, the boarding house and the Advisor group.

Boarding is very much a partnership between home and the school. Please contact the respective Head of House should there be any issue you would like to discuss. The most effective method of communication is by either telephone or email but there are a number of ways for parents to maintain contact:

• E-mail
• Phone calls
• Personal contact
• Newsletters/bulletins

Every week the School produces an electronic newsletter called TAS Talks that is emailed to all parents, staff and students that contains all the information needed for the week ahead and reflections on activities that have just occurred. It is recommended that all parents take the time to read this newsletter so they are familiar with what is coming up in the busy school lives of their children.

The other essential resource for information is the TAS website www.as.edu.au. It is a comprehensive website with a separate portal for parents www.as.edu/parent and students that contains all relevant school information, calendar, policies contact details, electronic fee payment options and upcoming activities.

PASTORAL CARE OF BOARDERS

TAS as a whole school community is focused on a culture of connectedness that is valued by all. Pastoral care begins in the boarding houses and extends throughout the school.

The Director of Pastoral Care works closely with the Director of Boarding and the Heads of House to develop and implement our holistic wellbeing programs school-wide. Pastoral care encompasses boarding staff, the School Counsellor, Homeroom teachers, Advisors, and the Chaplain. The principles of Positive Psychology and Restorative Justice are integral to how we value our relationships, enhancing resilience, a sense of wellbeing, optimism, hope and meaning in staff and students alike.

Underpinning this is the TAS Advisor system. Four times a week students in Middle and Senior School meet with their Advisors in an informal setting that fosters empathy, understanding and support.

From Year 9, the first year of Senior School, day and boarding boy students are provided with an Advisor based on their sporting houses while the Girls Education Director is the Advisor to all Year 9 girls.

In Years 10 to 12 the Advisor system is adapted to suit the individual student. Every student, whether day or boarder, selects their Advisor, inevitably this is likely to be a teacher they know well and can relate to best. Advisor groups meet four times a week to discuss pastoral matters, academic programs and any other issues of interest. Each Advisor group is limited to approximately 8 students. Regular contact between Advisor, Head of House and parent is expected.

For more detailed information on our Wellbeing programs at TAS, please visit our website.
MEDICAL CARE OF BOARDERS

The Medical Centre is staffed by Registered Nurses at the following times:

Monday to Friday  7am to 7pm
Saturday/Sunday  7:30am to 8:30am
5pm to 7pm

There is a nurse on call outside those hours.

Before attending the Medical Centre, students should report to a member of boarding staff.

The nurse will assess the student and either treat the student directly, refer to a local doctor immediately or make an appointment.

If a student has been seen by a doctor or if their condition requires a day of bed rest, parents will be informed of illness/injury and will be updated as treatment is provided.

Specialist Care

A student or their family can request the School Sister to arrange an appointment with specialists including dentists, physiotherapists, dieticians, psychologists, and psychiatrists.

School Counsellor

A student or their parents/guardian, the Headmaster or his Deputy, Director or Pastoral Care, the School Sister, Head of House or Director of Boarding may request a consultation for a student with the counsellor.

A student’s medical practitioner, the School Counsellor or the student’s psychologist may refer them to a psychiatrist in consultation with the student and the parent/guardian.

Internal referral must:
• Have the student's consent
• Provide privacy and dignity for the student
• Maintain confidentiality of information and documentation

The student will be supported by the School Sister to attend the appointments and receive recommended treatment. The Psychiatrist will be required to document details of the consultation in the student’s health record if appropriate.

Emergencies

In an emergency, the student will be transported by appropriate means to Armidale Hospital Accident and Emergency Department. The student will be supported at all times by the School Sister until treatment has been received. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible.

The Hospital will be provided with student identity, next of kin, allergies, relevant medication, details, history of previous illness and presenting problem. Confidentiality of information and student privacy and dignity will be maintained at all times.

Medications

It is a legal requirement that all medications (clearly named) are handed in to the nursing or boarding staff. Medication is NOT to be kept in any way by boarders unless authorised by the Senior School Sister. Breaches of this requirement may result in disciplinary action. It is an expectation that parents support this for the safety of their son or daughter and other boarders.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

The spiritual wellbeing of all boarders is a focus here at TAS. While we are an Anglican school, we welcome students from other Christian backgrounds and from other religious faiths. All boarders are encouraged to explore their own spirituality and to experience spiritual growth.

The Chaplain conducts weekly Chapel services on Wednesday evenings in the chapel for all boarders. These opportunities to join together as a community in worship takes precedence over all other activities. Services are often very upbeat and interactive. Student participation is very much encouraged and facilitated by the Chaplain. At least once per term boarders join the congreation of St Peters Church for worship.
ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BOARDERS

Residential life provides excellent academic support for boarders so that boarding becomes recognised as giving an academic advantage.

Weekend and evening tutoring, opening the library at specified times on weekends and access to the Literacy and Numeracy Centre after school is available for any student to take advantage of.

Boarding houses have comfortable and well-maintained facilities, with aesthetically pleasing study spaces for senior students and good access to other school facilities after school and on weekends.

Being a boarder allows easier access to the school’s additional academic support programs such as HSC tutoring, study weekends and study camps. This is possible in a boarding environment like ours where our Heads of House are also experienced teachers within the school.

Each boarder is well known, their academic potential understood and appropriate goals are set and achievable and communicated with parents. We have strived hard to ensure that boarding provides a level of academic advantage that is only possible from being in close contact with peers after hours, allowing a more collaborative approach to learning.

The availability of senior staff in boarding houses to assist with homework and to work with an individual’s academic concerns is extended to all year levels. Each night our students are supported in guided homework sessions (called ‘Prep’).

Boarders in Years 6 to 10 complete prep in classrooms and Year 11 and 12 boarders complete prep in their own study spaces. Dangar boarders complete evening prep in the library. Senior boarders complete prep from 7pm to 9pm, these times are adjusted for younger boarders. It is assumed that HSC students are completing extra prep.

Close communication between the classroom teachers and boarding house staff ensures that our nightly supportive homework sessions are meeting the expectations of the both the teacher and the student.

We are proud of the programs that exist in our boarding houses to assist our students in maximising their potential in the classroom and to feel success in their academic life at TAS.

RECREATION FOR BOARDERS

It is important to us that our boarders enjoy a vibrant and happy social life, especially on weekends, with activities driven by the interests and initiatives of the students with the support of the Head of House and staff.

TAS provides a varied program of excursions and activities that are age-appropriate for our boarders and we aim to provide opportunities that are purely fun as well as those that will assist in social development.

While all boarders are expected to participate in the co-curricular program, we also provide recreation activities that encourage a healthy, active lifestyle.

Where appropriate, we invite other schools to join us.

Activities can include: bushwalking, swimming, roller skating, ten pin bowling, laser tag, golf lessons and games, cooking, movies, beach visits, mountain biking, indoor rock climbing, theatre and cultural events, spectating at local sports events and even fishing.

All activities are supervised by boarding staff and, where necessary, qualified professionals.

We will provide free activities as much as possible but some will attract a cost. We aim to keep costs to a minimum and will require parental permission for any activity where the cost will exceed $20. Costs for activities will be added to your school account.
THE BOARDING HOUSE

Behavioural Expectations

Students who enrol as boarders at TAS agree to abide by the expectation that they will exercise good judgment and demonstrate common sense, courtesy and respect towards other boarders and staff.

School behavioural expectations apply when boarders are on leave and all students should acquaint themselves with the School Rules and Regulations.

Minor breaches of behavioural expectations will be dealt with on a House level by duty staff and the Head of House, though the Director of Boarding may be informed. Consequences are issued that will assist the boarder to learn from their mistakes and make better choices in the future.

More serious breaches of expectations may be referred to the Disciplinary Council. When convened, the Disciplinary Council will generally consist of the Director of Pastoral Care, Director of Boarding, Head of House, Advisor or other staff, and two Prefects. The process allows for an objective review of the incident and encourages reflection before consequences are recommended to the Deputy Headmaster. Procedural Fairness is a key focus in all disciplinary proceedings at TAS.

Serious breaches of rules would include theft, physical assault, anti-social behaviour, smoking, the consumption, possession or supply of alcohol/drugs, absence without leave and any behaviour which may result in injury or harm to others.

Use of Electronic Devices

The school’s internet filter system and wifi blocks content, websites, language and search functions that are considered inappropriate for adolescents.

Parents should be aware that if they are providing their son or daughter with their own phone or other electronic device, then measures to restrict inappropriate content must be taken by the family to safeguard their son or daughter from accessing and sharing inappropriate material.

Computers

With the 1:1 laptop program the School allows students balanced access to their computers for the purpose of academic and recreational use. All students have the responsibility of appropriately using and caring for their computer. Usage varies between Middle School Boarding and Senior Boarding Houses and you should ensure that you are familiar with the appropriate Laptop Policy in your son or daughter’s House.

Mobile Phone Policy

The use of mobile phones is accepted and it is acknowledged that they give important communication access to parents.

In accepting the use of mobile phones it is expected that they will be used responsibly. Boarders may carry mobile phones but they are to be switched off on all formal occasions. This includes teaching periods, tutor/assembly times, roll call and prep and bedtimes.

Any student found using vulgar or obscene language, harassing or antisocial behaviour or transmitting/displaying unapproved, inappropriate images of other persons will face disciplinary action. Irresponsible use of a mobile phone, including accessing inappropriate material or using their device to hurt others, will result in its confiscation for a period of time as determined by the Head of House according to the level of breach of use. Disciplinary action may also ensue.

Restrictions on Use

Students are not to use mobile phones during evening prep. All boarders must hand in mobile phones and computers prior to lights out. The only exceptions are Year 12 students but they must agree to not using them after lights out.
Spending Money

Boarders should set up a bank account with access via a keycard before they start at the school. Boarders will have opportunities during the week and at weekends to visit local shops in order to withdraw money.

If your son or daughter is in Middle School (Years 6 to 8) and you would prefer to leave money with their Head of House, please contact them directly to arrange this.

Between $100 to $150 per term should be adequate.

If there is a need for a boarder to bring a large sum of money, to pay a sports coach or buy a pair of shoes, it should be handed immediately to the Head of House until needed. No responsibility can be taken for money not left with the Head of House.

Laundry

Laundry is done on site daily during the week. Clean laundry can be collected from the pigeonholes in each Boarding House. All clothing must be clearly marked with the Boarder’s name.

Linen is provided in all houses and washed by the laundry each week.

Security of Belongings

Each boarder is responsible for securing their belongings. Adequate lockable storage space is provided for each boarder and they are expected to use it. Boarders should report lost items immediately to staff on duty so they can make attempts to locate the items. As more time elapses this process becomes more difficult. We encourage you to obtain personal insurance for valuable items.

Bicycles/Skateboards/Scooters

While we would like boarders to have access to recreation equipment they would use at home, we ask that parents take full responsibility for the use of bicycles, skateboards, scooters etc by their son or daughter and, in the case of injury, indemnify the School against any injury to their son or daughter.

Parents must supply helmets and any other required safety equipment. It is a requirement of Australian Law that a bicycle helmet be worn when riding a bicycle.

Houses have space for bicycles to be secured but students should have their own security chain. Again, security of belongings is the responsibility of the owner as the School’s insurance policy will not extend to such losses.

Personal Hygiene

Before students start boarding it is worth parents and guardians emphasizing to their son or daughter the importance of maintaining a high degree of personal hygiene and the importance of using clean towels and linen; the need to wash daily and the use of toothpaste, soap, shampoo and deodorant. Boarders need to ensure that their uniform is neat and tidy and that casual clothes are also clean.

Food

Boarders are allowed to have food within the boarding houses and are indeed encouraged to have small snacks for after school and in the evening. Food should be safely packaged in plastic sealable containers. Food is only to be consumed in designated areas of the House and is not to be consumed in bedroom areas. Boarders are responsible for cleaning up after themselves and keeping the kitchen facilities tidy and hygienic.

Please ensure food does not contain nuts or peanuts due to a number of students with allergies to these food types. Cooking facilities are provided and boarders have access to the following; microwave, stove and oven (Dangar only, other houses by arrangement), toaster, electric kettle and fridge.

Prohibited Items

Boarders should not have in their possession any drugs / medication that has not been prescribed by a doctor and managed by the School Sister.

Boarders should never have in their possession any illegal substances, cigarettes or tobacco products and alcohol.

Boarders should not have in their possession knives or weapons of any sort. If there is any doubt, the responsibility rests with the boarder to check with the Head of House before bringing the item in question into the boarding House.
Breakages and Damage

Boarders must respect the facilities they reside in as well as the property of others. Borrowing of items is discouraged due to the potential for liability should breakages or damages occur.

All breakages should be reported to staff immediately. Students will be held responsible and parents may be charged for any breakages incurred while engaging in inappropriate use or irregular activity such as playing ball games inside, abuse of recreational equipment or negligence. Reasonable care should be taken with boarding house furniture.

DINING HALL

Kitchen staff provide a tasty, varied and nutritious menu for our boarders who take meals in the school Dining Hall.

Dining Hall behavioural expectations are as follows:

• Attendance at meals is compulsory
• A student is entitled to ask for a small helping, but some food must be eaten at each meal
• Students must exhibit good manners that consider others
• Phones should not be used in the Dining Hall
• No food is removed from the Dining Hall (except at lunchtime or for late meals)
• Students are to be dressed appropriately
• Where casual clothes are worn to dinner, those clothes must be neat and tidy. Girls should not be showing their midriff and singlet tops are discouraged. Football jumpers are also not appropriate
  Dining Hall dress
• Crockery and cutlery are not to be taken from the Dining Hall
• Hats are not to be worn by students when they are seated in the Dining Hall

The kitchen caters for various food allergies, for students who are vegetarians and for others with special food needs.
LEAVE

Leave for boarders is now processed online through the REACH System which connects families to the boarding houses to make requesting and granting of leave efficient, effective and secure.

All parents and boarders will be provided with a username and password to access the portal called tas.reachboarding.com.au. Students are able to submit leave requests. Leave involving a host will need to be approved by parents and the host. This is a simple process, enabled by email notifications generated by the system.

Heads of House will be responsible for granting leave.

If a request for leave involves missing school time, a separate request must be made approval by the Deputy Headmaster. Please visit the Absence, Illness and Leave section in the Parent Portal (www.as.edu.au/parents) on the school website for more information.

All leave is subject to the boarders not being required for school activities.

Host Leave

Host approval
Parents are asked to enter the host’s details in REACH. This may take some time but only ever needs to be done once.

Responsibility of Hosts

A responsible host must be aware of the following for the boarder in their care at all times:
- Where they are
- That they will not be involved in the use of (or exposed to the use of) substances banned at the school (nicotine, alcohol, illegal drugs) or any actions which would breach the school rules
- Contact details must be kept up to date

Host leave - legal responsibilities

When a student leaves the Boarding House for Host Leave, even though parents have directly given permission, the student’s safety remains the legal responsibility of the school at all times. To that end, the boarding staff may challenge a student’s attendance at a host’s house in circumstances that raise questions concerning the student’s safety and wellbeing.

Such circumstances provide the opportunity to reaffirm for all parties the nature of the leave being requested, ensuring that the safety of the student is thoroughly reviewed before the leave occurs.

Where a host is involved in an illegal activity (e.g. providing alcohol to a minor), TAS reserves the right to either revoke Host status or contact the police or both.

Hosts must sign out and may be required to show identification to the resident on duty when picking up and returning boarders to the reception areas of the boarding houses. The safety of the student is thoroughly reviewed before the leave occurs.

Leave with Parents during the week

TAS recognises the right of access by parents to their son or daughter at any time. Prior notification by parents allows ample time for Heads of House to check school commitments or activities for the student for the period of leave requested.

Boarders are to ensure that study commitments are met when taking leave during the week. Return times for outings during the school week should be by 7.00pm to allow homework to take place.

Overnight Leave

Overnight leave is permitted for boarders when going into a family situation where there is parental supervision. The School does not allow boarders to take overnight leave with young hosts (this may include brothers and sisters under 21 years of age). This does not call into question the integrity or responsibility of specific young hosts, but acknowledges that young people and the situations in which they live may not be suitable for overnight accommodation for teenagers for whom the School is ultimately responsible.
“... an environment that’s caring, nurturing and supportive.”
Making Leave Arrangements
The procedure for parents and other hosts taking boarders out is as follows:

• Student or parent to request leave via the REACH system, to be approved by staff, parent and host.
• Hosts are required to announce themselves to the respective boarding house reception prior to pick up and may need to produce identification to sign out the boarder into their care
• Boarders must return to the boarding house and be signed back in by the host by 8.00pm on Sunday evening or prior to school on Monday morning by arrangement.

Private Parties
TAS does not officially condone parties, neither does it condemn parties. The School encourages parents to be actively involved in monitoring their son or daughters social life outside of school, being mindful of the fact that the attendance of TAS students at an outside social gathering does not classify the event as a school activity.

We encourage parents to personally contact the host parents of any students social gathering, share with the host and their son or daughter their behavioural expectations and organise safety mechanisms (e.g. clearly defined drop-off and pick-up procedures and phone access). The School recommends that discussion between parents also covers such issues as security and the presence of alcohol and illicit drugs.

TAS recommends to parents that their son or daughter does not attend parties that are unsupervised by a responsible adult and/or have little or no security measures in place. Detailed advice on parties and other related policy matters is available from the Parent Portal in the direct link to school policies.

Town Leave
Permitted Friday afternoon for Years 6 to 10, Monday and Friday for Year 11, any afternoon for Year 12 (and again on Saturday/Sunday morning for any boarder provided there are no sporting or co-curricular commitments).

Additional leave is granted by the Head of House only. Dress is neat casuals. This type of leave is also extended to the corner store, markets and sporting events in Armidale. Boarders must report in and out in-person to the staff on duty. Names and relevant information are then entered into REACH.

Armidale Show Leave
• Leave to attend the annual Armidale Show will be on the following basis:
  • Years 9 and 10 may attend from either 9 am - 12.30 pm or from 1.30 - 5.30 pm on the Saturday only.
  • Years 11 and 12 may attend from 1.30 - 10.30 pm on either Friday or Saturday nights. Evening leave with day parents to attend the show is not permitted.
• Leave with parents or approved hosts may be given by the Head of House from 3.30pm Friday.

Cinema/Dinner Leave
Cinema or Dinner leave may be granted by a Head of House to Year 12 on Saturday evening. Boarders submit a leave request through REACH that must be approved by parents.

Visiting other Boarding Houses
Boarders are permitted to visit other TAS boarding houses by arrangement with the boarding staff on duty in each house. Boys and girls are not permitted to visit each other’s houses at all.

Visiting NEGS and PLC
Boarders may seek leave to visit NEGS or PLC. Dress is neat casuals. Each boarder visiting is to introduce themselves to the Mistress/Duty Staff of the relevant boarding house and at NEGS are permitted to be on the lawns in front of the boarding house, or the House visitors’ room if the weather is inclement.
TRAVEL

The State Government provides free travel between home and School for all boarding students at the beginning and end of term. This travel is sometimes provided for long weekends where appropriate. All travel is organised through the school with TrainLink. Parents are asked to advise of travel requirements well in advance and should note that, when bookings are confirmed by TrainLink, charges will apply to any change of booking. NB – These are TrainLink charges, not school charges, but must be borne by parents.

At the beginning of each school year, new boarders who elect to travel by TrainLink coach throughout the year will be required to fill out an application form.

Students are permitted to travel to and from school by other methods of public transport, e.g. plane, but this is at their own cost.

Boarding students are generally not permitted to travel to and from school while another student is driving apart from a few exceptions in certain circumstances for Year 12 students. All parties involved will require permission from the Deputy Headmaster. Permission forms can be obtained from the Director of Boarding.

Boarders’ Parents and the PVC (Private Vehicle Conveyance Subsidy)

Parents who drive their son or daughter from their home to school and parents who have to drive some distance to collect their children from NSW TrainLink stops may be eligible for the PVC subsidy. Information on the subsidy and application forms are available from the Parramatta office of the Ministry of Transport, phone 1800 010 123. Application forms are preferred to be received by TransportNSW via this link.


Driving

In general, boarders are discouraged from having cars at school. However, where it is more convenient for the family for a boarder to drive him/herself to home to school, then a car may be allowed. Parents must seek permission from either the Director of Boarding or the student’s Head of House before the student brings the car back to the school.

All boarders travelling in cars driven by themselves, another student or an under 25 driver must have the Student Driver Authority and Application Form signed by parents and lodged with the Headmaster. If a boarder wishes to drive another student, even his/her siblings, then this form must also be lodged with the Headmaster. A copy of the form is available on the school website.

This form is simply parental permission for the student to drive or be a passenger in a vehicle driven by another student. Permission for each and every specific occasion a car is used must come from the Head of House.
Extinguishers and fire hoses are in place in the boarding houses. It is an offence to tamper with fire safety equipment. If such equipment is misused or vandalised or an avoidable fire alarm episode is caused by a boarder then, at the discretion of the Business Manager, the boarder may be liable for costs.

Each House will conduct drills to ensure students are familiar with procedures and evacuation assembly points.

**House Security**

On normal weekdays the House will be locked at 8:40 am. Entrance back into the Boarding House after this time is not permitted. Boarding Houses will be reopened at 3:20pm. All students must ensure they pack all necessary books, sports gear, etc. before departing the House in the morning.

**Personal Spaces**

Boarders are responsible for their personal space including their area and dormitory room. All rooms of the boarding houses must be kept clean and tidy at all times. The Head of House sets out duties that all students ensure are followed on a weekly basis and are managed by the student leaders and staff.

Students are allowed to have personal electrical items such as computers/laptops, mini-stereos, reading light, and a power board with a circuit breaker but all must be safety tagged prior to bringing them to school.

Posters are allowed but must be appropriate in content and must not be such that they may cause offence. These should only be attached to the walls with a non damaging adhesive eg Blu-tak.

**Electrical Goods**

All electrical goods or appliances brought into the boarding houses by students should be safety tagged for Occupational Health and Safety reasons. These tags indicate that the device is safe to use and will be highly unlikely to cause harm. Parents should endeavour to ensure that all appliances are tagged before they come into boarding.

If electrical appliances are not tagged, tagging will take place at school at times and this will be charged to the students as necessary. Untagged goods may be confiscated.

Students must ensure that they turn off all electrical goods before leaving for school.
Area and cupboard searches

Respect for individual privacy is maintained as a right of each boarder at TAS. However, occasionally it may become necessary for boarding staff to conduct a search of areas and/or cupboards in the interests of duty of care when there is evidence that a student or students may have prohibited items or substances in their possession or when a significant theft has occurred.

This information is provided to ensure that parents and students are aware of procedures, which may be implemented, and to reinforce statements made regarding the possession of substances, literature, DVDs and other associated paraphernalia, which are not in keeping with the aims and objectives of boarding at TAS.

When a search is necessary, two staff members will be present and, where practical, so will the student.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Music Centre

There are numerous musical activities on offer for boarders at TAS ranging from private lessons, an individual boarder’s practice regime to small and large ensembles.

Students wishing to take private instrumental lesson or enquire regarding hire of instruments should contact the Music Department Assistant. Private instrumental tuition is offered in a vast array of instruments.

Boarders’ practice sessions are:

- Middle School - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 5:00-5:45pm, Tuesday 7:30-8:30pm
- Senior School - Monday-Thursday 7:30-9:00pm
- Boarders - Saturday and Sunday 1-3pm.

All sessions have a member of staff on hand to supervise and offer help and monitor the boarders. Boarders who have instrumental lessons are expected to practice at least three times per week and for at least half an hour on each occasion. This increases as experience and age increases and electives are chosen. Boarders choose and book a time and practice area and sign on the boarders’ practice sheet monitored by the staff member to indicate attendance. The music department has a large number of instruments for hire if the students do not have their own their own or prefer to hire.

Facilities include: five practice rooms, three teaching rooms each with a piano, large rehearsal room, two classrooms and a state-of-the art recording studio, drum room, eight upright pianos, one mini grand piano.

Ensembles that boarders can be involved with include: TAS Junior Band, TAS Stage Band, TAS Band/Cadet Band, TAS Strings, Guitar Ensemble, Junior Chamber Ensemble, Senior Jazz Combo, Brass Quartet, Percussion Ensemble, Rock Band, TAS Singers, Junior and Middle School Vocal Ensembles and a Chapel Choir.

Sport and Swim Centre

At the heart of the Sport and Swim Centre is an indoor, eight-lane 25 metre heated swimming pool and refurbished change room and showers. With a year round temperature of 28 degrees, it offers perfect conditions for swimming and recreation. Boarders have access to the pool with permission from boarding staff and with appropriate supervision.

Weekend pool hours:
Saturday and Sunday 12:00-5:00pm
Gym and Weights Room

The TAS weights room offers weight sessions and circuit training by a registered gym instructor. Students can gain access to the equipment outside class times to follow up on individual fitness programs once they have undertaken a full induction in relation to the equipment and safety requirements.

Boarder access to the gym and weights room at the following times:

**Mornings**
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 6:15–7:15am

**Afternoons**
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:45–5:00pm

**Weekends**
Sunday 10am–12:00pm

Hoskins Centre

The Hoskins Centre is a state of the art theatre and performing arts space that is used throughout the year for school, local and professional productions that are usually possible for boarders to attend with approval from the Head of House. One of the advantages of having Armidale’s only professional performance space, is that our boarders can take advantage of seeing live theatre and music right on the campus. These opportunities enrich the boarding experience at TAS

Uniform and Book Shop

The opening hours for the Uniform and Book Shop are as follows:

**Monday** 1:30–5:00pm
**Tuesday** 10–2:00pm
**Wednesday** 1:30–5:30pm
**Thursday** 10–2:00pm
**Friday** 1:30–5:00pm
WHAT TO BRING

In addition to school and sports uniform requirements, stationery, books and personal hygiene items, boarders should bring the following:

- Sleeping clothes/pyjamas (2-3 sets winter and summer)
- A week’s worth of casual clothes for everyday wear (summer and winter)
- Smart casuals – jeans, trousers, (skirt or dress for girls), belt, collared shirts, long sleeved buttoned shirts, tie, dress shoes, socks, jumper/jacket
- Footwear (1 x thongs, 1 x sports shoe, 1 x casual shoe, 1 x dress shoe)
- Doona and doona cover
- Small backpack
- Beach towel
- Tissues
- Sunscreen/hat and cap
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, nail clippers, shaving gear, hair brush/comb, deodorant, other personal hygiene needs
- Laundry bag/basket
- Spare shoe laces
- Shoe polish
- Coat hangers
- Spare name tags
- 2 x padlocks
- Airtight food containers
- Microwave bowl and eating utensils, mug, teaspoon
- Water bottle
- Wet weather jacket

Optional items

- Photographs, posters, appropriate pictures
- Personal music devices and headphones (not speakers)

Dress Code

Boarders should observe the appropriate dress codes for various formal and semi formal occasions at TAS. Please ensure your son or daughter has the appropriate clothing to comply with the standards expected.

The following dress code is a guide:

- Chapel – smart casual clothes; long pants or skirt/ dress, collared shirt, sleeves, shoulders covered, enclosed shoes
- Formal Dinner in the Dining Hall – formal school uniform
- Dining Hall – neat casual clothes
- All leave – neat casual clothes

What not to bring:

- Personal game consoles/games
- Personal TV’s
- Large stereos
- Fridges
- Large quantities of sweet foods or drinks
- Inappropriate/unsafe recreational equipment (nerf guns, water pistols, dart boards).
Contacts

Executive Staff

Deputy Headmaster          Alan Jones  0427 765 849  ajones@as.edu.au
Director of Boarding       Michael Holland  0417 099 215  dob@as.edu.au
Girls' Education Director/ Head of Dangar House  Alexandra Pollitt  0475 952 775  apollitt@as.edu.au
Head of Pastoral Care      Barney Buntine  0418 224 791  bbuntine@as.edu.au
Director of Studies        Seonia Wark  0410 535 064  swark@as.edu.au

Boarding House Staff

Head of Abbott House       Adam Whalley  0408 898 107  awhalley@as.edu.au
Abbott House Office        0439 041 627  abbott@as.edu.au
Head of Croft House        David Drain  0418 961 325  ddrain@as.edu.au
Croft House Office         0439 026 748  croft@as.edu.au
Head of Dangar House       Alexandra Pollitt  0475 952 775  apollitt@as.edu.au
Dangar House Office        0418 264 705  dangar@as.edu.au
Head of Tyrell House       James Pennington  0419 250 984  jpenning@as.edu.au
Tyrell House Office        0439 041 606  tyrell@as.edu.au
Head of White House        Andrew Junge  0413 099 128  ajunge@as.edu.au
White House Office         0439 041 330

Pastoral Care Staff

Director of Boarding       Michael Holland  0417 099 215  dob@as.edu.au
Director of Pastoral Care  Barney Buntine  0418 224 791  bbuntine@as.edu.au
Girls' Education Director  Alexandra Pollitt  0475 952 775  apollitt@as.edu.au
School Sister              Jenny Murray  0428 152 291  medical@as.edu.au
Chaplain                  Richard Newton  0429 157 905  rnewton@as.edu.au
School Counsellor          Rob Hadfield  0412 934 712  rhadfield@as.edu.au