

Truro School Boarding – A Life Skills Academy

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” John Wesley

Truro School was founded by Wesleyan Methodists in 1879, and the school’s boarding community continues to be characterised by the key values and messages of Wesley. Boarding at Truro School is a close community of students of all ages and nationalities and residential boarding staff. The boarders are known very well by the staff who encourage, guide and support boarders to achieve excellence in academic learning habits, social and independent living skills, leadership and service, and planning for university or the workplace. The boarding staff also work tirelessly to instill the Wesley and Cornish values of tolerance, respect, community, humility and kindness. Boarding offers a special opportunity for students to develop valuable life skills that are becoming increasingly important in the modern world, some of which are outlined below.

To achieve the best possible outcomes in academic studies through the development of independent learning habits such as time-management, resilience, goal-setting, avoiding distractions of mobile devices, studying beyond set home-work and revision techniques. *“Having the library to study in every evening is really beneficial for my independent study. Also having a maths clinic some evenings has improved my understanding of maths considerably.”* Cam M, a full boarder and actor.

To follow interests and hobbies outside the classroom and boarding houses such as playing musical instruments, directing the sound and lights for a school play, war-gaming, surfing, keeping fit, and playing basketball. *“In boarding it is very easy to be involved in the ever-expanding list of activities. You can participate in things such as drama, sports and debating. As a boarder you get access to evening badminton, basketball and football. Teachers are always willing to help you decide what to do.”* Cam H, a full boarder and actor.

To develop social skills such as cultural tolerance, living with others, confident interaction with adults, and forming and maintaining friendships. *“My first ever encounter with people here made me happy more than ever. It was difficult to leave my favourite pet and friends but the school amazed me because everybody is very kind and happy. Teachers are very glad to listen and keep a conversation with you and students bring me to a next step if I fall. All of it has encouraged me to keep going with new discoveries, sports and hobbies.”* Aistè, an international boarder.

To learn independent living skills such as self-organisation, keeping mentally and physically healthy, cooking and financial awareness. *“Because I share a room, I have to be aware of my roommate and keep our shared space tidy. We also all help tidy the kitchen and common room which some boarders don’t have to do at home! The boarding staff have been really good at helping me get organised with stuff outside of school such as evensong in the Cathedral and cadets.”* Katie, a boarding prefect.

To develop leadership and service skills such as leading a group of peers and contributing to group discussions and decisions. *“I joined the school early on which has allowed me to be able to mentor and guide new boarders helping them to settle into boarding. As a Lower Sixth Form boarder I have the opportunity to apply for Head of House or House Prefect which will expand my leadership skills. Also, in my time here, I have been on the House Council which meant I could voice my opinion and grow in confidence contributing to group discussions.”* Evie, a weekly boarder and chorister.

To plan and prepare for the workplace and university by choosing the right path, writing letters of application, gaining work experience, writing a CV and practising interview skills. *“My Oxbridge program adviser and my tutor has helped and guided me through the process of applying to highly competitive universities, which made me feel strong and confident about my university application.”* Pao, an international boarder, a prefect and a member of the school badminton and rugby teams.