

LIFE IN BARTON HILL BOARDING HOUSE

On my first day at Barton Hill, I was not much like everyone else; excited and bubbly. I was more reserved with only a few words to say; I was really a bit shy actually. I think that was mostly because I was slightly overwhelmed by the unexpectedly large amount of people I was seeing from different cultures but as the days passed by, I became a lot more open and talkative quite rapidly as I became accustomed to the very friendly atmosphere in the boarding house.

I began to make so many friends in no time at all. It is easy to relate with the other boarders and we all have this feeling of understanding amongst ourselves. There are really no year groups, ages, rankings or races in the boarding house. Everyone is an equal! The House Parents are also really nice and are always willing to help and give some really good advice when necessary. They are really like OUR parents!

The Barton Hill catering staff actually takes good care of us. There is always a drink to have and the food is healthy and tremendous! There are so many different food items to choose from to satisfy the many different people at the boarding house. Everyone can find something no matter what their food preferences are; be it vegetarian, the spice lovers, the pastry lovers, the fruity ones and, like me, the meat lovers!

It took me no time at all to get familiar with my surroundings. Over there is Tesco, the bank is right around the corner, school is a good walk away (which served as my weekly cardio), and football training is as close as could be. Shaftesbury is a really beautiful place with a lot of history and nice people so getting lost once in a while is no problem at all.

The inner surroundings of Barton Hill House are also very notable. It is also very well-equipped. The expansive and beautiful garden, the well-furnished bedrooms, dining room and common areas, the ample amount of desktops which are available for use during study time, and the many sports equipment we have at our disposal; we can play basically any sport at the boarding house as long as the huge space in the boarding house allows it, which it does almost all the time!

But there are also outings... Ah the outings! There is the gym on Mondays and Thursdays, cinema trip on Tuesdays, swimming trip on Wednesdays and the ample amount of trips here and there like; the trip to Thorpe Park, the Bath Christmas shopping trip, paintballing, ice-skating and the more usual trips to see the Saints play their home games. There is a lot to look forward to.

However, as they say; 'All play and no work makes Jack a dumb boy'. Hence, our 90-minute study periods which we get every night (except Fridays and Saturdays). This gives us enough time to do all the work and studying we have to do. But if that time is not enough, we can extend it if we want to.

Sixth form is amazing at the Barton Hill House. There is our extended out-time and our own sixth form house which is exclusive to Sixth Formers; which has made sixth form something to be looked forward to by the lower school.

All in all, I have had a great first year in sixth form. There are so many new people here this year though, but after my first year, I have come to realise that new is good. I guess I have another great second year of sixth form to look forward to and I would, honestly, strongly recommend Barton Hill House to anyone!

Robert Ezigbo
Year 13 boarder
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