

My experience at Shaftesbury School and at Barton Hill House

As a foreign student you sometimes feel scared and confused once you go to live in a boarding house. The feeling of not being so close to your family and friends can be terrifying for most of us, but not once you step into the welcoming environment at the boarding school in Shaftesbury. Throughout the two years I spent at the boarding house, I've not only had an amazing studying environment in which we are encouraged to do everything at our best by caring house parents, but I've also gained a second family. Living in a boarding house might seem scary but I made a lot of friends that will stay by my side for a long time because we lived together and this type of shared experience stays with you forever.

The boarding house offered me an amazing amount of experiences. From various trips around England in places like London and Southampton, to in-house activities, such as the amazing themed dinner nights where the house parents alongside the students would do their best to organize an amazing night for everyone, to the chocolate fountains and candy floss at the Leavers' Meal. Looking back on it, the Leavers' Meal is perhaps one of my best memories here because after two years we all realized how attached we were to each other and how hard being away from this place was going to be; this showed how wonderful it was to be part of this community that for two years we've grown to call "home". The houseparents here quickly earned my trust and everyone's trust because they would be the first people we'd go to no matter what the issue was: from asking Mr. Crossley to help me with my personal statement and interview for university, to kindly asking the other houseparents to teach me how to sew and telling them about my day. They are always there for us.

As for the school itself, the way in which the teachers gave their best to help us in any possible situation is incomparable. You will find at Shaftesbury School that the staff will always be available to help, even if it means losing their lunch breaks, ultimately offering all students the best chance of success involving very useful and interesting methods of teaching such as educational games and activities.

As a former student at Shaftesbury School I do recommend this school to any student that is looking for an opportunity to reach their goals, but also the family provided by the boarding house, which I still consider myself part of, because that is where I grew up and lived for the most important years of my adolescence.

Year 13 student, 2017

