



Boarding at Ashbury

Welcome to boarding life at Ashbury College! We look forward to welcoming you to Ashbury in September. In the meantime, we know that you have many questions about practical issues so this document is designed to help answer most questions about the opening week schedule and what to bring with you to campus.

What is provided by Ashbury College in each student's room:

- Single bed with drawers for storage of clothing and personal items
- Desk and chair
- Bookshelf
- Small safe (lockbox) for storing passport and valuables, including money
- Closet for hanging clothes
- Bathroom: sink, toilet, shower (bathtub in most girls' bathroom)
- Key and/or swipe card for residence and room

Provided by Ashbury College in Common Areas in the Residence, for use by all boarding students:

- Full kitchen with appliances for cooking (stove, oven, microwave, etc.)
- Pots, pans, dishes, cutlery
- Refrigerator, dishwasher
- Laundry: washing machines and dryers (no coins or money required)
- Iron and ironing board
- Television with cable, Apple TV
- Printer
- Various fitness machines and equipment for personal workouts

Required Items: what to bring (or plan to buy here):

- Bed linens: sheets/blankets/pillows (for single bed); 2 sets suggested
- Comforter/duvet (for single bed)
- Bath towels
- Desk lamp (to be purchased in Canada: CSA Approved for fire safety)
- Hangers to hang clothing
- Laptop computer and charger
- Laundry bag or basket; laundry detergent
- Headphones for individual listening [required when students watch movies or listen to music on their devices (laptop or phone)].
- Cell phone with a local number (this can be arranged on site on Tuesday, September 8). Cell phone number to be shared with residential staff for ease of communication.
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Personal clothing for all weather and all seasons (it may be best to plan to purchase winter clothing here in Canada)

You may want to consider purchasing bedding and other personal items online and have them delivered to the school in advance instead traveling with that extra bulky weight. Another option is to order bedding packages online and have them delivered to the school. In late June or July we will send you information about a popular ordering option, available through ISGC.

Packages sent to the school before September should be addressed to:

Student's Name, c/o Ashbury College, 362 Mariposa Avenue, Ottawa ON K1M 0T3, Canada

- **Optional Items (not required):**
- Alarm clock (*strongly recommended instead of student using cell phone for morning alarm*)
- Hair dryer
- Razors
- Sewing kit (optional) for minor repairs (ex. sewing on a missing button)
- Appropriate posters/pictures to decorate the room
- Sports equipment; musical instrument
- Power bar for plugging in electronics

Not allowed:

- No heating-element appliances such as kettles, toasters, rice cookers, or irons are allowed in student rooms. Each residence is equipped with these appliances in the kitchen area.
- Mini-refrigerators (student prefects and Boarding Council members are exempted from this rule)
- Candles or incense: no open flames permitted in residence due to fire hazard
- Televisions or large computer monitors for gaming; gaming equipment (not allowed in student rooms but may be used in common rooms)
- Other furniture unless permission is granted by residential staff in advance; please ask before purchasing or bringing any furniture items to campus.

Room Allocation and Roommates

Students will be told of their room allocation and roommate upon arrival in September. We strive to room students by grade so that they can help each other and share similar schedules. However, those who speak the same mother tongue will not be placed in the same room to ensure that the spoken language between roommates will be English.

Move-In Day: Monday, September 7

All boarding students are expected to arrive at Ashbury College on Monday, September 7, 2020. The residences will open their doors at noon (12 pm). The residential staff will be there to greet you upon your arrival. Rooming assignments will be shared with you at that time.

Most stores in Ottawa will not be open that day as it is a national holiday: Labour Day. A notable exception is the Rideau Centre, a major shopping mall in downtown Ottawa.

We invite you to join us at 5:00 p.m. for the Head of School's welcome address and casual reception. At 5:30 pm sons and daughters will say goodbye to their parents before joining the boarding staff for a welcome dinner in the school's Dining Hall (Maclaren Hall). Meanwhile, parents are welcome to enjoy a light barbecue dinner on the lawn at the Head of School's residence. For the students, our first house meeting will be held that evening in the theatre at 7:00 pm. Students will be kept busy for the rest of the evening so we ask parents to say their good-byes at 5:30 pm.

Orientation Week

▪ **Tuesday, September 8**

Tuesday is dedicated to orientation activities for all new students: boarding and day. **Students do not need to wear their school uniform until the following day (Wednesday).** Students who have not yet had a uniform fitting appointment will do so on Tuesday. On site, we will also have a representative from a leading Canadian bank to assist students in setting up a bank account, as well as a mobile phone representative (Rogers) to help students who need a mobile phone account. A representative from guard.me, the health insurance company that provides coverage for all of our boarding students (included in the cost of tuition) may be available to answer questions. The business office will also be open should you need their services.

We strongly suggest that parents leave the city by that evening or the following day. As difficult as it is to leave your child behind, it is in their best interest to start their new lives as quickly as possible. In our experience, the longer a parent stays in the vicinity, the harder it is for the student to fully engage in their new life at Ashbury College. We assure you that we are here to support, guide, and nurture your child to the best of our abilities.

▪ **First Day of Classes: September 9**

This is the first day that your child will need to be in full uniform. Students start the day with a full school assembly, followed by the opportunity to meet with each class for a shortened period. In most cases, the class will be primarily an opportunity for the teacher to meet the class and introduce the course syllabus. **Students in Grade 9** will leave for their 2 night camp experience after classes end.

▪ **Camp Days: September 10 – 11**

Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 will spend two days in a programme designed for each grade level. More information and permission forms will be shared for all camp experiences in June.

▪ **Boarder Weekend: September 11 - 13**

This important community-building weekend begins on Friday at 6:00 p.m and ends on Sunday at 8:00 p.m. The weekend is filled with fun activities, designed to facilitate the integration of our new students and to allow returning students to rekindle old friendships and develop new ones. **All boarders are expected to attend the entire weekend. Please do not plan to visit with your child on this weekend or you will be pulling them away from group bonding activities that are designed to help them to connect and integrate with the other students.** There is a no additional financial cost to this weekend; all expenses are covered through tuition fees.

Clean rooms

Every student is responsible for the overall *tidiness* of his or her room and the residential teacher on duty will ensure that this is the case. The *cleanliness* of the room is the responsibility of the custodians. During the regular school term rooms are inspected daily by the residential staff. Any damage to a student's room may result in charges to the student's account.

The following standards are used during the inspection:

- doors are locked;
- beds are neatly made;
- clothing is put away;
- the bathroom area is clear of toiletries;
- the floor is clear of clutter, including boxes and suitcases;
- lights and any electronic devices are turned off when the student is away;
- desk and dresser surfaces are clean and reasonably uncluttered;
- decorations are tasteful.

Laundry

There are laundry facilities in each residence. The students are responsible for supplying their own detergent and for the washing of their own clothes, sheets, and towels. There is a dry cleaner located near the school.

Safety and Security

Ottawa is a small and safe city. Nonetheless, we expect our students to travel in pairs when leaving the campus, specially at the beginning of the year. We are strict on curfews and all students are expected to be here for all of our sign-ins. If a student is going to be late, they must call the duty phone to let us know that they are fine and the reason why they are late.

The residences are locked 24-hours a day, seven-days a week. Upon their arrival in September, students are given a key to their room and for the residence and the school building. We have cameras in and around the residences. The campus strives to be well lit after dark.

If your son or daughter is traveling on his or her own, please be assured that the Ottawa International Airport (YOW) is small and safe. There is a fleet of authorized taxis just outside the front door of the airport. No other taxis can be there. All of our students travel back and forth from the Ottawa airport several times a year without issue.

Long Weekends and Breaks

During the course of the school year, there are 5 long weekends (3-4 days each) and 2 longer breaks of 2 weeks each (December and March). See the school's [2020-2021 Calendar](#) for specific dates.

During the December and March breaks, the residences are closed and students must leave campus for the full two weeks. Most students will return home or stay with family or friends here in Canada. If students require alternative arrangements, we work with two companies who provide Homestay for students; please let us know if you would like additional information or check out our website under [Custodianship, Student Visa and Study Permit](#). Every year there are also Ashbury trips to various destinations scheduled over the March Break; check out our [website for recent offerings](#). Trips for next year have not yet been confirmed.

For the five long weekend breaks, the school is closed and most students choose to leave campus. Boarders have a number of options for these long weekends:

- i. stay with local friends or family;
- ii. arrange to stay with a local Homestay family (additional costs apply);
- iii. participate in a trip with ISGC (cost depends on destination and activities; past trips have included: Toronto, Montreal, Blue Mountain for skiing, New York City);
- iv. stay on campus for special programming for our boarders! (additional minimal cost)

In response to strong demand, we have developed this special programming for our boarding students for all long weekends. This initiative has quickly become very popular with students who are looking for a balance between free time and planned activities. Students participate in activities in the Ottawa region and return to sleep in their own beds at night. We also make sure to allow students the opportunity to rest and have unstructured time during which they can study, rest, and spend time with friends. For one of the long weekends, the program is off-site, allowing students to travel together to discover another part of Canada for a few days. Cost of this weekend includes transportation, hotel, activity fees, and all meals. Recent destinations have been Quebec City, Niagara Falls, and Toronto. More information about the schedule and programming for next year's long weekends will be shared in the spring of 2020.

Making Travel Arrangements and Booking Flights

When making travel arrangements, please note the time of day when boarders are expected to leave and return to campus (as shown on the [Calendar](#)). Our residence doors are on alarms at night so students' keys will not open the residences late at night. To avoid having your child call and wake up staff to open the door for them, please try to make arrangements for the student to arrive at a reasonable time. This may not always be possible (especially when flights are cancelled or delayed) but we do ask for your cooperation. Similarly, while we do understand that a student may need to leave before a Break or long weekend begins in order to accommodate flight times, every effort should be made to limit the amount of missed academic time. Finally, please communicate all travel plans (dates, times, and flight numbers) with residential staff so that we can track student arrivals and departures.

More Information

Information about the daily schedule, communicating with your child's Head of Residence, and many other issues will be shared in the coming months. In the meantime, we hope that this preliminary information will answer your most pressing questions. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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