



Important Information for Students living in Homestay

Itchen Sixth Form College insist that all international students under 18 years old live in homestay accommodation.

The first thing to remember is that homestay accommodation is not the same as staying in a hotel. We expect our students staying in homestay accommodation to respect the rules and restrictions set by their hosts. Please discuss these with your host on arrival.

Meals:

You will be provided with **breakfast** and an **evening meal** Monday to Sunday along with **lunch at the weekends**. You will be responsible for purchasing your own lunch Monday – Friday (and any snacks throughout the week).

- Lunch during college holidays **IS NOT** provided by your homestay except for the Christmas and Easter period.
- Students must not miss their meal times intentionally.
- You must notify your host in advance, if you are going to arrive late or miss any meals.
- You must not help yourself to food in the home unless you are given permission first.
- **Embrace the local cuisine!** Remember you are in the UK & meals will be different from home. Be prepared to try new things and adapt to what your hosts serve, rather than expecting special menus or familiar foods. Do not expect them to provide separate dishes for you.
- Students on half board catered basis **will not** be allowed to cook in the homestay in most circumstances.

Curfew (time that you must return home in the evening):

Sunday – Thursday, all students should be home **by 22.30 hrs**. You must not disturb your host after 23.00 hrs with unnecessary noise (including taking showers).

Friday & Saturday, the curfew can be extended to **23.00 hrs** (as long as your homestay agrees).

Please do not leave your homestay before 07:00am.

Please remember that:

- Curfew times are for your safety & personal welfare, and to help you maintain your academic performance.
- The curfew is a deadline and we will never agree to an extension.
- The curfew applies to all students live in homestay regardless of their age.
- When you live in an Itchen College managed homestay you must accept and comply with these times.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

If you do not return to your homestay by the agreed curfew time and do not contact your host to inform them of your delay, the following action will be taken:

- 1. Your homestay will attempt to call you. If they are unable to contact you, they will call the college's emergency phone holder.**
- 2. A member of Itchen College staff will telephone you. If they are also unable to speak to you, they may feel it is necessary to contact the police and report you as missing.**
- 3. Your parents and agents will be informed. Not following the curfew rules is regarded as a breach of the rules and further college action may be taken**

Respect:

- You must treat all students, staff and homestay members with respect and good manners.
- Remember to say "please" and "thank you" and if you are unsure of any household rules or do not understand, please ask your host to explain them to you.
- If you are going to be late or miss a meal, inform your host as soon as possible.
- Please make the effort to try new food before rejecting it as you may find you do like it.
- You should not demand special meals or food items.
- Be prepared to be flexible and make an effort to fit in.
- Studying in the UK is a new experience and you may have to make compromises.

Your homestay bedroom:

- You will be expected to keep your room at your homestay clean and tidy.
- Do not stick any posters or pictures on your walls without first asking your host for permission.

- You must inform your host of any breakages or damage you cause as soon as possible, and may be asked to pay for repairs or replacements.
- You must not enter other students or the host's private bedrooms.
- Do not invite friends to the house without first asking your host's permission. Similarly, do not then invite them to into your bedroom without asking permission first.
- You are not entitled to use the room to accommodate anyone other than yourself.
Friends are not allowed to stay overnight.
- **You must not use personal kettles or cooking equipment in your bedroom.**

Household arrangements:

- You may be expected to help with household chores and it is always polite and appreciated by your host if you offer to help.
- Do not spend too long in the bathroom and ensure you clean the bath, shower or basin after use. Always flush the toilet after use.
- Cotton wool cotton buds and sanitary items must be disposed of in a bin.
- You must respect the rules your host puts in place, including honouring curfews.
- Please provide your own toiletries such as toothpaste, face wipes, shampoo, conditioner and shower gel.

Absence:

- While you are studying with us, you will be expected to attend **all** your lessons and College arranged activities.
- In the case of illness, you must email absence@itchen.ac.uk to inform the college and advise us of any absence from classes.
- If your attendance falls below 100% this will be monitored in line with the college attendance policy.
- If your attendance falls to an unacceptable level, the college reserves the right to withdraw your offer of study at Itchen College.

Communication

- It is essential that you provide your homestay with contact details when you are out.
- Please tell them where you going, who you are going with and when you will return.
- You must keep your mobile phone on at all times and answer immediately if contacted.
- You must let them know immediately if your plans change.
- Please contact your host immediately if you are going to be home later than the curfew due to unavoidable circumstances.

Internet Usage

- You will have Internet access at your homestay.
- Please check with your homestay if there is any download limit.
- You must stop all computer activity by 23.00 hrs.
- In the UK it is a criminal offence for Under 18's to access gambling or pornographic web sites.
- Online video calls through any platform are not allowed after 23:00 hrs.

Telephone

- If you need to make a telephone call using your homestay's telephone, you must ask their permission first before each use and offer to pay for the call.
- If you are over 18 and take out a mobile phone contract, you must remember to cancel it before you leave the UK.
- Phone calls or FaceTime conversations must not be made after 23:00 hrs

Insurance

- Students' property will not be covered by the homestay host's insurance.
- Students should purchase private insurance to cover their personal belongings

Safety and Security

If you are the last person to leave the house, it is your responsibility to:

- Ensure all the lights are switched off.
- Your windows are closed in your bedroom.
- All electric gadgets are switched off.
- All doors are locked
- Any other instructions set out by your host are followed such as setting house alarms.

Change of homestay host:

If you want to change homestay accommodation because you are unsatisfied with the present host, you must have a good reason. The following reasons are not considered as good reasons and will not result in changing homestay:

- **Distance** – we try to allocate accommodation within a 20–30-minute walk or cycle ride but this is not always possible.

- **Means of transport** - students must accept they may need to travel by college or public bus where necessary and we would try to quote the additional cost when the accommodation is confirmed.
- **Living with friends** – we do not consider moves on the basis that you want to live with a friend. Students speaking the same language are not allowed to live in the same household.

Out of teaching hours, students can use:

- The college Student Centre for independent study.
- College sports facilities & gym (subject to hours of use).
- A social area for socializing or doing homework.
- Local public facilities and the opportunity to visit local places of interest

UK Law:

- **Smoking** – In the UK it is illegal to sell cigarettes to a person under the age of 18. Smoking is banned inside any public place, regardless of age. At college there are designated smoking areas and smoking is not permitted in any other area of the college
- **Alcohol** – If you are under 18 it is illegal to attempt to buy or drink alcohol. It is also illegal for over 18's to purchase alcohol on for others under 18.
- **Gambling** – It is illegal in the UK for under 18's to gamble.
- **Drugs** – the selling, buying, possession or use of drugs is illegal and strictly prohibited.
- **Breach of any UK Law is seen as a breach of the terms and conditions of your programme of study.**

Students who fail to comply with any of the above will be dealt with in line with the college disciplinary policies, which can be found on our website. Breach of the rules may mean you will be placed on an attendance or behaviour contract. In extreme situations, you may be asked to leave.