



## BOARDING AT LEBONE II – Frequently asked questions

### What are the benefits of boarding at Lebone II College?

Boarding schools not only provide excellent academic opportunities, but they equip students with life-changing experiences and relationships that extend beyond their time at boarding school. There are many benefits to boarding, such as learning to live in a close community and to become independent. Boarders make firm friends with others in their community and they support each other both socially and academically.

**Self-reliance** - Boarding school students quickly learn how to perform many domestic chores and complete school assignments by themselves. They become experts at managing their time, money and resources. These students mature quickly and tend to be very independent and successful in tertiary study and life.

**Academic performance** - Many boarders achieve well above standardised academic expectations, with improved and high examination results. Boarding school students can focus better on their studies because television, video games, phones and other distractors are limited. These young scholars usually perform better academically because they live in an environment that is conducive to learning.

**Cultural diversity** - Boarding school students live and attend classes with people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds; therefore, they learn to appreciate and respect the differences in one another and live amicably. Some may even learn the basics of another language as a result of the friendships they form.

**Character development** - Boarding school students are known to graduate with exceptional character and demeanour. They reside in a community where traits such as honesty, respect and hard work are valued and emphasised. These pupils have a moral advantage.

**Involvement in sports and activities** - Boarding school students are exposed to a wide range of activities to broaden their learning. Being involved with school-sponsored activities or becoming a member of a sports team can help make the transition into boarding school a smooth one. This also leads to better relationships with other boarding students so their free time, outside of the classroom and away from sports and activities, can be enjoyed with newly formed friendships. Students also have ample free time to grow as individuals so that they are prepared to succeed in life beyond boarding school.

### Can you tell me about your boarding management team and staff?

The Head of Boys' Boarding, Mr Kabu Mokgethwa, and the Head of Girls' Boarding, Mrs Virginia Tshoma, oversee and

implement the boarding house policies and ensure that the regulations regarding safe boarding environments are all met. They are responsible for the day-to-day running of the boarding houses and management of the boarding staff.

Lebone II has a full complement of boarding supervisors who are from a variety of backgrounds, ages and life experiences. All our boarding staff are constantly looking out for the best interests of our students so that they feel well-cared for and fully supported while they are away from home. In partnership with each child's tutor they give each student the individual attention and care that will be the next best thing to their parents. The personal development, safety, and care of each child are our staff's sole goals.

### How many students live in the boarding houses?

The maximum capacity of the boarding houses is 148 students. Legae le Basimane (the boys' junior and senior boarding houses) accommodates 74 boys. Legae le Basetsana (the girls' junior and senior boarding houses) accommodates 74 girls. As the College is co-educational there are always opportunities for special friendships to develop. The Boarding staff monitor this carefully, and remind students that a boarding house is like a big family, where we expect them to behave like brothers and sisters.

### What is the staff-boarder ratio?

Supervision of boarders, whether during leisure time or in study time, is 1 member of staff to 7 boarders on average, though at times this may increase to 1 member of staff with 9 boarders. There is no possibility of one-to-one supervision of homework, for example, and this is why boarding may not suit some young people.

### Where will my child live?

Younger boarders share large bedrooms for up to 8 students, where each student has their own area which they can personalise with photos and favourite things, but also has the company of other children. This is a sociable and happy environment in which strong friendships are forged. In the Junior Houses study times are communal, with supervision. Older pupils will share smaller bedrooms for up to 4 students. In these rooms each child has their own desk for study times. The majority of Grade 12 pupils each have their own room, which is reminiscent of university accommodation, and supervision is likely to be a 'lighter-touch', as is age-appropriate. Whatever the age of boarders, each House has comfortable communal areas for relaxing and socialising.

### What does the day look like for a boarding child?

Boarders leave boarding houses at 06h30 for breakfast in the dining hall. They attend school from 07h30 to 14h20 from Monday to Friday. Between 14h30 and 16h30 students

partake in extracurricular activities at school, and thereafter enjoy free time until dinner at 17h30. Study time is set from 18h30 to 20h30 each evening and bed time is at 22h00 on week days. The schedule is set and run by the Student Leaders within certain parameters.

### When will my child eat?

Boarders eat three meals and a snack in the dining hall each day. They are served a good breakfast, lunch and dinner daily and also collect a snack of juice and healthy sandwiches during the morning break. All meals are compulsory unless permission to miss a meal has been granted by the Head of Boarding. The kitchen will pack meals for boarders who partake in sport and school activities such as tours and outings over meal times. Each boarding house has its own kitchen and fridge where students may store and prepare their own snacks.

### Will the food be good?

Yes. Boarders will certainly complain if it isn't, and good food is an important part of what our boarders and parents expect. Active growing children and young people require wholesome, regular meals and the focus of our Lebone kitchen is to produce fresh, nutritious and well-balanced meals for all our students. Meals are produced in our own kitchens and so we are in full control of all the ingredients used and hygiene in the production of our meals. The Lebone kitchen will work with students who have dietary restrictions to ensure they too have nutritious and delicious meals.

### Are the Lebone II boarding houses safe for children?

The Lebone boarding houses meet and exceed all the regulations for safety in independent schools and boarding houses. Our campus is a secure space, with a security gate and security staff on duty 24 hours each day. Our boarding staff (and some senior students) are additionally trained in first aid and fire safety.

### How does Lebone support students' academic goals?

All the regulations in Lebone boarding houses are designed to support the best academic success: quality and nutritious food, routines that support sleep and rest in balance with structured study, and respecting the student's need for pastoral care.

Lebone boarding operates a study system whereby each new student starts off with high amount of regulation. However, once a student demonstrates a good level of independent time-management skills and is achieving well, they will be offered more independence with regard to their daily study structure.

Our Boarding staff are also teachers at the College. As such they are well-positioned to assist students with their homework, studies and other academic requirements.

### **Will my child have internet access?**

The school has a Wi-Fi system which is accessible to all students on their devices. Wi-Fi access is available in both boarding houses between 5am and 10pm every day. Lebone strongly recommends that students bring their own laptops.

**Note:** The internet is wonderful, but it comes with risks and responsibilities. Certain functions or websites are not accessible through the school's Wi-Fi network (these include social media, pornography, online games etc.)

### **What facilities and procedures are in place for sick students to get medical help?**

The school has a clinic/Wellness Centre on campus. Any health-related matters are addressed with the nurses at the Wellness Centre. Boarding staff are equipped to deal with minor injuries and ailments but will most often refer students to the Wellness Centre.

First aid kits are available in both senior and junior houses. The kits are accessible only to boarding masters. The kits contain general first aid equipment (bandages, CPR equipment, gloves etc.) as well as some basic medication (Panado etc.) Students are encouraged to complete the First Aid course that is offered by the school.

### **How often can I visit or see my child?**

We encourage parents to visit during the weekends. There are selected weekends when the boarding houses are closed for visitors; when students are expected to engage in house activities or study for exams. You will be timeously notified of these.

### **Can boarders go home (or away) at weekends?**

Any boarder may go away any weekend or stay whenever the house is open (providing we have the necessary parental permission). However all boarders must leave the site for fixed weekends (when the whole campus is closed) and campus holidays. You will be timeously notified of these.

### **Will boarding house staff arrange any activities during the weekend and holidays?**

The staff facilitate some compulsory activities and also respond with assistance in planning and providing transport for student-initiated activities. The weekend programmes are full of ideas and options for students, and staff are supportive of a balanced lifestyle - which means getting out and about! Programmes include community initiatives, life skill classes and courses such as cooking, gardening, general DIY skills and business courses.

There are many sport activities on offer during the weekends and students participate in Soccer, Athletics, Golf, Netball, ParkRun on our campus and Swimming. Our Referee Programme teaches students to referee soccer games, and of our students have refereed games on a provincial level.

### **Will my child be expected to do his/her own laundry?**

No, there is a laundry on campus where boarders' clothes and linen are washed. Laundry is collected at 06h30 from the boarding house and is washed, ironed and returned by 18h30 the same day.

It is a good idea to send a little hand washing soap along with your child should they need to wash anything themselves.

### **What is the school's attitude to drugs and alcohol?**

Lebone II has very clear policies on drugs and alcohol. It is zero tolerant to any drug or alcohol abuse; this includes tobacco. Non-compliance with the school policies on drugs or alcohol will lead to serious consequences.

### **What sanctions are applied to boarders?**

Boarders who cannot comply with rules and guidelines can lose their place at the school (not just as boarders), though we always work with parents to try and avoid this. Minor misdemeanours are dealt with by Boarding Staff by "telling off" and perhaps by being put on report or gating – which basically restricts freedoms a little for a limited time. Sometimes punishments may include being given tasks to help around the boarding house. Serious offences are escalated to the Head of Boarding, and the Executive Head; parents will be informed and these could lead to permanent exclusion from the school.

### **How do I pay for extras?**

Bona fide extra expenses, such as outings, school trips and uniform requirements will be placed on your school account, provided it is up to date. Your account must be paid by the 7th of each month. Money may be sent to your child by deposit into the school account. The proof of payment should be sent to the Finance Administration Office who will arrange for the cash to be available for the boarder to collect.

### **Can transport to and from airports/ borders/ other centres be arranged?**

Currently we do not provide a bus service to airports. We can provide parents with the details of a reliable shuttle service operating in Rustenburg that services the Johannesburg (OR Tambo and Lanseria) and Pilanesberg airports. Our bus to the Botswana (Tlokweng) border runs at the beginning and end of each term, as well as one weekend per term. A bus service to Gauteng is currently being considered. Parents are responsible for the cost of all bus services (as above), which are billed to school accounts that are in good standing.

### **What else should I know as a parent of a new boarder, or as a new boarder?**

We know that boarding for the first time can be hard for both parents and students, but we also know that it often doesn't take long before new boarders find their feet and settle into their new home. Our boarding staff are on hand to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have, and have asked that we let you know the following, as a new boarder or parent of a new boarder:

#### **Five things parents of new boarders need to know:**

1. Your child has access to their tutor or a boarding staff member whenever they need them.
2. We will contact you if there are any serious worries, concerns or health issues.
3. You are always welcome to contact us:
  - **Junior Girls (Grade 8-9) +27 (0) 14 566 1597**
  - **Junior Boys (Grade 8-9) +27 (0) 14 566 1595**
  - **Senior Girls (Grade 10-12) +27 (0) 14 566 1570**
  - **Senior Boys (Grade 10-12) +27 (0) 14 566 1596**
4. No news really probably does mean good news. Your sons and daughters will devote time and energy to settling into school, learning routines and especially to making friends.
5. When your child is upset or complains it may be there is more to the issue and it is important to contact your child's tutor for a full picture.

#### **Four things a new boarder needs to know:**

1. The staff who are in charge of the Lebone boarding houses are trained, competent, and friendly adults here to help and support you towards the best academic grades you can get.
2. All the rules and regulations in Lebone boarding houses have a reason and a purpose, even if it doesn't make sense to you straight away.
3. If you don't feel well you really need to talk to an adult on duty. Talk to your parents as well, but remember we have first care for you.
4. The Lebone II Boarding Student Handbook is an excellent guide for students and parents and we encourage you to refer to it often. It is updated regularly, and small changes are informed to students in weekly meetings and other notices.

We look forward to welcoming you to Lebone II – College of the Royal Bafokeng, and into our boarding houses; your homes away from home.