



**2017**

# **Parents & Boarders Manual**

[www.adastrahostel.co.nz](http://www.adastrahostel.co.nz)

## Contents

Welcome from Wanganui Girls' College .....	4
Ad Astra Hostel - Contact Numbers .....	5
Hostel Directors / Managers .....	6
Supervisors.....	6
Hostel Catering / Housekeeping Staff.....	6
About Us .....	7
Introduction .....	7
Ad Astra Hostel .....	9
Term Dates 2017 .....	9
Role of Staff.....	10
Hostel Directors .....	10
Supervisors.....	10
Cooks / Housekeepers / Grounds staff.....	10
Health Nurse .....	11
Hostel Information.....	12
Routines and Expectations.....	12
General Behaviour .....	12
Expectations.....	12
Damage to Hostel Property .....	12
Computers.....	13
Meal Times.....	13
Dress and Clothing .....	14
Electrical Appliances .....	14
Laundry .....	14
Pocket Money .....	14
DVD's.....	14
Visitors .....	14
School Day Programme.....	15
Homework / Prep.....	16
Room Allocation.....	17
Contact.....	18
Telephone Times.....	18

Mobile Phones .....	18
Homesickness.....	19
Religious Practice and Entertainment.....	20
Religious Practice .....	20
Newspaper .....	20
Bikes .....	20
Leave .....	21
Travel in Private Cars .....	21
Leave Policy.....	21
Exeats / End of Term.....	23
Exeats .....	23
Beginning of the Year.....	23
Returning to the Boarding House at the beginning of each Term.....	23
Packing for the End of the Term / Year.....	23
Departure at the End of Term.....	23
Security .....	24
General.....	24
Forms .....	24
Insurance.....	25
Medication / Healthcare .....	25
Hostel Fees.....	25
What to bring? .....	26
What not to bring.....	26

## Welcome

Sending your daughter to Boarding School isn't an easy decision; it requires adjustment for you and your daughter. Boarding will be a challenging experience for your daughter as she leaves the familiarity of home and moves to a more communal style of living. It will not always be easy but the gains to be made are enormous.

Boarding provides a unique opportunity for your daughter to achieve her potential. She will be part of a close community which will help her to develop independence, self-confidence and tolerance for others.

While the academic life of Wanganui Girls' College is a key focus for your daughter, the boarding philosophy at 'Ad Astra' also strives to foster independence while responding to the individual needs, gifts and talents of each girl. Her time at Ad Astra will provide her with choices about how she spends her time and what activities she pursues so that she can determine her own experiences at school and grow as a person, not just academically. This process of growth in independence, meeting new people and pursuing her interests is often fun and very rewarding.

The primary concern of the staff is to provide your daughter with a safe and happy environment that represents, as closely as possible, a home environment. At the same time, living with a large group of girls is not the same as living with siblings. Boarding is a unique and unforgettable experience – overwhelmingly positive but not without its challenges.

When your daughter first arrives at Ad Astra as a boarding student, she will be entering a new phase of her life and initially she will be operating outside her comfort zone. She will need to deal with a new school, a new 'shared' home environment, new carers and she will inevitably experience concerns about establishing friendships. It is only natural that she will feel uncomfortable but this feeling will pass. It takes different lengths of time for different girls. Even returning boarders need to go through a readjustment phase each time they return from a long break.

Life in Ad Astra Hostel complements the broad principles of Wanganui Girls' College where we aim to provide the best education possible for each girl so she reaches her potential and is prepared for the multitude of challenges and opportunities which life will present. Ad Astra Hostel life encourages high standards and provides a positive environment for academic studies. There are also varied opportunities to participate in sport and many other co-curricular activities.

The Ad Astra staff and current boarders look forward to welcoming the new boarders and their families into our community. We are confident you will find your association with Wanganui Girls' College and the Ad Astra Hostel a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

## Ad Astra Hostel - Contact Numbers

Ad Astra Reception telephone (06) 343 2964

Ad Astra fax (06) 929 5508

### Extension Numbers

Hostel Directors / Managers 06 343 2964	ext 700 – will divert to Barry’s cell if not answered.
Hostel’ cordless phone	ext 701 – a good option for most calls
Directors Residence – Barry & Jo after 6pm	ext 702 – will divert to Jo’s cell if not answered.
Reception – (3 to 5pm best time)	ext 703
Kitchen – (8am to 6pm)	ext 705 – will divert to Leanne’s cell if not answered.
Lounge – (3 to 5pm & 7.30 to 9pm)	ext 706
Page Dormitory - Entrance	ext 707 – will divert to Supervisor cell if not answered
Fraser Dormitory - Entrance	ext 708
Fraser Dormitory - up stairs	ext 709

Email	<a href="mailto:info@adastrahostel.co.nz">info@adastrahostel.co.nz</a>
Web page	<a href="http://www.adastrahostel.co.nz">www.adastrahostel.co.nz</a>
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/HostelAdAstra">www.facebook.com/HostelAdAstra</a>

### Cell Phone Numbers

Barry Codlin	021 205 7957
Joanne Codlin	027 733 7206
Leanne Black	029 770 8793
Weekend cell phone	029 774 0074

### Postal Address

c/- Ad Astra Hostel  
119 Anzac Parade  
Wanganui East  
Wanganui 4500

## Hostel Directors

Barry & Joanne Codlin

E-mail [barry@adastrahostel.co.nz](mailto:barry@adastrahostel.co.nz)

[jo@adastrahostel.co.nz](mailto:jo@adastrahostel.co.nz)

Phone (06) 343 2964

Fax (06) 929 5508

## Supervisors

Joanne Codlin Hostel Manager & Health Officer

Tanya Graham Saturday 8am to 6pm

Sunday 8am to 6pm

[superv@adastrahostel.co.nz](mailto:superv@adastrahostel.co.nz)

## Hostel Catering / Housekeeping Staff

Barry Codlin Facility Manager

Leanne Black Head Cook & Assistant Hostel Manager

[kitchen@adastrahostel.co.nz](mailto:kitchen@adastrahostel.co.nz)

Tanya Graham Housekeeping



## About Us

Ad Astra Hostel is the hostel for Wanganui Girls' College. It is operated by Rivercity Asset Management Ltd. Barry & Joanne Codlin, the directors of the company, are also employed as the Ad Astra Hostel directors.

Barry and Jo took over the running of the hostel on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Rivercity Asset Management leases the buildings from Wanganui Girls' College and is responsible for all maintenance and development of the property.

Barry and Jo have set in place plans for the upgrade of many of the facilities in the hostel. The numbers of boarders are growing steadily as prospective parents recognise the safe, family like atmosphere that compliments the high quality girls' only education of Wanganui Girls' College.

Barry & Joanne have four children (Rochelle 21, Brooke 19, Ryan 16 and Moana 14)



*Barry & Joanne Codlin  
Brooke, Ryan, Rochelle and  
Moana*

## Introduction

Ad Astra Hostel offers care and accommodation for up to 70 girls. The communal nature of boarding life necessitates the establishment of certain rules and procedures to ensure the provision of the best care possible for the girls in our charge and the smooth operation of the household.

Curfews and rules will be part of life at any boarding house or hostel. Any community needs to establish common rules and expectations to achieve its collective aim. In the Ad Astra community we attempt to keep the rules to a minimum. However, we are very conscious of our duty to care for the girls and have given careful consideration to the regulations and procedures which operate in the Hostel.

All rules are in place for a reason and these are reviewed regularly to ensure the safety, well-being and happiness of each girl in our care. Whilst it is necessary to have common guidelines we make every attempt to be flexible to accommodate the individuality of each girl. We aim to be fair, firm and consistent in addressing inappropriate behaviour.

Sometimes adolescents learn most when they make a mistake and are given a chance to learn from that. So “second” and even “third” chances are not uncommon. Just as at home, some actions will require a disciplinary response, and parents will be informed immediately of serious breaches of guidelines and may be involved in the process of deciding an appropriate consequence.

It is our experience that, once the girls are used to the way in which the Hostel functions, adherence to the guidelines are not generally a problem.

The overarching aim of the Hostel is to provide a secure and caring environment in which the girls will grow and develop academically, socially, physically and morally.

This is based on three important interrelated principles:

- Co-operation
- Responsible leadership and positive interactions with others
- Respect and acceptance of others’ differences

Like any home, a sense of co-operation comes from shared aims, a concern for others and a sense of solidarity. This co-operation extends to areas such as assisting in running socials, taking part in Hostel events (Athletics etc.), duties, helping another boarder with homework and ensuring rooms are clean and tidy.

As a member of the boarding community, each student is expected to adhere to high standards of behaviour which reflect responsibility to and care for others, oneself and the environment.

A major aim of Ad Astra is to produce successful, independent and responsible young people who are equipped to enter the next stage of their lives. To achieve this aim there will be an emphasis on the boarders gradually accepting responsibility as they progress in the Hostel and assume informal and formal leadership positions.

In the boarding community there will be a wide variety of people of varying backgrounds, personalities and values. To ensure a harmonious, happy and successful community each Boarder will need to be tolerant of others. Girls are encouraged to treat everybody with respect. Unacceptable behaviour such as teasing, bullying or any form of discrimination will not be tolerated.

Respect should be shown to all property. Any damage resulting from deliberate or thoughtless actions will incur a damage fee.

Clear consequences for students who do not adhere to the code of behaviour are outlined in detail in the Hostels Behaviour Management Policy.

The healthy development of your daughter will proceed most successfully when we work as a true partnership in her best interests. This requires close communication and frequent contact. It is important that you contact the Hostel Directors / Manager(s), Barry & Joanne Codlin at any time if you have concerns of any nature in relation to the happiness of your daughter(s). Barry & Joanne can be contacted on 06 343 2964 or 021 205 7957 Barry or 027 733 7206 Joanne.



## Ad Astra Hostel

The Hostel is composed of five sections, all linked by connecting walkways.

- Whare noho (House of Women) or main building houses the office, visitors' lounge, computer area, kitchen, dining area, linked to an outside garden area. The Managers' flat is located in this area also.
- Page House consists of mostly twin share bedrooms with an extension incorporating single room accommodation. Page Dorm accommodates the junior girls (Years 9 &10). In addition, a female staff member is on passive "sleepover" duty every night.
- Baker & Tizard Dorms consists of mostly twin share bedrooms.
- Fraser House consists of single bedrooms also with an extension incorporating single room accommodation. Fraser accommodates our senior girls (Years 12 through 13).

Boarders also have access (by arrangement) to the Wanganui Girls' College library, gymnasium, fitness centre, swimming pool and other school facilities after school hours.

The Ad Astra Hostel offers support for girls to pursue their personal interests and organise many interesting activities throughout the year. Girls are encouraged and supported in extending themselves academically, culturally and physically.

## Term Dates 2017

Proposed dates Ad Astra Hostel open and closed 2017

### **Term 1**

Hostel open -  
Exeat weekend -  
Term 1 ends -

### **Term 2**

Hostel opens -  
Exeat weekend -  
Term 2 ends -

### **Term 3**

Hostel opens -  
Exeat Weekend -  
Term 3 ends -

### **Term 4**

Hostel opens -  
Exeat Weekend -  
Term 4 ends -

## Role of Staff

### Hostel Directors

The Directors have overall responsibility for the co-ordination of all Ad Astra matters and the leadership of all staff. This includes:

- The care and guidance of boarders including discipline. The overarching aim is to create a nurturing and not a punitive environment for all boarding students.
- The establishment of appropriate policies and practices.
- Liaising with boarders' parents to ensure the best care for each boarder in relation to her medical, social, emotional and physical well-being.
- The Hostel Directors in conjunction with all boarding staff and students, strive to develop a Hostel spirit and character which is friendly, supportive and recognises the worth of each person as an individual, creating a sense of belonging in all members of the Hostel.

### Supervisors

The Supervisor is responsible for:

- Day to day management of the girls and the daily supervision of the girls.
- The welfare of the students, on a day-to-day basis.
- Attend and supervise other boarding functions.
- Are responsible for the general care, guidance and discipline of all the boarders and the general running of their boarding area while on duty.
- Ensure security checks occur.
- Develop, in conjunction with the other boarding staff and students, a Hostel spirit and character which is friendly, supportive and recognises the worth of each person as an individual and creates a sense of belonging in all members of the Hostel.
- In the absence of the Hostel Directors, she communicates directly with parents regarding domestic and leave arrangements and any matters relating to the boarding aspect of the girls' school lives.

### Cooks / Housekeepers / Grounds staff

- The Housekeepers assist boarders in domestic matters and maintain and tidy the Dormitories and ablutions areas.
- Cooks are responsible for providing interesting, nutritional and quality meals and snacks.
- They take an interest in the girls' general wellbeing and communicate any concerns they have to the Hostel Directors or Supervisors.

## Health Nurse

A Health Nurse is available through Wanganui Girls' College. The Hostel has its own doctor that is available for any of the girls to attend during weekdays (charges apply) and we use the Accident and Medical after hour's service at the Whanganui Hospital (charges apply).

We have medical guidelines and a Medical Policy, additionally parents are to complete the medical forms as well as the permission to administer medications before your daughter arrives at Ad Astra.

A residential staff member is on duty each night. All senior staff have a Certificate in First Aid. Boarders are to place all medication with the appointed Health Officer unless arranged otherwise. The staff attend to the medical needs of the girls and are able to provide home nursing first aid during the day.

The appointed Health Officer is available at 8.30am each school morning to assess boarders who are unwell or need to have an appointment made for them. She may also make appointments and travel arrangements for girls and where necessary arrange to have the student accompanied by an adult to her appointment.

A staff member is available after hours if girls require medical help during the night. It is recommended that you ensure you have ambulance cover. If your daughter is unable to attend school due to illness or injury, and the recovery period is relatively short, she may stay in the Hostel under the care of the Hostel Health Officer.

In some instances, girls who are in a share room and who have been ill during the day may be required to sleep in a single room overnight to reduce the risk of infecting or disturbing others.

If the recovery period is likely to be for an extended time or the illness is highly contagious, parents may be contacted to arrange for their daughter to return home or to another appropriate location to recuperate. In such circumstances parents will be contacted by the Hostel Director or Supervisor.



## Hostel Information

### Routines and Expectations

#### General Behaviour

Students are encouraged to become responsible members of the boarding community, showing consideration for others and doing all in their power to help the hostel run harmoniously.

Rules will be kept to a minimum and these will be founded upon the expectation of responsible behaviour by all members of the Hostel. Students are expected to treat each other and staff as they would like to be treated. Normal good manners are expected: “please” and “thank you” are expected. Bad language is not acceptable and a constructive attitude towards the rules and routines is expected. Truthfulness and honesty are highly respected qualities.

#### Expectations

Students are asked to use appropriate language. Swearing lowers the tone of the Hostel and is offensive to many people.

The Ad Astra Hostel Drug Policy opposes the inappropriate use of legal substances and the possession and use of prohibited substances. This policy applies to boarders while in residence and on leave.

Smoking and the consumption of alcohol or other drugs are not permitted. No student may be in possession of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs while associated with the Hostel.

*The above are considered serious breaches of our trust.*

Cleaners clean the dorms each week day; however girls are expected to tidy their rooms each day before school and before dinner on Sunday evening.

Girls are expected to:

- Make their bed each day
- Draw curtains, switch off electrical appliances, lights etc.
- Hang clothes in wardrobes
- Hang towels
- Put dirty laundry in their laundry bag / basket
- Tidy the desk top
- Clear the floor of objects and vacuum.
- Change linen each laundry day and take dirty linen to the laundry washing and drying

#### Damage to Hostel Property

Damage incurred by girls where undue care or irresponsible behaviour is involved will result in an appropriate repair charge being added to their Hostel account for payment by you. This includes being responsible for a false fire Service call-out (\$1500.00)

## Computers

The Hostel has a number of computers, which are not linked to the Wanganui Girls' College computer network. They are, however, connected to the internet. This provides boarders with access to E-mail, MSN, Facebook etc.

These computers are designed primarily for educational purposes and should be used in accordance with the Schools Computer Use Policy which all boarders sign.

Personal laptops may be brought to the Hostel and Wanganui Girls' College, however, the hostel is not responsible for any damage or loss incurred. The laptop must have an effective virus scanner installed. Girls will be given password access to the Hostel internet system.

The Hostel has high-speed wireless and fixed access internet connections so girls are able to access the internet and intranet from most areas of the Hostel including the central courtyard area.

Each boarder is allocated a generous internet allowance each week (2+ Gig). If they run out of allocation it would suggest over use or indiscriminate use of certain sites. Boarders are encouraged to monitor their activities such as music downloads and Facebook etc. They will not be given any additional allocation but they may purchase more.

The Schools Computer Use Policy applies to boarders at all times. Social networking sites and internet are shut down at various times to encourage a healthy routine for study and sleep.

NO FOOD OR DRINK is to be consumed in the Computer Area

## Meal Times

- Unless engaged in school or sporting commitments or on leave, all boarders are expected to come to the dining room for the morning and evening meals.
- Boarders must arrive at dinner promptly and be seated before the meal is served.
- The Hostel provides a nutritious and varied menu, and all efforts are made to accommodate specific dietary requirements (Vegetarian & Gluten Free food is provided).

<b>Breakfast</b>	A range of cereals, toast and fruit are available and usually baked beans and spaghetti. On weekends, eggs and pancakes are offered as well.
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Home baking is provided. In addition, fruit is always available.
<b>Lunch</b>	Juniors (years 9, 10 & 11) prepare their own from a selection of ingredients. Seniors (years 12 & 13) can come back to hostel.
<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	Fruit is always available for an after-school snack and cakes, biscuits, etc. are provided by the kitchen staff.
<b>Dinner</b>	Dinner consists of a main course and dessert (students have some opportunity to suggest menu items).
<b>Supper</b>	A light snack is provided along with hot chocolate.

## Dress and Clothing

### **For Leave**

Smart casual dress is required. Girls must not go to local shops or the city in sports uniform. If girls leave the Hostel in school uniform, it must be full uniform.

### **For Meals**

Meals are eaten in the dining room. Dress for the evening meal is informal and neat casual clothes. Occasionally there are special functions; these tend to be either semi-formal or themed dress up.

## Electrical Appliances

Girls may bring with them a clock radio/CD, hair dryer/straightener, and lap top, provided they are not used too loudly or at inappropriate times. However, for safety reasons, electric blankets, radiators, personal electric fans and kettles are not permitted. Electrical goods, cameras, watches etc. should be engraved with your daughter's name.

All electrical appliances that are brought into Ad Astra Hostel must be safety checked and date tagged.

*Please note: candles must not be used in the Boarding House.*

## Laundry

Each girl is required to have a personal laundry bag or basket. Some laundry baskets are provided in the laundry. All clothes need to be marked with the girl's name. Girls are responsible for their own laundry and are encouraged to hang clothes onto the lines rather than use the driers when the weather is fine as a matter of respect for energy consumption and the environment. Please note our machines are top loaders and appropriate powder should be used.

Towels and sheets must be changed once a week on the particular laundry day for the dorm, and taken into the laundry. They will be available for collection after school.

If you wish to have your daughter's washing done for her, please contact the Hostel office and this can be arranged. A fee of \$10 per load applies.

## Pocket Money

The most convenient way to manage spending money is to open an eft-pos card account and put money into it as required. This way the girls do not have a lot of cash at any time. Girls should not share their card details and must keep it safe.

## DVDs

If Hostel or rental DVDs are borrowed, it is the responsibility of the girl signing it out to ensure it is returned. They (you) will be charged for DVDs not returned.

## Visitors

Parents may visit at any convenient time and similar policies apply for visits by grandparents and other relatives. All visitors are asked to check-in with the staff member on duty upon arrival as a security precaution. PLEASE DO NOT GO INTO THE DORMS WITHOUT CHECKING IN WITH A STAFF MEMBER. Male visitors are not permitted into the dormitories and are restricted to the lounge, dining and outside BBQ areas.

## School Day Programme

### Mornings 6.30am to 8.35am

- All boarders are responsible for getting themselves up, tidying their rooms, making their lunch (juniors) having breakfast and preparing for school.
- They may go for runs and sports practices etc. early, however, no one is allowed to leave the hostel grounds before 6.30am and they must checkout with the staff member on duty.
- A staff member is on Active Duty from 6.30am. This person opens the gates, and does a wake-up walk through the hostel at 7am and supervises lunch making and breakfast. It is not always possible for this person to be near or to hear the phone, so this may not be a good time to contact the office.
- All girls are to have left the hostel by 8.35am for school.

### Evening Program Weekdays

#### 3.10pm to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday

- Arrive home from school; afternoon tea available.
- Sport practices, housekeeping, exercise, free time, showers.
- Girls may go to the local shops if they have approval.

#### 5.15pm to 6.00pm

- Dinner

#### 6.30pm to 7.30pm

- Junior Prep

#### 6.30pm to 8.00pm

- Senior Prep
- A prep book is kept to check attitude and attendance.
- After 8.00pm girls have free time, they may watch a TV program, relax with their friends, go to the hostel gym or go to bed.

#### 8.00pm to 8.30pm

- Supper

### Bed Times – Lights out

Year 9 - 9.00pm

Year 10 - 9.30pm

Year 11- 10.00pm

Year 12 & 13 – 10.30pm

The Dorms need to be quiet from 9.00pm and staff finish active duty at 11.00pm

*FRIDAY night, all girls must be in dormitories by 10.00pm*

**Saturday / Sunday**

8.00 am	Gates opened
8.30-10.00am	Breakfast and preparation for sport commitments
12.00pm	Lunch
5.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Supper
10.00pm	Hostel locked

**Sunday**

Bed Times – Lights out

Year 9 - 9.00pm

Year 10 - 9.30pm

Year 11- 10.00pm

Year 12 & 13 – 10.30pm

The Dorms need to be quiet by 9.00pm and staff finish Active Duty at 11.00pm

**Homework / Prep**

Year 11, 12 & 13 girls have Prep scheduled from 6.30 to 8.00pm Monday to Thursday. If they require access to the computers they can go to the library or they go to the Cruikshank Lounge. Year 13's may stay in their room if they want.

Prep time is supervised by a staff member and a quiet working environment is expected. Help may be sought from the staff on duty. At times it may be necessary for girls to work together during prep time. This may be negotiated with the staff.

Limited use of a personal Laptop, iPad or similar device is permitted to assist with homework. Use of this is at the supervisor table (junior prep) where access to various sites can be monitored. Any access to social media sites will result in confiscation of the device(s).

Junior boarders (Years 9 and 10) do one hour of supervised homework 6.30 to 7.30pm. Girls who have a heavy homework load may need to work beyond the supervised time to complete their assignments.

During study time there should be no recreational TV, telephone calls or visitors.

It is expected that the Dormitory areas are quiet after 9.00pm each evening including weekends so girls may study or go to bed early. Gatherings on the weekends should be in communal areas, not in bedrooms. This is to ensure a reasonable balance between opportunities for relaxation and the need to establish quiet places for people to study and rest.



## Room Allocation

With the exception of Years 12 & 13, boarders are allocated to either a new room or new roommate each term. Year 12 & 13s are all allocated a single room and remain in the same room for the year. Moves are only made in special circumstances. Girls in other year levels change rooms or roommates at the end of each term. This is to encourage them to get to know all the girls in their year level.

Staff consider a range of factors when allocating rooms and roommates in the hope of fostering the most positive living environment and development of your daughter. Consideration is given to such factors as friendship, compatible study habits, and supportive students with less confident girls and sport training commitments, particularly early morning schedules.

If you have any concerns at any stage regarding room allocations, please contact the Hostel Directors to discuss your concerns as there are often issues you may be aware of that the staff are not and vice versa.



## Contact

### Telephone Times

If you need to telephone your daughter the most convenient times are:

**Weekdays:** Monday – Friday 3.30pm – 5.00pm and 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Dinner is at 5.20 – 6.00pm so the phones will not always be attended to take calls at this time.

### Weekends:

Anytime **except** during meal times which are:

Lunch	12 noon to 12.30pm
Dinner	5.00pm – 5.30pm

### Mobile Phones

Ad Astra Hostel has adopted a mobile phone policy and as part of that policy mobile phones are permitted in the Hostel. However, while we recognise mobile phones can improve the communication between you and your daughter, they could also paradoxically increase and intensify the feeling of homesickness, particularly for younger girls.

#### Conditions of Use

- Boarders bring mobile phones to the Hostel at their own risk. The Hostel accepts no liability in the event of loss or damage to the mobile phone. Parents should organise their own insurance policy.
- Girls must give their mobile number to the Hostel Directors.
- Mobile phones must at all times be used discreetly and should not impose on other boarders.
- Parents are requested to advise their daughters to consider others when using the phone. Mobile phones must be switched off during all communal activities: e.g. meals, study periods and after lights out. Years 9 to 11 must hand all phones in to the overnight supervisor or their Prefect at bed time. They will be handed back at breakfast time.
- Mobile phones should not be used by other students.

*Inappropriate use of a mobile phone will result in the withdrawal of permission to use the mobile phone. It will be sent home for parents to hand back at an appropriate time.*

*Repeated breaches will result in the student not having permission to have a mobile phone at Hostel.*

## Homesickness

It is perfectly normal for a student living in completely new surroundings, and in a communal environment, to feel strange and miss home and her family.

We think it is important for students to realise that they are likely to feel homesick from time to time, that it is quite normal and something they should acknowledge.

It is important for parents to emphasise the benefits of involvement in and out of the classroom. Involvement in sport, music, drama and other activities is very beneficial and should be encouraged wherever possible. It also serves as a distraction from feelings of homesickness.

In the early stages, while it is comforting to you as a parent to touch base with your daughter often, the contact with home can often accentuate feelings of homesickness. Often a student who is apparently coping quite well will suffer a set-back after ringing home. Always try to end phone calls on a positive note. It is important for you to realise that you will hear of, or experience, the worst of your daughter's homesickness. She will tend to contact you when she is feeling at her lowest. She may focus on the negative aspects. Try to encourage her to think positively.

Poor grades and difficulty with work can be symptoms of homesickness in the early stages. Contacting the Hostel Directors & the school Dean is recommended if you believe her academic development is being compromised. Hostel Directors will work closely with you and your daughter's teachers to assist her through this. A recurrence of the problem is quite common after Exeat weekends or after term holidays. However, usually this is overcome very quickly on returning to school.

Please encourage your daughter to see the Hostel Directors or a member of the staff if she is unhappy. It is our aim to help you and your daughter cope positively with the settling in period. Understanding, patience and firmness make for a quick and relatively smooth adjustment to the new environment. Above all please do not hesitate to contact the Hostel Directors if you wish to discuss any problems your daughter may face once she has joined our community.



## Religious Practice and Entertainment

### Religious Practice

We are supportive of every students' spirituality and any student who wishes to practice their faith on a regular basis are encouraged to do so and the staff will facilitate this. Please discuss your wishes in regard to this matter with the Hostel Directors. From time to time the boarders may attend church or youth services.

### Newspapers

The Wanganui Chronicle is delivered each day to the Hostel office.  
The Midweek and Rivercity Press are also delivered weekly.

### Bikes

At Ad Astra we try to make boarding as similar to a home environment as possible and consequently bikes are permitted. However, Ad Astra is surrounded by busy roads and in order to ensure the safety of all girls the following conditions apply. Parents should arrange their own insurance, as the hostel does not carry insurance on students' personal property.

#### ***Conditions of Use***

- Girls must wear a helmet and obey all road rules.
- Outside of the Hostel grounds they should, whenever possible, only use bike lanes or paths.
- Bikes should only be used at night with permission from staff. Such permission would be given only in very special circumstances.
- Bikes should not be used by other students without permission.

*A breach of any of the above conditions will result in the withdrawal of permission to use the bike for at least one week. Repeated breaches will result in the bike being sent home permanently.*



## Leave – Communication is Vital in all leave arrangements.

### Travel in Private Cars

Parents are asked to provide specific documentation if they do not agree to allow their daughter to be driven by Hostel staff or school staff, and school parents for sporting or other school activities. This includes coaches employed by the school. If no written request is received disallowing this it is assumed that parents have consented.

Year 13 Boarders may have access to cars for travelling to and from the Hostel at the beginning and end of term for Exeats' and for work experience. However, they may not transport any other boarders or day girls in those cars without both the Hostel Directors permission and the permission of all girls' parents.

Year 13 students can apply in writing to the Hostel Directors to have access to a private vehicle. Each case will be assessed and conditions of use apply.

- Keys must be left at the Hostel office when the car is not in use.
- Cars must be stored on the Hostel grounds.
- Girls may not travel with other students until the appropriate Hostel forms have been completed. These forms require the signature of all girls' parents, passengers and drivers.
- Travelling to and from parties by private car is not permitted unless a parent or other designated responsible adult is driving. These arrangements must be cleared before the outing.

*Boarders are not allowed to be driven by an L plate driver, subject to these exceptions:*

- Brothers or sisters
- With expressed written permission of parents.

### Leave Policy

- Boarders may be granted leave from the Hostel, provided it does not impose upon their academic and sporting commitments. Leave will not be approved if your daughter has behaved inappropriately.
- Leave should be arranged to avoid conflict with the normal daily routine of the Hostel. Girls planning leave on Saturday must consider sporting commitments.
- When a student is invited to visit friends or relatives of a family not on the host list, it is necessary for either the host or the girl's parents to phone or email to confirm the proposed arrangements with the Hostel Directors. Parents will also need to approve the leave.
- All girls leaving the Hostel at any time must record their movements on the Boardingware application.
- Overnight leave and weekend day leave must be applied for using the Boardingware application and must be pre-approved by the Hostel Directors.
- We believe parents should be aware who their daughters are mixing with and what activities they are involved in during their recreational time, therefore overnight leave applications, parents encouraged to use the Boardingware application for approval each time a request for leave is made.
- We encourage you to contact the host family as a way of developing connections with the parent community of the Hostel and to thank those families who have offered their hospitality to your daughter.
- The Hostel does not undertake Police checks on host families. The Hostel requires your consent for overnight leave.

The principle behind the Boardingware application for approval of leave is to ensure parents have given informed consent.

Procedure:

- Each girl must notify the Hostel Directors office of any planned weekend outing by Thursday 8.30pm (preferably by Wednesday 7.30pm).
- Girls apply for leave using the Boardingware application. If the leave includes an overnight absence from the Hostel, we shall contact the parents. Parents can decline or modify the details and there may be consultation with Hostel staff in respect to leave requests. Boardingware is our preferred means for permission to be granted. Verbal approval will also be accepted.
- It is important for security reasons that the person collecting your daughter is sighted by a member of staff.
- Girls should be collected and returned to the hostel by an adult.
- Short term leave during the week is approved on a daily basis.
- Weekend and overnight leave requires the completion of a Boardingware application. It is the parent's responsibility to contact the hosts to ensure they are aware of the arrangements.
- Weekend leave will be reviewed and approved by the Hostel Directors.
- Overnight leave requests will be e-mailed to parents for approval.
- All leave arrangements must be organised by parents/students. However, staff are happy to assist with taxi, bus or other bookings.
- Girls are expected to check out and in through the Boardingware application.

In all cases leave must be approved by a Manager or Supervisor. The onus is on the students to get the approval. Even in a family environment it is an expected courtesy for children to communicate their plans. This is even more important in a boarding environment for safety reasons.

- Junior boarders need to arrange leave in groups of 2 or more, not by themselves, unless approved by supervising staff on behalf of parents.
- Where possible, leave should not cut across meal times or prep times. Ideally if taking leave after school. Monday – Friday, girls should not return after 5:00pm and not after 4.00pm on Saturday and Sunday
- Day visits to town will not be approved for girls who have not complied with Hostel routines.

As not every leave possibility can be described in this booklet, other leave arrangements may be permitted at the discretion of the Hostel Directors upon consultation with parents where possible. Sometimes leave will be restricted or denied if a student has behaved inappropriately. The leave system alerts staff when a student is overdue. Parents and boarders need to remember to communicate with the hostel management their plans so as to avoid embarrassment.

#### **Departure from and return to the Hostel**

- Girls are expected to sign out and in through the Hostel office using the leave system.
- Visitors are to be introduced to staff before proceeding to move into the Hostel.
- Staff will decide whether it is appropriate for visitors to be in the Dorms.
- Girls are not permitted to answer the front door after it has been locked. Sometimes it is very busy and staff may be on the phone so there may be a short delay in responding to the doorbell.

#### **Outings during the week**

Girls may go to the local shops or the city during the week and club sport matches but shopping visits should be minimised.



## Exeat / End of Term

### Exeat

These are compulsory weekends on which all students leave the Hostel to go home or stay with friends. They provide an important break from the regimen of boarding life. Generally boarders are expected to leave by 5.15pm on the final day of school preceding the Exeat weekend and return after 4.00pm on the day they are due back.

Details of leave and travel arrangements should be finalised by Wednesday evening prior to the Exeat, earlier if possible. Parents will be informed of details of the Exeat leave for confirmation of the details. While missing school days before and after Exeat weekends is not encouraged, the Day school and Hostel acknowledge the difficulties experienced if travelling long distances.

Any anticipated early departures must be negotiated through the School Principal and the Hostel should then be informed of the details.

No evening meal is provided on the night of an Exeat start.

### Early return from Exeat

Please do not return girls early from Exeat. The Hostel is open from 4:00pm to receive students. If you have a difficulty with this please contact Barry or Joanne to make special arrangements.

Difficulty regarding returning from an Exeat may be telephoned to the office after 3.30pm on the return day.

### Beginning of the Year

New boarders arrive at the Hostel by 2pm one day prior to the commencement of school for an orientation program. Returning Boarders should aim to arrive by 4pm one day prior to the commencement of school. All boarders should be checked in by 5.00pm at the latest. If there are any difficulties with transport times please notify the Hostel Office on (06) 343 2964.

### Returning to the Boarding House at the beginning of each Term

The Boarding House is open from 3.00pm to receive boarders. All boarders are to be in by 8.00pm on this day. If there are problems with transport please advise the Hostel Office on (06) 343 2964. Boarders may go out with family during the day once they have checked in but must return by 8.00pm.

### Packing for the End of the Term / Year

This is done progressively over the last week of term. Boarders who need to travel a long way may leave some of their belongings in sealed and labelled boxes or bags over the breaks. Boarders will be provided with final arrangements for leaving the Hostel during Term 4 to accommodate the boarder's attendance at the official functions that mark the close of the school.

The Hostel takes no responsibility for items left on the premises.

### Departure at the End of Term

Generally boarders are expected to organise their travel arrangements so that they do not miss any school time. The school realises that this is not always possible. If missing school is unavoidable, permission to be absent may be requested from the Principal.

On the last day of school terms all boarders are to vacate the premises by 5.00pm



## Security

**Camera Surveillance** - the perimeter of the Hostel has recording camera surveillance.

**Phones** - There are protocols for students to follow when answering the phone so that nuisance calls may be stopped. If a person is unable to supply the full name of a student, girls have been instructed to hang up immediately.

**Doors** - Girls are not permitted to answer the front door after it has been locked by a staff member. Girls are not permitted to access or exit the Hostel other than through the front doors and with a staff member's knowledge.

The front door is now locked at 5:15pm

. Please ring the doorbell for attention and we will come and answer the bell.

## General

### Forms

In order to have the information we need to care for your daughter and to ensure her welfare at all times, there are several forms which must be completed.

When entering the Hostel for the first time the following forms must be completed.

- Medical Record Sheet
- Personal Data Form
- Driver Permission Form
- Leave Permissions Form

Information should also be updated on a regular basis by current families.



## Insurance

Some insurance policies cover contents anywhere in New Zealand. You may wish to review your insurance policy to establish if your company covers personal contents in the Hostel, as the Hostel or its Insurers do not cover the individual girl's personal belongings.

## Medication / Healthcare

Generally, all prescription medication is administered under the care of the appointed Health Officer or supervising staff. Students are not allowed to have any tablets, capsules or mixtures in the Hostel unless the doctor has recommended that they be kept at hand. The Hostel staff must be made aware of this and the appointed Health Officer has agreed to them self-medicating and arranged an action plan. Asthmatic relief sprays, for instance, come into this category.

A small First Aid Cabinet is in the supervisor's room and the Hostel office for Panadol, antiseptics, Band-Aids, etc. The Hostel covers the cost of all minor first aid needs. Personal medication or other special personal supplies not supplied by the Hostel will be charged to your account.

Parents or girls should, upon arrival, hand in all prescription medication with written information to the Health Officer and alert the Hostel Directors to any major medical conditions. It is imperative that action plans are provided for ongoing medical conditions that require medications not normally dispensed.

## Hostel Fees

Hostel fees are reviewed each year and parents/caregivers notified by end August of what the next year's fees will be. Fees are set for a full school year but you may choose to pay on a term by term basis in advance. As term lengths are not all the same, this payment arrangement is to help you spread the payment load and any adjustments for early withdrawal from hostel will be worked out by the Hostel Management.

There are some guidelines and penalty fees for early withdrawal.

- All fee payments are to be in advance of the school term starting.
- One terms notice in writing for terms 1-3 or forfeiture of the terms fees
- Withdrawal for term 4, remainder of year's fees are payable in full.
- Girls not coming back the following year (excluding outgoing year 13's) notification must be given in writing four weeks before school starts or forfeiture of the first terms fees.

**Boarding Fees for 2016 are \$9800.00 pa or \$2450.00 per term.**

## What to bring?

In addition to casual clothing and personal toiletries, students require:

- Bath towels x 2 and face cloth
- Pillow & Pillowslip
- Own sheets and duvet – we can provide but find most girls prefer their own
- Laundry bag / basket
- Jandies for use in the shower and a second pair for footwear in the dorm
- Dressing Gown & Slippers
- Shoe cleaning kit (black shoe polish is essential).
- Washing powder for top loader machine – low suds
- Sporting equipment if involved in recreational activities
- Beach towel & Swimwear
- Coat hangers
- Posters and photos for their rooms wall
- Blu-tack
- Personal trinkets
- Radio/clock/CD player/hair dryer/camera ((optional) Must have been safety tagged)
- Lunch Box (years 9,10 & 11)
- 2 good padlocks

## What Not to Bring

- No aerosols – these set off the fire alarms and that incurs a \$1000.00 + gst charge to you.
- No candles - these set off the fire alarms and that incurs a \$1000.00 + gst charge to you.

Please note that all uniforms and personal belongings should be labelled.

