



WELCOME TO SHELL

Advice from Current Shell Students

Annabelle – Toyndbee

First impressions

Coming into Ardingly senior school was first really nerve racking but the friendly community of Toyndbee quickly managed to make all the Shell feel comfortable in the new. After only just a couple days of being in your new house you already feel welcome, like your part of the family. Other students and teachers helped a lot to make sure you know what you are doing and where you are going whenever you needed their help.

Being a Shell pupil

Ardingly is filled with amazing activities and sport to compete in such as Steepo, hockey, netball Football, cricket swimming, as well as sport activities there are also other activities such as drama productions and debating

Life in the House

Toyndbee house is a fantastic house because of the community and family in the house, surrounded by smiles and joyful personalities. The common room is filled with smiles as well as huge display of biscuits. The environment early each morning in all over brightens up the day.

You get to share a dorm with one of your friends and you can personalise it however you and your roommate want. As well as having a roommate to help you, higher years make sure that you can rely on them as much as possible

What I liked about Toyndbee is that different year groups were comfortable around each other. The lively spirit comes in handy when we have team activities. As well as house sporting events we also look forward to house song where we all come together to create a fun and jolly show for the rest of school

Interview with a Shell pupil

I enjoy that there's no separation between year group and that we are all comfortable around each other

I like the independence of boarding and that your friends are around you

There are many events that Shell can take part in such as house debating, house swimming, Steepo and house hockey

time with your House

In call over everyone sits in the common room where either Mrs Porter (head of house) or Mrs VM (deputy head of house) speak about what's going to happen during the day and take register. its is very important to be on time to call over otherwise you might miss crucial information

During break girl boarders can go to the tuck shop. During break you are also allowed to go back to house and chill in your dorms with all your friends as well as that there will usually be hot drinks and biscuits down at the Common Room

What I enjoy most about Ardingly College is Toynbee because of the spirit and how close we are. The Toynbee community always manages to put a smile on my face

When it comes to homework it often depends on the teacher, but I usually get around 2-3 pieces of prep that are around a 30 -minute task each

Tutors are there to help. If there is a problem with any of your work or you need some help with anything tutors are always there to rely on to make sure you feel comfortable in school

The best part of Shell is meeting other people from other schools

Top Tips and Rules

Hand in prep in time

Avoid distractions in class, -stay focused o work and learn to the best of your abilities

Be on time for call over so you do not miss out on any information

Stay in bounds and in House from 7pm so teachers know where you are and you stay safe

Oliver - Mertens

First impressions

First coming into Year 9 was a shock, so much to learn, so much to revise, so much to do. It was frightening at first as no one really knew each other and did not feel comfortable around each other.

I soon settled in. The main people who helped me settle in were the lower 6th form in Mertens, they talked to me to get me to realise how calm and joyful Mertens house is. Also, the head of house and deputy head of house helped me settle in by doing fun activities such as football or pool, which created a stronger bond with other years and friends in my year.

Being a Shell pupil:

There is lots to do.

Leisure activities - Paintballing, movie night, barbeques, Tuesday pizza night, bowling/arcade, house football, pool tournaments and talent shows.

Sporting activities - Hockey, football, basketball, rugby, cricket, track & field, cross country (Steepo), squash, tennis, rowing, sailing.

Arts activities - House drama (first term), house song (2nd term), art competition/exhibition, school play (Shemove, a mix of Shell and Remove pupils),

Life in the House:

Every weekday morning you will have breakfast and after, at 8:20 you will have a call over.

Once you finish your lunch, when you go back to house you will have to sign in with the tutor sitting in the chair. After that you have plenty of time to relax.

Once you have had dinner, you will have to be in house by 7:00 pm for prep to start, the two prep times last for 45 minutes with a 15-minute interval. Then at 9:45 to 10:30 is bedtime.

Shell go to bed by 9:45, years above go to bed at 10:00, 10:15 and 10:30

Top Tips and Rules

Arrive early to lessons

Have haircuts that are sensible and smart

Tuck shop goods should be kept in house

Be in house by 7:00 pm

phones must be handed in 15 minutes before said bedtime

During school you must not go outside the school boundaries. After school you must have permission from a teacher to go outside the boundaries and must be supervised.

Sorley - Rhodes

First Impressions

I was nervous, excited, happy, and just looking forward to going there and joining senior school. But I was especially excited because it was a whole new building and it was just a change from normal lessons, and it is bigger which is much better.

What is it like?

The sport is very good and high standard.

Music lessons are very helpful, at good times in the day and are not too long.

The facilities are very nice and there is a gym to use.

The Enrichment Programme is very helpful to learn new skills like reading and debating.

Your Tutor is very good, they check up on how you are and if you are coping well.

Life in the House

The houses are good to study in if you need to do homework.

It is nice in the house as you can do a lot of things but also you can just relax.

There is a TV so you can just watch TV if you want.

We have fun, it is a welcoming, encouraging, a safe and happy environment

Pool tournaments and other activities are great fun and good to get the house to bond together.

Rules and Top Tips

Do homework on time so you do not get into trouble or get a detention!

Respect teachers as they are just trying to help you

Remember your sports kit- so you do not get in trouble and because it is a bit embarrassing if you have the wrong kit

Always have the correct equipment for the lesson

Olly– Crosse

First impressions

At first it is very normal to feel nervous but try and talk to as many people in your year as you can and try to take part in lots of activities. Take a role in house drama or play in house football, things like this can really help you build a name for yourself

What it is like

I feel like Crosse is a second home is very encouraging to everyone

You get lots of free time in House as you spend your break times in house

In free time you watch TV, play table Tennis and Pool

The different year groups integrate in house as socials are arranged between year groups

Ardingly is a very welcoming and chilled out place where we work together in the tough times celebrate together in the good times as long as you treat everyone with respect then you will get respect back

Life in the House

Life In house is a very calm and welcoming place wit a range of different people in house it is very easy to talk to older years which can sometimes be hard in the rest of the school there are lots of things you can do in house such as table tennis and watching sport

Rules to keep

Focus in lessons- to try and get better test results

Work to the best of your ability- to gain a good reputation

Show respect to everyone- to gain your own respect back

Be on time- to reduce stress levels

Wear the correct clothing- to show respect

Farah - Toynbee

First impressions

When I found out I had a place at Ardingly my reaction was wow. It is cool to get into Ardingly and I know I would have loads of opportunities to find what my skills are. I was excited to start Activities

What it is like

After school on a Monday we have a rota of EP (enrichment program), which will be like a club after school doing typing, cooking, reading. You then get to choose a club you do on a Thursday.

Shell is a really good year because you do not need to stress about exams. You get to know the friends you will be spending senior school with. You get to find out what you are good at and what you enjoy.

Life in the House

Toynbee is the most welcoming house because we do socials including everyone. We have students of all years mixing. You never feel lonely.

Our housemistress, Mrs Porter and our deputy, Mrs VM are some of the kindest people you will meet. They always make sure you are not bored. Also, if you ever want to have a quick chat with someone at lunch Matron is always around.

You can always find a personal touch in Toynbee. It really does feel like home.

Charlie - Crosse

First impressions

When I first joined Shell, I was excited fortunately I knew a lot of the people already.

Being a Shell pupil

Being at Ardingly is great because everyone is extremely chillaxed and kind, especially to those who have just joined and may be nervous. It is also good because the teachers are all amazing and do their job very well.

Life in the House

Life in Crosse is great because the environment is amazing. As well as the area being great there is plenty of things to do e.g. table tennis, table football and maybe the odd wrestling match which is always fun.

The House Mistress in Crosse is called Mrs Tate and she is lovely. Mrs Tate is always looking out for everyone in Crosse and makes sure you are not left out. If you have any problems, then you can always talk to her and she is always understanding to anything you say.

Top Tips and Rules

Focus on lessons – This is extremely important because if you do not focus on lessons then this can majorly affect your exam results and that is the last thing any teachers want.

Do not bully – This is important because we want the environment around school to be nice but if someone bullies another pupil that can make them upset.

Do not be late to your lessons - It is disrespectful, and you waste valuable lesson time. You might have to catch up in your own time.

Make sure your homework is handed on time - Homework is set by your teacher to help you move forward in a topic and make sure you understand –

Wear the correct uniform and how the school wants it to be worn. The uniform is what represents the school and how it is worn influences what people think about the school.

Do not go on your phone in lessons. You are allowed your phone in school but leave it in your houses during the day. Teachers have the right to confiscate them if you're seen using one in a lesson.

No chewing gum in lessons it is disrespectful

Livvy - Neal

First impressions

When I found out I had got into Ardingly from the Prep School I was very happy to be able to carry on here with my friends. I was most looking forward to the amount of independence we would be given and meeting new people. In the prep school we were looked after a lot more and treated like we were younger. I was looking forward to senior school because we could be treated more like grownups.

On my first day my first impression was that all the staff in house and around the school were really nice and looked after you, made sure you knew where you had to be and when. I liked having a small tutor group and my own study with a few friends, this is where you keep everything and can go during break times. I got lost a lost on my first couple of days, finding out where each science room in the science block was and how my Maths classroom took a different staircase to all the other Maths classrooms.

Life in the House

Ardingly has a welcoming clean environment. It is calm, relaxed and you are free to express yourself

Top Tips and Rules

Make sure you understand what you're doing and where you are going. .