



LOMOND
SCHOOL
SCOTLAND

Boarding at Lomond School:
Life at Burnbrae House





Introduction

As the west of Scotland's only boarding school, living and studying at Lomond School offers a truly unique experience for boys and girls from the UK and around the world. As a co-educational house, siblings can live together under one roof – the mix of boys and girls of different ages engenders a real family feel, which helps our boarders to settle in to life at Lomond School with ease.

As home to young people from a diverse range of nationalities and backgrounds, and with a location and facilities that provide endless opportunities for adventure, our boarding house 'Burnbrae' is an exciting and cosmopolitan place to learn and grow.



A supportive environment

Our boarding parents, Lesley and Craig, and the exceptional staff and teachers who work or live in the house, are all part of the Burnbrae family. The team are dedicated to supporting every child's academic success and personal wellbeing.

Our small environment, with accommodation for around sixty boarders, allows the team at Burnbrae to know our young people very well. Staff work together to ensure that every child in our care makes the most of the many opportunities available to them - in sport, extra-curricular activities, trips and excursions. This support extends to each young person's academic performance - a strong work ethic exists in the house. Senior school teaching staff are present at Burnbrae most weekday evenings to ensure that our boarders can call on them for help with homework and extra study.



The best of both worlds

Burnbrae House is located in a quiet residential area of Helensburgh, just a couple of minutes walk from the main school campus and a ten minute walk from the shopping area and seafront. The house was purpose-built to ensure that our boarders are comfortable and well catered for. Being situated off the school campus helps our young people to feel like they are leaving school to 'come home' each day.

Repeatedly named as one of the top places to live in the UK, Helensburgh offers an unrivalled balance of easy access to the countryside whilst also benefitting from excellent transport links to cities such as Glasgow and Edinburgh. This provides the perfect environment for our boarders – a host of outdoor pursuits are available on our doorstep, and culture and entertainment are only a short trip from home.



'Innovative', 'sector-leading' and award finalists

We are so proud that the UK Care Inspectorate recently evaluated our boarding service as their highest level – **6: 'excellent, where performance was innovative and sector-leading'**.

The report stated that

- there was an excellent level of care provided
- young people had brilliant opportunities available to them
- staff went over and above to support young people
- there was a pro-active approach to ensure the safety of young people
- staff had built very good relationships with the young people.

We are delighted to have been selected as a 'Independent Boarding School of the Year 2024' finalist. This is an 'Independent Schools of the Year 2024' award hosted by Independent School Parent magazine, and selection recognises the exceptional experience offered to our students.



Burnbrae House

The house is beautifully maintained and as is the case in most family homes, our kitchen is the hub of the house. All dining outside of school hours is delivered by our award winning catering team and is served in the dining room at Burnbrae. Boarders can, if they wish, prepare their own snacks in the evenings and during weekends.

Boarders are mostly accommodated in twin en-suite rooms, guest rooms are also available. Boys' and girls' bedrooms are on separate, secure floors. Boarders have access to attractive and comfortable junior (up to S3) and senior (S4-S6) common rooms, which are designed by the pupils themselves. The house also boasts AstroTurf pitches and a gymnasium, plus many other leisure amenities such as a pool table, table tennis, a music room and IT facilities.



Activities and enrichment

Weekends are a busy time for boarders with events and activities aplenty. By taking part in a broad range of extra-curricular activities and excursions, our young people nurture new and existing interests that encourage lifelong learning. Strong friendship bonds are developed and established through the array of shared experiences and sports. In addition to whole school activities, house parents and tutors ensure that our boarders are kept busy and stimulated. A planned schedule of trips is offered throughout the term and impromptu events are added wherever opportunities present.

Whether our young people are skiing in the Highlands, visiting historic sites such as Edinburgh Castle, or canoeing and camping at Loch Lomond, boarding at Lomond School is a unique and unforgettable experience.

About Helensburgh

From the town's notable history to its world-class architecture, Helensburgh has a rich heritage to discover.

Our small town is home to Charles Rennie Mackintosh's finest domestic creation, the Hill House, which is open to visitors throughout the year. As well as architecture and design, Helensburgh has an inspiring history of innovation in engineering. Both Henry Bell, inventor of the first commercial steamboat, and John Logie Baird, one of the inventors of the television, lived and worked in Helensburgh.

Beyond the town's inspirational heritage, there is a great amount to offer young people living in the area. As a coastal town with easy access to Loch Lomond, a wide range of water sports are on offer and the town is famous for its excellent sailing. We are proud that two former pupils represented Great Britain in the Olympic sailing team with one alumna, Anna Burnet, winning silver at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

As well as access to water sports, our boarders make use of the excellent, local mountain bike and walking trails. Outdoor adventures feature significantly in Burnbrae's weekend itinerary.

Whilst the town itself has many great amenities, Helensburgh is only a short journey from skiing and hillwalking in the Highlands, and from the many museums, theatres and cultural experiences of Glasgow.

Glasgow and Edinburgh Airports are both easily accessible, providing pupils with ease and flexibility of travel from elsewhere in the UK, or abroad.



Benefits of boarding

Boarding at Lomond School provides stability, structure and discipline in a supportive, nurturing and homely environment.

Academically, boarders benefit from regular prep time supported by both the teaching staff and an in-house culture which ensures a healthy balance of work and play. Our young people are determined and hard-working – new boarders often comment on how our environment has helped them to become the best version of themselves.

As would be the case at home, our boarders gain more freedom as they get older. Our location means that boarders and day pupils mix well and can meet up in their free time. We work with parents to set parameters, guiding our boarders as they grow into young adults and readying them for the next steps in their education and life.

Boarding gives young people the experience of living alongside peers from around the world, in shared accommodation. This can be of particular benefit to those living in more remote locations. For international pupils looking to attend British universities, boarding provides a safe environment to grow and adapt to British culture, whilst improving English language skills.



A typical weekday

7.15am Early morning fitness (early breakfast available).

8-8.30am Breakfast served in Burnbrae.

8.25am Check out with Matron and walk to school.

8.30am-3.40pm (3pm on Fridays) Lessons in school.
Seniors have seven timetabled periods Monday - Thursday, and six on Fridays. Pupils have a twenty minute morning break and one hour lunch break. Extra-curricular clubs are available during lunchtime.

3.40pm Return to Burnbrae for a snack and catch up with house parents and matrons.

3.40-5.30pm Extra-curricular clubs, or free time to see friends, to visit town or utilise the facilities in the house and grounds. Juniors set up for dinner and will help to clear up afterwards as part of their 'house duties'.

5.45pm Dinner served for all at Burnbrae.

6-7pm Free time.

7-8pm Junior Prep. Senior Prep is extended until 8.30pm. Homework and study is supported by in-house tutors and senior school teaching staff.

8pm Free time to play games or watch television and chat with friends. Bedtimes are staggered depending on age. Before going to bed, boarders tidy their bedroom, prepare their uniform and school bag for the next day and have a shower etc. Seniors complete evening duties; ensuring that communal areas are clean, tidy and well ordered for the following day. There is no Prep on Fridays - movies, board games, cinema trips etc are enjoyed.

A typical weekend day

Morning

7am	Continental breakfast.
10am (Sat)	Hot filled rolls.
11am (Sun)	Cooked brunch.

Saturday: organised sports including rugby, hockey and badminton.
Saturday afternoons and Sundays: pre-arranged trips such as boat tours on Loch Lomond, visits to explore local beauty spots, museums, shows and exhibitions or sports matches.

Boarders may have their own weekend plans such as travelling to Glasgow, enjoying a dinner out or meeting family or friends.

Afternoon

A selection of breads and sandwich fillings are available throughout the afternoon. Individual schedules are accommodated.

After returning from days out and free time on Sunday afternoon, Boarders spend time organising themselves for the week ahead. This may include tidying their rooms and packing school bags.

5.30pm Dinner served for all at Burnbrae.

Boarders are encouraged to be outside every day and to use our onsite facilities including the AstroTurf pitches and gym. Helensburgh is a wonderful location for running, cycling and walking.
Evenings often include organised pizza, movie or pamper nights. Board games including chess and card games are played nightly. Table tennis and pool tables are used by all.

Evening meal menu examples

Main choice: Welsh beef, bacon and leek pie
Vegetarian choice: Chickpea, mushroom and butternut squash pie
Accompaniments: Carrots and green beans, baked potato, salad bar
Dessert: Strawberry cheesecake

Main choice: Teriyaki salmon
Vegetarian choice: Curried cous cous with grilled vegetables
Accompaniments: Rice and pak-choi, baked potato, salad bar
Dessert: Assorted sorbets

Main choice: BBQ pulled pork baguette (halal option available)
Vegetarian choice: Shredded quorn baguette
Accompaniments: Ranch coleslaw, baked potato, salad bar
Dessert: Chocolate brownie

Starter: Leek and potato soup
Main choice: Beef lasagne
Vegetarian choice: Root vegetable and brie lasagne
Accompaniments: Green beans, garlic bread, baked potato, salad bar

"We aim to provide lots of choice for breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks. Healthy, balanced meals are mixed with the occasional treat, and soups, salads and fruit are available daily. Our team always keep an eye out for new boarders and we like to get feedback on their likes and dislikes - this allows us to play our part in helping every boarder to settle in."

Claire Lane, **Catering Manager**, Inspire, award winning catering



Boarding options

We offer a range of boarding options, designed to suit the varying needs of individual families.

Full boarding

Boarders reside at Burnbrae every day throughout term time.

Weekly boarding

Boarders stay from Sunday evening to Friday afternoon, throughout term time. This option is ideal for families who live beyond a manageable daily commute or who have significant work commitments. Weekly boarding provides structure, academic support and extra-curricular activity provision throughout the week, and relaxed family time at the weekend.

We run a weekly bus from Oban for families living in the west Highlands.

Flexi-boarding

Pupils can choose to board regularly, for just a few nights per week.

Where spaces are available, flexi-boarding is also available on an ad hoc basis: a helpful option for families with transitory childcare needs, or for families relocating to the area who remain in search of a residence.

“Through boarding at Lomond School I’ve made lifelong friendships and so many memories of late-night chats, laughter and fun. Our house parents, matrons and tutors are all so dedicated to making Burnbrae really feel like a home, I can’t thank them enough. Support with school work and access to sporting activities has seen me become the best version of myself and I can’t wait for what’s next!”

Jack, Senior Boarder, School Captain

Access

- Regular, direct train routes to the centre of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Scottish Highlands
- Sleeper train service London - Helensburgh 6 nights per week
- 10 minute drive to Loch Lomond
- 35 minute drive to GLA airport
- 90 min drive to EDI airport
- 60 min flight GLA - LDN



To find out more about boarding at Lomond School,
please contact our Registrar.
admissions@lomondschool.com
+44 1436 672476
www.lomondschool.com

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