



Blackheath & Thornburgh  
College

# BOARDING at BTC



# MEET THE DIRECTOR

Mr Andrew Thorne



Boarding has been the heart and soul of Blackheath & Thornburgh College since it was founded in 1919. The College's long and distinguished history and the traditions associated with this history are an important part of the culture and psyche of Boarding at BTC. Our boarders are aware that they are part of something much bigger and more important than themselves and that they are part of a rich history. At the same time we strive to promote an environment in boarding where our young women and men are ready for the future - ready to contribute to society in a meaningful way. Our boarding team is focused on treating each of the girls and boys as individuals, where strong relationships built on respect and trust are key. We have high expectations of all our boarders to do and be their best and to take advantage of opportunities that are provided to support and serve each other, the College, their families and the broader community.

Our boarders invariably arrive at BTC as nervous young girls and boys from around Queensland, Northern Territory, Interstate and as far as Papua New Guinea. There are few more rewarding experiences than observing and supporting them as they develop in confidence and independence and graduate from the College as proud and happy young adults who take with them the life-long connections and friendships that have been forged with their boarding mates over their time at BTC.

My wife Jen, who is the boarding mum and I are both teachers and have a strong focus on supporting your daughters and sons academically - through specific support and direction in prep time in boarding, as well as by advocating and communicating with their teachers in school. As parents of children who boarded we have a strong understanding of the need for clear and open communication with all our boarding families. Along with the whole boarding team we have a passion for the pastoral care and development of young people and we warmly welcome you and your family to boarding at Blackheath & Thornburgh College.



**Mr Andrew Thorne**  
**Director of Boarding**



# BOARDING at BTC

**Blackheath & Thornburgh College is a traditional North Queensland Boarding School situated in the heart of Charters Towers.**

There are approximately 150 boarders in the school ranging from Year 6 to Year 12. We currently have 325 students attending BTC.

Girls and boys boarding houses are located separately on the campus. Each boarding house is comprised of five dormitories with associated amenities and common areas.

Students are accommodated in individual cubicles with each room having a bed, study desk and cupboard.

Blackheath & Thornburgh College is a non-denominational School with a Christian ethos. Boarders have the opportunity to attend church services outside of the School and arrangements can be made through the Boarding Coordinators.

Blackheath & Thornburgh College has a well-documented and thoroughly researched policy statement on bullying. A hands off policy applies. Whilst we acknowledge that there can be untoward behaviour in a teenagers' boarding environment, any physical or verbal harassment will not be tolerated. Heads of Boarding are explicit in their instruction to students in this regard. As in the family home, we promote general courtesy, good manners and respect for one another and the property of others.

A well-equipped Health Centre is situated centrally on the school grounds. The Health Centre has a consultation room, isolation wards, and lounge area. All medical and dental appointments for boarders are made by Health Centre staff.

Boarders are permitted to go on leave and must report out and then report in as they return. At all times the boarding staff must know the whereabouts of all students in their care. Students may have leave with their parents at any time once their school commitments have been met. There is no limit to the extent of leave with parents.

Students can also have leave at other times with other hosts once written parental consent has been obtained. Boarders are allocated time on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings to venture up town, which is a short walk from the College.

Boarders are encouraged by their Boarding Coordinators to contact their parents regularly. Open communication between the boarding staff and boarding parents is regarded as vital.





# WHAT WE DO

## WEEKDAY ROUTINE

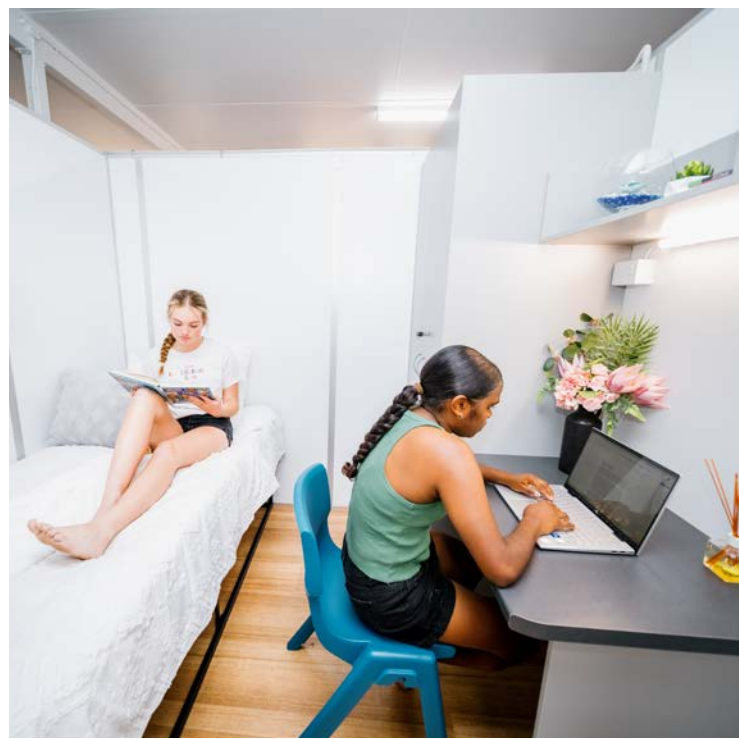
Boarders wake by 6:00am. They shower, dress and then drop their washing at the laundry on their way to breakfast in the Dining Hall. Students head to school after breakfast. At recess the boarders collect their morning tea from the Dining Hall and at lunch all students eat in the Dining Hall.

Following afternoon classes students collect their laundered clothes, enjoy afternoon tea and head to sports practice, various cultural pursuits and other co-curricular activities.

The evening meal is served from 5:30pm. Prep (homework) session starts at 6:30pm and goes through until 7:30-8:00pm. The boarders benefit from daily supervised Prep sessions, and also have access to the academic staff living on campus who can provide assistance with homework and assignments. The curriculum at Blackheath & Thornburgh College includes both academic and vocational subjects and a number of boarders enrol in practical Vocational Education and Training Courses through TAFE and other course providers.

Each dormitory has WiFi connectivity under strict firewalls to prevent any misuse of the internet. This enables students to undertake academic research and to email parents.

"Lights out" means that all phones and devices are to be handed in to the office and bedtime varies according to the year group.





## SPORT & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Most boarders love their sport. Depending upon a student's skills and interests, sport at Blackheath & Thornburgh College ranges from the interschool competition to club competition and a wide variety of informal activities with an emphasis on participation and enjoyment. Physical activity is strongly encouraged and all boarders participate in an hour of compulsory physical activity each afternoon; playing touch football, basketball, handball, cricket or volleyball. Four morning gym sessions are available for all boarders to attend before school with organised gym programs under the supervision of a qualified instructor.

Our boarders have access to music tuition, Duke of Edinburgh, Air Force Cadets, and local service groups and clubs to fully complement their studies.

## WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

As well as the normal recreational activities available to boarders, BTC offers an extensive activity programme. Camping trips, movie nights, trips to Townsville, trips to the North Queensland Cowboys Rugby League games and Theme Nights in the Dining Hall are just some of the activities organised for our boarders.

To cater for the quieter times, each dorm has a well-equipped and comfortable common room. Each common room has soft furnishings, a refrigerator, microwave, toaster, jug and smart television with DVD player.



# WHAT TO BRING

In addition to their uniforms and casual clothes, the boarders are welcome to bring personal items such as laptop computers, iPods, portable devices and mobile phones if they wish. School policy exists on the appropriate usage of mobile phones, stereos and personal computers. Students are also encouraged to bring photos and small items from home to decorate their rooms.

As well as their normal school uniforms, boarders require three sets of neat casual clothes. During the weekend and after school, students generally wear casual clothes. The School launders students' school uniforms, casual clothes and bedding.

## ESSENTIAL ITEMS

### CLOTHING

- 2 sets of good casual clothes
- 3 sets of casual clothes
- A jacket or jumper
- Underwear - enough for one week
- Closed shoes (for Dining Hall)
- Sandals
- 2 pairs of thongs (one for showers)
- Swimwear & rashie
- Wide brimmed hat

### MANCHESTER

- 1 or 2 large mesh laundry bags (available from the College Stationary Shop)
- 1 or 2 large laundry bags (available from the College Stationary Shop)
- 2 sets of single bed linen (top and bottom sheets and pillow cases)
- 2 Pillows
- 1 Doona (with two covers) or a blanket
- 2 Bath towels and 1 swimming towel

### TOILETRIES

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Comb or Brush
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Non Aerosol Deoderant
- Sunscreen
- Soap
- Razors etc.

### OTHER

- Coat Hangers
- Shoe Cleaning/Polishing Kit
- Sewing Kit - needle, thread, small scissors, safety pins, buttons etc.
- Extra name tags and laundry marker
- Padlock
- School bag and pencil case etc.
- Alarm clock (optional but preferred)
- Sealed container for food/snack (optional)
- Pictures and posters are allowed
- Blu tac for hanging photos and posters on walls





# WHAT TO KNOW

- No drugs or medication are permitted in the dormitories - this includes Aspirin, Panadol etc.
- Students are required to store medication in the Health Centre/Boarding Office. Lifesaving medication such as asthma inhalers and epipens are permitted.
- Please DO NOT bring excessive amounts of clothing and personal items.
- Singlet tops, sleeveless tops and tops not fully covering midriffs are not permitted in the Dining Hall.
- Students should preferably have a debit card with a small balance monitored by parents. Alternatively they could bring a minimal amount of money with them.



## MOBILE PHONES & DEVICES

As a school we understand the importance of regular communication home for our boarding families. The following guidelines relate specifically to our boarding students and are designed to prevent mis/overuse and promote healthy sleep habits and social interaction. It must be noted that the use of mobile phones is a privilege for students and any misuse will result in devices being removed and parent/guardian contacted.

### Sunday to Thursday

**Year 5-11:** Technology collected between 8:20pm and 9:30pm each evening and returned to student the following afternoon upon completion of housekeeping (eg. bed made, washing unpacked)

**Year 12:** Students are responsible for monitoring their technology usage and will not be required to hand in their devices in the evening. Usage is monitored by boarding staff and any access after lights out will result in the device being confiscated and returned the following afternoon upon completion of housekeeping (eg. bed made, washing unpacked). Repeated confiscation will result in the phone being kept by boarding staff for longer periods of time.

### Friday and Saturday Night

**Year 5-11:** Technology collected between 8:50pm and 9:45pm each evening and returned to student the following morning following breakfast and successful dorm inspection.

**Year 12:** Students are responsible for monitoring their technology usage and will not be required to hand in their devices in the evening. Usage is monitored by boarding staff and any access after lights out will result in the device being confiscated and returned the following afternoon upon completion of housekeeping (eg. bed made, washing unpacked). Repeated confiscation will result in the phone being kept by boarding staff for longer periods of time.



**GO IT BLUE!**

**Give** where others will take,

**Own** your decisions, be accountable,

**Invest** in your own success,

**Talent** does not substitute for character,

**Build** your skills by exploring the unknown,

**Lean** into a challenge, as that is where you will grow,

**Understand** and appreciate the beauty of diversity,

**Embrace** opportunities to lead (know the way, go the way, show the way).

**GO IT BLUE**

