

Ellesmere College
Terms & Conditions
Registered Charity Number 1103049
Ellesmere College is a Company limited by Guarantee

A INTRODUCTION

- 1 **These Terms and Conditions** reflect the custom and practice of independent schools for many generations and they form the basis of a legal contract for educational services.
- 2 **Our prospectus**, associated brochures, website and school video are not contractual documents. Please see **section J** for further information.
- 3 **Fees & Notice:** The rules concerning fees and notice are of particular importance and are set out at **sections H & I** below.
- 4 **Managing Change:** This School, as any other, is likely to undergo a number of changes during the time your child is a pupil here. Please see **section J** for further details of the changes that may be made and the consultation and notice procedures that will apply.
- 5 **Documents referred to:** Parents and pupils have an opportunity, on request, to see any of the other documents referred to in these Terms and Conditions before they accept the offer of a place. Please see section J for further details.

B TERMINOLOGY

- 6 **"The School"/"We"/"Us"** means **Ellesmere College**, which is a Chapter of Woodard Schools Limited ("**Woodard**") and acts by its Governing Body.
- 7 **"Governing Body"/"Board of Governors"/"Governor/s"** means the Governors of Ellesmere College who are appointed under the terms of the constitution and governing instrument of Woodard from time to time. The Governing Body is responsible for governance of the School.
- 8 **"The Head"** is responsible for the day-to-

day running of the School and that expression includes those to whom any duties of the Head or of the Governing Body have been delegated.

- 9 **"The Parents"/"You"** means any person who has signed the Acceptance Form and/or who has accepted responsibility for a child's attendance at this School. Parents are legally responsible, individually and jointly, for complying with their obligations under these terms and conditions. Those who have "parental responsibility" (i.e. legal responsibility for the child) are entitled to receive relevant information concerning the child unless a court order has been made to the contrary, or there are other reasons which justify withholding information to safeguard the interests and welfare of the child.
- 10 **"The Pupil"** is the child named as such on the Acceptance Form. The age of the Pupil will be calculated in accordance with UK custom.

C ADMISSION AND ENTRY TO THE SCHOOL

- 11 **Registration and Admission:** Applicants will be considered as candidates for admission and entry to the School when the Registration Form has been completed and returned to us and the non-returnable Registration Fee paid. Admission will be subject to the availability of a place and the Pupil and Parents satisfying the admission requirements at the time. **"Admission"** occurs when Parents accept the offer of a place. **"Entry"** is the date when a pupil attends the School for the first time under this contract.
- 12 **Guarantee Deposit:** A guarantee deposit is payable in advance of joining once a conditional offer of a place has been made. This is later credited to the first term's fees.

13 **Returnable Deposit:** A deposit is included on the first term account for all pupils. It is returnable without interest when a pupil leaves and is used as a credit to offset the extra expenditure incurred during the pupil's time at the school. The level of the deposit is dependent on whether the pupil is resident in the UK, European Union, or elsewhere in the World. Until credited, the deposit will form part of the general funds of the School.

14 **Equal Treatment:** The School is a mainstream, co-educational boarding and day school for pupils aged 7-18 years. The School has a Christian ethos but welcomes staff and children from many different ethnic groups, backgrounds and creeds. Human rights and freedoms are respected. At present, our physical facilities for the disabled are limited but we will do all that is reasonable to ensure that the School's culture, policies and procedures are made accessible to children who have disabilities and to comply with our legal and moral responsibilities under the *Special Educational Needs & Disability Act 2001* in order to accommodate the needs of applicants, pupils and members of the staff who have disabilities for which, after reasonable adjustments, we can cater adequately.

15 **Communications:** All communications made by or on behalf of parents with the School concerning contractual matters must be made in the English language. In the event that translation is necessary, the School may add the reasonable costs of translation to the bill as an extra.

16 **Overseas pupils:** For reasons of administration, the right is reserved to require payment of a full term's boarding Fees ("Overseas Deposit") as a deposit in the case of a pupil whose normal residence is outside the United Kingdom.

D PASTORAL CARE

17 **Meaning:** Pastoral care is a thread that runs throughout all aspects of life at this School and is directed towards the happiness, success, safety and welfare of each pupil and the integrity of the house

and school community.

18 **Our Commitment:** We will do all that is reasonable to safeguard and promote your child's welfare and to provide pastoral care to at least the standard required by law and often to a much higher standard. We will respect your child's human rights and freedoms which must, however, be balanced with the lawful needs and rules of our school community and the rights and freedoms of others.

19 **Complaints:** Any question, concern or complaint about the pastoral care or safety of a pupil must be notified immediately to a relevant member of the pastoral staff (i.e. Tutor, Housemaster/Mistress or Head of Lower School, Middle School or Sixth Form) or in the case of a grave concern must be notified in writing to the Head and/or by telephone and fax in a case of emergency. A copy of the College's policy on the handling of concerns and complaints is available upon request.

20 **Pupil's Rights:** A pupil of sufficient maturity and understanding has certain legal rights which the School must observe. These include the right to give or withhold consent in a variety of circumstances and certain rights of confidentiality and, usually, the right to have contact with both natural or adoptive parents. If a conflict of interests arises between a Parent and a Pupil, the rights of, and duties owed to, the Pupil will in most cases take precedence over the rights of, and duties owed to, the Parent.

21 **Head's Authority:** The Parents authorise the Head to take and/or authorise in good faith all decisions which the Head considers on proper grounds will safeguard and promote the Pupil's welfare.

22 **Ethos:** The ethos of this School must be such as to foster good relationships between members of the staff, the pupils themselves and between members of the staff and pupils. Bullying, harassment, victimisation and discrimination will not be tolerated. The School and its staff will act fairly in relation to the pupils and parents and we expect the same of pupils and parents in relation to the School.

- 23 **Physical Contact:** Parents give their consent to such physical contact as may accord with good practice and be appropriate and proper for teaching and instruction and for providing comfort to a pupil in distress or to maintain safety and good order, or in connection with the Pupil's health and welfare.
- 24 **Disclosures:** Parents must, as soon as possible, disclose to the School in confidence any known medical condition, health problem or allergy affecting the Pupil, any history of a learning or educational difficulty on the part of the Pupil or any member of his/her immediate family, or any family circumstances or court order which might affect the Pupil's welfare or happiness, or any concerns about the Pupil's safety.
- 25 **Confidentiality:** The Parents authorise the Head to override their own and (so far as they are entitled to do so) a pupil's rights of confidentiality and to impart confidential information on a "*need-to-know*" basis where necessary to safeguard or promote a pupil's welfare or to avert a perceived risk of serious harm to the Pupil or to another person at the School. In some cases, teachers and other employees of the School need to be informed of any particular vulnerability the Pupil may have. The School reserves the right to monitor the Pupil's e-mail communications and Internet use.
- 26 **Leaving School Premises:** The School is unable to prevent a pupil leaving school premises in breach of School Rules and Regulations and is not legally entitled to do so in the case of a pupil aged 16 years or over.
- 27 **Residence During Term Time:** pupils, except when boarding, are required during term time and at weekends, exeats and half term, to live with a parent or legal guardian or with an education guardian approved by the School. Short-term boarding may be provided during term time for a pupil and will be charged as an extra. The Head must be notified in writing immediately if a pupil will be residing during term time under the care of someone other than a parent.
- 28 **Absence of Parents:** When both Parents will be absent from the Pupil's home overnight or for a twenty-four hour period or longer, the School must be told in writing the name, address and telephone number for twenty-four hour contact with the adult who will have the care of the Pupil.
- 29 **Holiday Arrangements and Education Guardians:** A pupil of any age whose Parents are resident outside the United Kingdom must have an education guardian in the United Kingdom who has been given legal authority to act on behalf of the Parents in all respects and to whom the School can apply for authorities when necessary. The School can accept no responsibility during half term or the holidays for pupils whose Parents are resident abroad and the Parents and guardians of such pupils must make holiday arrangements, including travel to and from the School, well in advance. The school recommends the use of education guardians, and may require it for pupils under the age of 16. The responsibility for choosing appropriate education guardians rests solely with the Parents but the School may be able to assist, by providing Parents with the names of other agencies or individuals who have acted as guardians in the past. Parents are responsible in each case for satisfying themselves as to the suitability of an education guardian.
- 30 **Pupil's Personal Property:** Pupils are responsible for the security and safe use of all their personal property including money, locker keys, watches, computers, musical instruments and sports equipment, and for property lent to them by the School. Parents should make appropriate insurance arrangements in each case.
- 31 **Photographs:** It is the custom and practice of most independent schools, and of this School, to include some photographs or images of pupils in the school's promotional material such as press releases, the prospectus, videos and website. Parents who do not want their child's photograph or image to appear in any of the School's promotional material must make sure their child knows this and must write immediately to the Headmaster

requesting an acknowledgement of their letter.

32 **Transport:** The Parents consent to the Pupil travelling by any form of public transport and/or in a motor vehicle driven by a responsible adult who is duly licensed and insured to drive a vehicle of that type.

33 **School Buses:** A chargeable school bus service is provided to and from school. Parents of day pupils can opt to reserve a seat throughout the week. Parents of weekly boarders have the option of reserving a seat on the Monday morning and Friday evening journeys only. The College reserves the right to change the service.

E HEALTH & MEDICAL MATTERS

34 **Medical Declaration:** Parents will be asked to complete a form of medical declaration concerning the Pupil's health and must inform the Head in writing if the Pupil develops any known medical condition, health problem or allergy, or will be unable to take part in games or sporting activities, or has been in contact with infectious diseases.

35 **Medical Care:** In order that the best use may be made of the facilities and services provided under the National Health Service, every boarder must be registered on the list of the School Medical Officer while a pupil at the School. Parents must comply with the School Medical Officer's quarantine regulations as varied from time to time.

36 **Medical Examination:** All new pupils, day and boarding, will have a routine medical examination with the School Medical Officer (or other doctor appointed by him), usually during the first term at the School. Arrangements can be made on request for a parent to be present but this is subject to the Pupil's consent if the Pupil is of sufficient maturity and understanding (usually at 12+ years).

37 **Pupil's Health:** The Head may at any time require a medical opinion or certificate as to the Pupil's general health. A pupil of sufficient age and maturity is

entitled to insist on confidentiality.

38 **Medical Information:** Throughout a Pupil's time as a member of the School, the School Medical Officer shall have the right to disclose confidential information about the Pupil if he considers that it is in the Pupil's own interests or necessary for the protection of other members of the school community that he should do so. Such information will be given and received on a confidential, "need-to-know" basis.

39 **Emergency Medical Treatment:** The Parents authorise the Head to consent on their behalf to the Pupil's receiving emergency medical treatment including blood transfusions within the United Kingdom, general anaesthetic and operations under the National Health Service or at a private hospital where certified by an appropriately qualified person necessary for the Pupil's welfare and if the Parents cannot be contacted in time. When appropriate the Head may delegate authority to the Deputy Headmaster or other suitable and qualified person.

F EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

40 **Our Commitment:** Within the published range of the School's provision from time to time, we will do all that is reasonable to provide an educational environment and teaching of a range, standard and quality which is suitable for each Pupil and to provide education to at least the standard required by law, and often to a much higher standard.

41 **Organisation:** We must reserve the right to organise the curriculum and its delivery in a way which, in the professional judgement of the Head, is most appropriate to the school community as a whole. Our policy on streaming, setting and class sizes may change from year to year and from time to time and will depend mainly on the mixture of abilities and aptitudes among the pupils and may take into account management of friendship groups.

42 **Requirements or Concerns:** Any parent

who has specific requirements or concerns about any aspect of their child's education or progress should contact their child's tutor, or any other appropriate member of staff, as soon as possible, or contact the Head in the case of a grave concern.

- 43 **Progress Reports:** The School monitors the progress of each Pupil and reports regularly to Parents by means of grades and full written reports.
- 44 **Sex Education:** All pupils will receive health and life skills education appropriate to their age in accordance with the curriculum from time to time unless the Parents have given formal notice in writing that they do not wish their child to take part in this aspect of the curriculum.
- 45 **Public Examinations:** The Head may, after consultation with a parent, decline to enter a pupil's name for a public examination if, in the exercise of professional judgement, the Head considers that by doing so the Pupil's prospects in other examinations would be impaired and/or if the Pupil has not prepared for the examination with sufficient diligence, for example, because the Pupil has not worked or revised in accordance with advice or instruction from the staff.
- 46 **Reports and References:** Information supplied to Parents and others concerning the progress and character of a pupil, and about examination, further education and career prospects, and any references will be given conscientiously and with all due care and skill but otherwise without liability on the part of the School.
- 47 **Learning Difficulties:** The School will do all that is reasonable in the case of each Pupil to detect and deal appropriately with a learning difficulty which amounts to a "special educational need". However, our staff are not qualified to make medical diagnosis of conditions such as those commonly referred to as dyslexia or other learning difficulties.
- 48 **Screening for Learning Difficulties:** The screening tests available to Schools are indicative only: they are not infallible.

Parents will be notified if a screening test indicates that a pupil has a learning difficulty. A formal assessment can be arranged by the School at the Parents' expense or by the Parents themselves.

- 49 **Information about Learning Difficulties:** Parents must notify the Head in writing if they are aware or suspect that a pupil (or anyone in his or her immediate family) has a learning difficulty and the Parents must provide us with copies of all written reports and other relevant information. Parents will be asked to withdraw the Pupil, without being charged Fees in lieu of notice if, in the professional judgement of the Head and after consultation with the Parents and with the Pupil (where appropriate), the School cannot provide adequately for a pupil's educational needs. Remedial teaching provided by the School will be charged as an extra.
- 50 **Moving up the School:** It is assumed that each Pupil who satisfies the relevant criteria at the time will progress through the School and will ultimately complete the Upper Sixth Year (Year 13). Parents will be consulted before the end of the Lent Term in Year 11 if there appears to be any reason why the pupil may be refused a place at the next stage of the School. **Parents must give a term's notice in writing** (i.e. before the start of the Summer Term in Year 11) **in accordance with the Provisions about Notice (in section H) if they do not intend their child to proceed to the next stage of the School, or a term's Fees in lieu of notice will be payable.**
- 51 **School's Intellectual Property:** The School reserves all rights and interest in any copyright, design right, registered design, patent or trademark ("intellectual property") arising as a result of the actions or work of a pupil in conjunction with any member of staff and/or other pupils at the School for a purpose associated with the School. The School will acknowledge and allow to be acknowledged the Pupil's role in creation/development of intellectual property.
- 52 **Pupil's Original Work:** Copyright in the

Pupil's original work, such as classroom work, prep or homework, projects, examination scripts, paintings and computer generated material, belongs to the Pupil. Most such work (but not examination scripts) will be returned to the Pupil, where requested, when it is no longer required for purposes of assessment or display. The Parents consent for themselves and (so far as they are entitled to do so) on behalf of the Pupil, to our retaining such work at school premises until, in our professional judgement, it is appropriate to release the work to the Pupil. Certain coursework may have to be retained for longer than other work and for up to one year in order to reduce the risk of cheating. We will take reasonable care to preserve the Pupil's work undamaged but cannot accept liability for loss or damage caused to this or any other property of the Pupil by factors outside the direct control of the Head and staff.

53 **School Trips:** A variety of school trips will be provided for your child while a pupil here. The cost of certain school trips will be charged as an extra and added to the bill. We will not normally seek parents' prior consent for a trip costing less than £50.00. School trips abroad or those in the United Kingdom involving an overnight stay will be the subject of a separate agreement with Parents. The cost of the trip will be payable in advance. The Pupil is subject to school discipline in all respects whilst engaged in a school trip. All additional costs of special measures (such as medical costs, taxis, airfares, professional advice) necessary to protect the Pupil's safety and welfare, or to respond to breaches of discipline, will be added to the bill.

G BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE

54 **School Regime:** The Parents accept that the School will be run in accordance with the authorities delegated by the Governing Body to the Head. The Head is entitled to exercise a wide discretion in relation to the School's policies, rules and regime and will exercise those discretions in a reasonable and lawful manner, and with procedural fairness when the status of a pupil is at issue.

55 **Conduct and Attendance:** We attach importance to courtesy, integrity, good manners, good discipline and respect for the needs of others. Parents warrant that the Pupil will take a full part in the activities of the School, will attend each school day, will be punctual, will work hard, will be well-behaved and will comply with the School Rules about the wearing of uniform.

56 **School Rules:** The School Rules and Regulations which apply are set out in the School List, the Pupil Handbook and other documents published from time to time. Parents and pupils have an opportunity on request to see the current rules and regulations before they accept the offer of a place.

57 **School Discipline:** The Parents hereby confirm that they accept the authority of the Head and of other members of staff on the Head's behalf to take all reasonable disciplinary or preventative action necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of each Pupil and the school community as a whole. The School's disciplinary policy which is current at the time applies to all pupils when they are on school premises, or in the care of the School, or wearing school uniform, or otherwise representing or associated with the School, and also when boarders are in the company of day pupils at, or away from school premises, or outside school hours.

58 **Investigative Action:** A complaint or rumour of misconduct will be investigated. A pupil may be questioned and his/her accommodation or belongings may be searched in appropriate circumstances. All reasonable care will be taken to protect the Pupil's human rights and freedoms and to ensure that his/her Parents are informed as soon as reasonably practical after it becomes clear that the pupil may face formal disciplinary action, for which the sanction would normally involve a suspension of eleven days or more, expulsion or required removal, and also to make arrangements for the pupil to be accompanied and assisted by a parent, education guardian or a teacher of the pupil's choice, when appropriate.

- 59 **Procedural Fairness:** Investigation of a complaint which could lead to expulsion, removal or withdrawal of the Pupil in any of the circumstances explained below shall be carried out in a fair and unbiased manner. All reasonable efforts will be made to notify the Parents or education guardian so that they can attend a meeting with the Head before a decision is taken in such a case. In the absence of a parent or an education guardian, the Pupil will be assisted by an adult (usually a teacher) of his/her choice.
- 60 **Divulging Information:** Except as required by law, the School and its staff shall not be required to divulge to Parents or others any confidential information or the identities of pupils or others who have given information which has led to the complaint or which the Head has acquired during an investigation.
- 61 **Drugs & Alcohol:** Ellesmere College operates both a Drugs and Alcohol Policy. A pupil may be given the opportunity to provide a urine sample under medical supervision if involvement with drugs is suspected, or a sample of breath to test for alcohol consumed in breach of school discipline. A sample or test in these circumstances will not form part of the Pupil's permanent medical record. Initial tests that prove positive or continuing tests will be at the parents' expense. The current Drugs and Alcohol Policies may be obtained on request to the Headmaster
- 62 **Terminology:** In these Terms and Conditions "*Suspension*" means that a pupil has been sent or released home for a limited period either as a disciplinary sanction or pending the outcome of an investigation or a Governors' Review. "*Rustication*" means releasing a pupil home or to an education guardian for a specified period of time (usually a weekend) but without further disciplinary consequences. "*Withdrawal*" means that the Parents have withdrawn the Pupil from the School. "*Expulsion*" and "*Removal*" mean that the Pupil has been required to leave ("*asked to leave*") the School permanently in the circumstances described below. "*Released home*" means that the Head has consented to the Pupil being away from school for a specified period of time. "*Exclusion*" means that the Pupil may not return to School until arrears of Fees have been paid. "Exclusion" may also be used as a general expression covering any or all of the other expressions defined in this clause.
- 63 **Sanctions:** The School's current policies on sanctions are available to Parents on request before they accept the offer of a place. These policies may undergo reasonable change from time to time but will not authorise any form of unlawful activity. Sanctions may include a requirement to undertake menial but not degrading tasks on behalf of the school or external community, detention for a reasonable period, withdrawal of privileges, gating, rustication or suspension, or alternatively being removed or expelled.
- 64 **Expulsion:** A pupil may be formally expelled from the School if it is proved on the balance of probabilities that the Pupil has committed a very grave breach of school discipline or a serious criminal offence. Expulsion is reserved for the most serious breaches. The Head shall act with procedural fairness in all such cases. The Head's decision shall be subject to a Governors' Review if requested by a Parent. The Pupil shall remain away from school pending the outcome of the Review.
- 65 **Fees after Expulsion:** If the Pupil is expelled, there will be no refund of the Returnable Deposit or of Fees for the current or past terms, but the overseas element (if any) of the Returnable Deposit, and the unspent balance of any lump sum prepayment will be refunded without interest. There will be no charge to fees in lieu of notice but all arrears of Fees and any other sum due to the School will be payable.
- 66 **Removal in other Circumstances:** Parents may be required, during or at the end of a term, to remove the Pupil, temporarily or permanently from the School, or from boarding, if, after consultation with a pupil and/or parent, the Head is of the opinion that by reason of

the Pupil's conduct or progress, the Pupil is unwilling or unable to benefit sufficiently from the educational opportunities offered by the School, or if a parent has treated the School or members of its staff unreasonably. In these circumstances, Parents may be permitted to withdraw the Pupil as an alternative to removal being required. The Head shall act with procedural fairness in all such cases, and shall have regard to the interests of the Pupil and Parents as well as those of the School (see "Governors' Review" below).

67 **Fees Following Removal:** If the Pupil is removed in the circumstances described above, the rules relating to Fees and Deposit shall be the same as for expulsion save that the Returnable Deposit will be refunded in full without interest.

68 **Leaving Status:** The expression "leaving status" has reference to whether the Pupil has been expelled, removed or withdrawn, and to the record which will be entered in to the Pupil's file as to the reason for leaving, and the Pupil's status as a leaver, and the transfer of the Pupil's work to another educational establishment and to the nature of the reference which will be given in respect of the Pupil, and also to the financial aspects of the Pupil's leaving. These and any other relevant matters of leaving status will be discussed by the Head with the Parents and, where appropriate with the Pupil, at the time of the Head's decision.

69 **Governors' Review:** Parents may ask for a Governors' Review of a decision to expel or require the removal of a pupil from the School or from boarding (but not a decision to suspend a pupil). The request must be made as soon as possible **and in any event within seven days of the decision being notified to the Parents.** Parents will be entitled to know the names of the Governors who make up the Review Panel and may ask for the appointment of an independent panel member nominated by the School and approved by the parent (approval not to be unreasonably withheld) and in any event within 72 hours of the decision being notified to the parents unless an agreement has been made to

extend this period. In their application the parents must state the grounds on which they are asking for a review and the outcome which they seek. The clerk will consider the grounds and if these are sufficient for review he will convene a Review Panel. For the avoidance of doubt, mere disagreement with the decision of the Head will not of itself be a ground sufficient for a Governors' review.

70 **Review Procedure:** The Clerk to the Governors will advise the Parents of the procedure (current at that time) under which such a review will be conducted by a panel of up to three Governors (including an independent member if requested). If Parents request a Governors' Review, the Pupil will be suspended from School until the review procedure has been completed. While suspended, the Pupil shall remain away from School and will have no right to enter School premises during that time without written permission from the Head.

H PROVISIONS ABOUT NOTICE - see also section F "Moving up the School" and section G.

71 **Notice to be given by Parents** means (unless the contrary is stated in these terms and conditions) a term's written notice **addressed to and actually received by the Head personally.** It is important that parents receive an acknowledgement of their notice of withdrawal. It is expected that parents will consult with the Head before giving notice to withdraw a pupil.

72 **Provisional notice** is valid only for the term in which it is given and only when in writing. Unlike a firm notice of the intention to remove a pupil, provisional notice is only accepted at the absolute discretion, in writing, of the Head personally or the Head's deputy duly authorised for this purpose.

73 **Fees in lieu of notice** means Fees in full for the term of notice at the rate that would have applied had the Pupil attended school. Such fees are not reduced in the case of Scholarship, Exhibition, bursary or other awards or concessions, in such circumstances, and the full term's

unremitted fees will be payable.

74 **"A term's notice"** to be given by Parents means notice given before the first day of a term and expiring at the end of that term. A term's notice must be given **in writing** if the Parents **wish to cancel a place** which they have accepted, or if Parents **wish to withdraw a pupil** who has entered the School; or if, following the GCSE year or AS Level year, **the Pupil will not return for the following year** even if he/she has achieved the required grades; or **the Pupil wishes to discontinue extra tuition**; or **the pupil wishes to transfer from boarding to day only attendance**.

75 **Cancelling Acceptance:** The cancellation of a place which has been accepted is normally a breach of contract which can cause long term loss to the School if it occurs after other families have taken their decisions about schooling for their children. If the Parents cancel their acceptance of a place less than a term before the entry date or the Pupil does not join the School after a place has been accepted and not cancelled, a term's Fees will be payable and the Guarantee deposit will be credited to the account. Parents who cancel acceptance on more than a full term's notice before entry will not be required to pay Fees in lieu of notice but the Guarantee deposit will be retained by the School. Cases of serious illness or genuine hardship may receive special consideration on written request.

76 **Withdrawal by Parents:** If a pupil is withdrawn on less than a term's notice, or excluded for more than twenty-eight days for non-payment of Fees, Fees in lieu of notice will be immediately due and payable as a debt at the rate applicable to the term in question whether or not the place can be filled. The charge to a term's Fees represents a genuine pre-estimate of the School's loss in these circumstances, and sometimes the actual loss to the School will be much greater. This rule is necessary also to promote stability and the School's ability to plan its staffing and other resources.

77 **Prior Consultation:** It is expected that a parent or duly authorised education

guardian will in every case consult personally with the Head or with the Head's authorised Deputy before notice of withdrawal is given.

78 **Withdrawal by Pupil:** The Pupil's decision to withdraw from the School shall, for these purposes, be treated as a withdrawal by the Parents.

79 **Discontinuing Extra Tuition:** A term's written notice is required to discontinue extra tuition or a term's Fees for the extra tuition will be immediately payable in lieu as a debt.

80 **Termination by the School:** The School may terminate this agreement **on one term's written notice sent by ordinary post or on less than one term's notice in a case involving expulsion or required removal**. The School would not terminate the contract without good cause and full consultation with Parents and the Pupil (where appropriate), and would offer the Parents a Governors' Review of a decision to terminate. The Returnable deposit will be refunded without interest less any outstanding balance of the account.

I FEES

81 **Meaning:** "Fee" and "Fees" where used in these terms and conditions include each of the following charges where applicable: **Registration Fee; Guarantee Deposit; Returnable Deposit; Tuition Fees; Boarding Fees; Fees for extra tuition; other extras** such as House charges, clothing and equipment, photographs and other items ordered by the parent or the Pupil and **charges arising in respect of school trips**, and **damage** where a pupil alone or with others has caused wilful loss or damage to school property or the property of any other person (fair wear and tear excluded) and **late payment charges** if incurred.

82 **Payment:** The Parents undertake to pay the Fees applicable in each school year. Fees are due and payable before the commencement of the school term to which they relate. If one or more items on the bill are under query, the balance of the bill must be paid. Alternatively, Parents

may opt to join the College Direct Debit Scheme or the Fees in Advance Scheme. Parents undertake to accept responsibility to pay fees after the Pupil has reached the age of eighteen.

83 **Refund/Waiver:** Fees will not be refunded or waived for absence through sickness; or if a term is shortened or a vacation extended; or if a pupil is released home after public examinations or otherwise before the normal end of term (provided that the School remains open to a pupil who wishes to stay at school during that period); or for any other cause other than exceptionally at the sole discretion of the Head in a case of genuine hardship or where there is a legal liability under a court order or under the provisions of this contract to make a refund. This rule is necessary so that the School can properly budget for its own expenditure and to ensure that the cost of individual default does not fall on other Parents. Separate rules (set out in **section G** above) apply when a pupil is expelled or removed, i.e. asked to leave.

84 **Exclusion for Non-Payment:** The right is reserved to exclude a pupil while Fees are unpaid. Exclusion on these grounds is not a disciplinary matter and the right to a Governors' Review will not normally arise but the Chairman of Governors has discretion if thought fit to authorise a review of the documentary evidence with or without a formal meeting with the Parents. The School may also withhold any information, character references or property while Fees are unpaid but will not do so in a way that would cause direct, identifiable and unfair prejudice to the legitimate rights and interests of the pupil. **A pupil who has been excluded at any time when fees are unpaid will be deemed withdrawn without notice** twenty-eight days after exclusion. (Then a term's Fees in lieu of notice will be payable in accordance with the **Provisions about Notice** below.)

85 **Late Payment:** Simple interest may be charged on a day-to-day basis on Fees which are unpaid. The rate of interest charged will be at 1.5% per month which is a genuine pre-estimate of the cost to the

School of a default. Cheques and other instruments delivered at any time after the first day of term will be presented immediately and will not be considered as payment until cleared.

86 **Part Payment:** Any sum tendered that is less than the sum due and owing may be accepted by the School on account only. Late payment charges will be applied to any unpaid balance of Fees.

87 **Appropriation:** The Parents agree that a payment made in respect of one child may be appropriated by the School to the unpaid account of any other child of those Parents.

88 **Payment of Fees by a Third Party:** An agreement with a third party (such as a grandparent) to pay the Fees or any other sum due to the School does not release the Parents from liability if the third party defaults and does not affect the operation of any other of these terms and conditions unless an express release has been given in writing, signed by the Bursar. The School reserves the right to refuse a payment from a third party.

89 **Instalment Arrangements:** An agreement by the School to accept payment of current and/or past Fees by instalments is concessionary and will cease automatically in the event of any default for thirty days or more. On ceasing, the full amount of Fees then due shall be payable forthwith as a debt and interest will start to accrue at the rate for Late Payment (see above).

90 **College Direct Debit Scheme.** Parents may opt to join this Scheme, which is operated by the College and is designed to spread the cost of a pupil's education over the length of the school term. There are three instalments per term set at monthly intervals, with the invoiced fees apportioned equally between them. The total for extras accumulated during the previous term are collected in the first direct debit of each term.

91 **Fees in Advance Scheme (sometimes referred to as "Composition Scheme")** under which a lump sum prepayment for

between one and five years is made by or on behalf of the Parents will be the subject of a separate contract which will provide, among other conditions, for a refund of the unused part of the prepayment in the event of the Pupil's leaving earlier than expected. Fees in lieu of notice (where applicable) and any other sum due and owing to the School at that time will be deducted from the sum to be refunded.

92 **Scholarships & Bursaries:** Every scholarship, exhibition, bursary or other award or concession is a privilege and is subject to high standards of attendance, diligence and behaviour on the Pupil's part and to the Parents' treating the School and our staff reasonably. The terms on which such awards are offered and accepted will be notified to Parents at the time of offer.

93 **Fee Increases:** Fees are reviewed annually and are subject to increase from time to time. A term's written notice of increase will be given if it appears to the Governors that a proposed increase will be more than 3% higher than either the percentage increase in the annual rate of inflation during the previous twelve months, or the percentage increase in National Teachers Pay Awards during the same period (whichever is greater). If less than a term's notice is given of a fee increase greater than that outlined in the preceding sentence, notice of withdrawal given within 21 days after notice of the increase was received will not incur a term's fees in lieu of notice.

94 **Closure of the School During a Term Due to Illness.** The closure of the school during a term due to illness, epidemic or other circumstance beyond the control of the school shall not give rise to liability for reimbursement of fees paid for that term.

95 **Money Laundering:** Legislation requires the School, in some circumstances, to obtain satisfactory evidence (such as sight of a passport) of the identity of a person who is paying Fees.

J GENERAL CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

96 **Custom & Practice:** These terms and

conditions reflect the custom and practice of independent schools for many generations. It is our intention that the terms and conditions will always be operated so as to achieve a balance of fairness between the rights and needs of parents and pupils, and those of the school community as a whole. We aim to ensure that the School, its culture, ethos and resources are properly managed so that the School, its services and facilities can develop. We aim also to promote good order and discipline throughout our school community and to ensure compliance with the law.

97 **Legal Contract:** The offer of a place and its acceptance by the Parents give rise to a legally binding contract on the terms of these Terms and Conditions.

98 **Change:** This School, as any other, is likely to undergo a number of changes during the time your child is here. For example, there may be changes in the staff, and in the premises, facilities and their use, in the curriculum and the size and composition of classes, and in the School Rules and Regulations, the disciplinary framework, and the length of school terms. Fee levels will be reviewed each year and there will be reasonable increases from time to time.

99 **Consultation:** It is not practicable to consult with parents and pupils over every change that may take place. Whenever practicable, however, parents will be consulted and given at least a term's notice of a change of policy or a change in any physical aspect of the School which would have a significant effect on their child's education or pastoral care.

100 **Representations:** Our prospectus describes the broad principles on which the School is presently run and gives an indication of our history and ethos. Although believed correct at the time of printing, the prospectus is not part of any agreement between the Parents and the School. **Parents wishing to place specific reliance on a matter contained in the prospectus or a statement made by a member of staff or a pupil during the course of a conducted tour of the**

School or a related meeting should seek written confirmation of that matter before entering this agreement.

- 101 **Third Party Rights:** Only the School and the Parents are parties to this contract. The Pupil is not a party to it. The acts and omissions of Parents are binding on the Pupil and vice versa as to any matter of behaviour, discipline and Fees. All requests and authorities by the Parents are treated as being made on behalf of the Pupil and vice versa.
- 102 **Interpretation:** These terms and conditions supersede those previously in force and will be construed as a whole and headings, unless required to make sense of the immediate context, are for ease of reading only and are not otherwise part of the terms and conditions.
- 103 **Jurisdiction:** This contract was made at the School and is governed exclusively by English law.

