

## Homestay

### Location and public transport

Most homestays are in the residential areas of Oxford and you will generally have to take a bus into the city centre. Your bus will stop close to the School. You can buy a bus pass from the driver, which costs about 46 GBP for 4 weeks. You can use it on any bus at any time.

### Arrival and departure

When we book a homestay for you we give an arrival date and a leaving date. Normally students arrive on a Sunday and leave on a Saturday, when their course has finished. You must pay for any extra nights at either end of your stay. It is important that you contact your homestay to tell them what time you will arrive. Please do this at least one week before your arrival date. If you prefer, you can tell the school and we will contact the homestay for you.

### Short absences

If you have to go away for a short period unexpectedly during a course you still have to pay your homestay the full amount. If you are staying at the school for more than 20 weeks and have booked holiday at the time of your enrolment, you can leave your possessions at the homestay during your holiday period. You will pay half the normal rate for this period. If you have not booked your holiday at the time of your enrolment you will have to pay the full amount for the homestay during the holiday period.

### Changing your homestay

If you want to change your homestay you should speak to the Accommodation Manager. Unless there is an urgent need to move you should give 2 weeks notice before leaving a family. The family and the school keep in touch with each other and if there are any problems these will be dealt with as quickly as possible. The family has the right to ask the school to move a student if there is a good reason.

### Laundry

The homestay provides sheets and towels and will do your laundry for you, normally once a week. You may have to do your own ironing.

### Meals

#### Breakfast

Usually you will be offered cereals with milk, toast, butter and jam, fruit juice, tea or coffee and maybe some fruit or a yogurt. At weekends, some homestays have a cooked breakfast (eggs, bacon etc)

#### Evening Meal

This is called tea, or dinner, or supper, depending on the homestay, and is usually a main course (for example meat or fish with potatoes and vegetables or a pasta dish like lasagne with a salad) and some kind of dessert as well. The British generally eat a lot of potatoes (boiled, baked, roast and as chips) but pasta dishes and rice are also popular. It just depends on the homestay. The evening meal is usually between 6pm and 7pm. If you will not be home for dinner you should tell the homestay in good time.

#### Weekends

Normally you will be offered some lunch if you are at home or a packed lunch if you are going on an excursion or plan to be out during the day. Some homestays have a traditional Sunday lunch with roast meat and vegetables. If this is the case, the evening meal will be light.

#### Extra refreshments

Light snacks or drinks are usually available but you should always ask before helping yourself. Remember you are a guest in someone's house.