



PARENT & STUDENT
BOARDING HANDBOOK
2026-2027



COLLÈGE DU LÉMAN
International School · Geneva

Dear parents, dear students, welcome to Collège du Léman!



At Collège du Léman, boarding is far more than a place to stay — it is a dynamic and structured community built on trust, growth, and opportunity. Within this community, students are supported and challenged to become the best versions of themselves — academically, socially, and personally.

We are committed to helping every boarder grow into a compassionate, independent, and globally minded young person. Through our daily routines, academic structures, and vast co-curricular programme, our students learn to thrive with both freedom and responsibility.

Our philosophy is built on four pillars of success:

- Pursuing academic excellence with resilience, curiosity, and the desire to always give your best.
- Understanding the world through cultural exchange, language, and respectful international dialogue.
- Caring for wellbeing, finding balance, developing healthy routines, and managing screen time with intention.
- Making positive contributions — from helping a roommate to engaging in service, leadership, and activity participation.

Our students are expected to take an active part in life here. Whether that's joining trips abroad, participating in weekend activities, supporting our community, or representing their House — CDL boarders are encouraged to get involved, challenge themselves, and make their mark.

We also expect high standards in behaviour and self-conduct. At CDL, students learn that kindness, respect, responsibility, and courage are not just words, but values we live by every day. Through small daily actions and big ambitions, our boarders shape a life full of meaning and purpose.

We believe in equal parts support and challenge. Some of our students are already self-driven and independent; others benefit from more structured guidance. Whatever their profile, our team is here to guide them — while always expecting effort, maturity, and growth.

Thank you for entrusting your child's journey to us. With your partnership, we are proud to provide an exceptional experience — one that helps our students rise to their potential, and one they will carry with them long after they leave.

Justin Usher

Head of Academic Team
Director of Boarding

The CDL News App - Staying Connected

Strong, consistent communication between House Staff and parents is essential to supporting our boarders' wellbeing and development. We see this as a true partnership with families and agents. To stay connected, please download two key apps:



CDL News App

The CDL News App is the easiest way to stay informed about school news and the Boarding community. Through the app, you will receive:

- Weekly bulletins from the Boarding Office
- Timely updates tailored to your child's age group
- Quick access to useful contacts, links, and information

The app is available on mobile and tablet devices and can be downloaded from [Parent Essentials on cdl.ch](https://parentessentials.cdl.ch).



REACH App

All student travel is managed through REACH, our dedicated platform for organising journeys safely and efficiently. You will receive an automated email from REACH at the address linked to your school account. Please follow the instructions to create your username and password. Please download the REACH app and submit your child's travel plans at least two weeks before any holiday period. The app is also used for weekend exeat requests. Parents must complete the relevant form in REACH to request permission for their child to leave campus for a weekend or short period.





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Our boarding aims and objectives

We are proud of the strong, supportive community we offer our students. Boarding here is more than just accommodation — it's a vibrant, international environment where students feel safe, cared for, and inspired to grow.

We aim to provide a home away from home, where each boarder is supported in their academic, social, and emotional development. Through daily routines, shared experiences, and a rich programme of opportunities, students develop independence, confidence, and lifelong values.

Our Core Aims

- Create a safe, relaxed, and welcoming boarding environment that prioritises student wellbeing.
- Foster a strong sense of teamwork, shared responsibility, and mutual respect within each Boarding House.
- Encourage academic, social, moral, and cultural development through a positive and trusting atmosphere.
- Maintain open communication and partnership with parents, ensuring we work together to support each child.
- Help students embrace and thrive within the Collège du Léman community, laying a foundation for success.

Our mission is simple

To help your child reach their academic potential while nurturing the values of respect, responsibility, independence, and resilience. We count on your support to make this a shared journey.

What we expect from our Boarders

To make the most of the CDL boarding experience, we ask students to engage positively with the community and uphold key expectations:

Respect

All students are expected to treat peers, staff, and visitors with kindness and respect — regardless of role, background, or culture. Every person at CDL plays a part in creating our shared home.

Wellbeing

Students are encouraged to take an active role in our Wellbeing Programme and to look after themselves and one another. Healthy routines, emotional balance, and personal growth are at the heart of our boarding ethos.

Academics

We expect students to approach their studies with focus and effort, both in class and during study hall. Extra academic support is always available when needed — we are here to help every student succeed.

Activities

Participation matters. While many activities are optional, some are required. These experiences help students connect, explore, and grow beyond the classroom.

Educational Trips

All boarders are encouraged to take part in at least one educational trip during the year. These experiences are more than fun — they build global awareness and friendships across cultures.

Exeats (Weekend Leave)

We understand students may occasionally have commitments outside of school, but we ask that weekend exeats are kept to a maximum of once per month, in order to maintain continuity and community engagement.

Welcome to our Boarding School



So, let's get started!



This Handbook is designed to provide students and parents with the key principles, policies, and procedures that will help ensure a smooth, happy, and successful boarding experience at Collège du Léman.

At Collège du Léman, our core values are **Respect, Internationalism, Team Spirit, and Excellence**, together known as RISE. They are the foundation of our community and guide how we live, learn, and grow together.

RISE supports students in becoming their best selves by promoting wellbeing, ambition, inquiry, and reflection. It helps them grow into well-rounded, independent global citizens who act with integrity and social responsibility. This is our mission.

Our values are present in every part of school life, from daily interactions to opportunities for personal and academic growth. A powerful symbol of this commitment stands at our entrance: the RISE statue, titled *Élève toi* by former student Igor Ustinov. The statue reminds us that success rests on strong foundations and that we rise with the support of those around us: friends, family, House Parents, and teachers.

Each Boarding House has its own personality and spirit, but the RISE values connect us all, in school, in boarding, and beyond.

Our RISE Values

E

Excellence

We define excellence as displaying a growth mindset to become the best possible self, through intrinsic motivation, resilience and ambition

S

Spirit

We strive to be an inclusive community

We support and encourage each other

We value empathy

We have a social responsibility to others

We are generous

We take pride in our school community

I

Internationalism

We welcome everyone from everywhere

We value our diversity

We are open-minded

We are understanding

We strive always to work with others

We celebrate internationalism

R

Respect

We respect and value:

Ourselves and our families

Other cultures and religions

The environment

The property of others

All members of our community

The laws and traditions of the societies in which we live and work

Our Mission

We open doors for our students by creating a diverse and inclusive learning community that flourishes.

Unus pro omnibus, omnes pro uno.

1. We discover and develop individual strengths

through outstanding educators and a world of opportunities that we offer as part of our curriculum and activities.

2. We make powerful, lifelong, global connections

through our focus on diversity and inclusion and the opportunity we give each and everyone to contribute to the community.

3. As forward thinkers, we inspire our students to be their best selves

by instilling a strong growth mindset and a solid foundation of wellbeing.

Meet the team



Justin Usher
Director of Boarding



Rebecca Lawson
Deputy Head of Boarding



Salvatore Politano
Deputy Head of Boarding

**“Every child deserves a champion,
an adult who will never give up on them,
who understands the power of connection
and insists that they become the best
that they can possibly be.”**



Mélanie Lam Van Ba
Administrative Assistant



Youssef Mekacher
Administrative Assistant



Rogerio Rodrigues
Activity Coordinator



Claire Rocheteau
Camps Manager



Romolo Calvini
Extracurricular Senior Manager



Emmanuel Bonin
Director General



Mathieu Hartmann
Principal Primary



Elizabeth Harvey
Principal Middle School
Secondaire



Mark Hatherell
Principal High School



Emmanuel Coigny
Executive Principal Secondaire

Before you arrive at CDL: Your pre-arrival journey

Welcome to Collège du Léman, your home away from home! Starting at a new school, and perhaps in a new country, is a big step. We want you to feel prepared, confident, and excited for the journey ahead.

Step 1: Hello from Us!

Once your enrolment is confirmed, you will receive a Welcome Letter from our Director of Boarding. This includes a link to the Boarding section of the school website, where you can access:

- The Parent & Student Handbook
- The Trips Booklet
- Information about our Extracurricular Programme
- The school calendar
- Medical guidance and key boarding information

These resources will help your family prepare for boarding life and explore the many opportunities available at CDL.

Step 2: Meet Your House Team

Shortly after receiving your Welcome Letter, your House Team will contact you by email and invite you and your family to a video call. During the call, we will:

- Get to know you and answer any questions
- Explain daily routines and boarding life
- Discuss trips, clubs, and activities that may interest you
- Advise on what to pack
- Learn about your interests, goals, and aspirations
- Review any health or learning needs
- Confirm arrival arrangements and your first few days on campus

Step 3: Your Adventure Map

We'll help you plan:

- Clubs and activities, including sports, arts, music, and drama
- Extra lessons such as languages, music, or tennis
- Your arrival schedule and welcome events, including: Welcome Assembly, Academic Orientation, and Boarding Induction Day

We'll also share important tips about:

- Study routines and expectations
- Sleep and screen-time guidelines
- Living with roommates and making friends
- Respecting different cultures and perspectives
- Support available if you're feeling stressed or homesick

What You and Your Family Should Do

While we prepare to welcome you, your family will be asked to:

- Fill in a rooming questionnaire
- Choose your preferred extracurricular activities
- Review the Handbook and Trip Booklet
- Confirm your arrival details
- Send in those 5 photos

These steps help us get to know you before you arrive, ease any nerves, and ensure we can support you from day one. Whether you're joining us from nearby or across the world, you'll arrive knowing that you're already part of the CDL community.

We can't wait to welcome you. Get ready for new friendships, exciting opportunities, and unforgettable memories. Your boarding journey starts here.

Before You Arrive at CDL: Academic Commitment & Rigour

Responsibility, Growth, and the Path to Success

As a boarding student, you have made a major decision: to live far from home, away from loved ones, and join a new community for much of the year. That choice matters, and it should be met with purpose. You are here to invest in your future. CDL will provide a caring, inspiring place to grow, but this experience will only be meaningful if you take your education seriously. During these important years, your education is your job. We expect you to show up for it every day with focus, energy, and commitment.

High Expectations with a Purpose

We expect every student to approach their learning with consistency, focus, and a willingness to improve. Success is not achieved through shortcuts; it is the result of sustained effort, personal integrity, and a mindset that embraces challenges.

Attendance and Punctuality

Being present and on time is one of our most fundamental expectations. Missing lessons — whether due to returning late from holidays, weekend exeats, or visits to the Health Centre for minor symptoms — disrupts your learning and undermines the habits needed to succeed.

- Attend all your lessons unless there is a valid and serious reason not to.
- Return punctually from all breaks and exeats.
- Use the Health Centre responsibly and avoid missing class for minor discomforts.
- Arrive on time to all lessons and commitments.

Every missed lesson is a missed opportunity to learn, grow, and develop. Academic routines matter — not only for your results, but for your character and future mindset.

Study Time

Structured study hours are there to support your academic focus. This is your time to review work, ask for help, and prepare for the days ahead. It is a quiet, dedicated space that reflects your commitment to your goals.

Respecting study time means respecting yourself and your ambitions. It is a non-negotiable part of boarding life.

When you commit fully to your academic responsibilities, you build confidence, motivation, and a lasting sense of achievement.

Your education is the foundation of your future. Show up every day ready to learn, reflect, and grow. Consistent effort will take you far.



Before You Arrive at CDL: Connection

The Heart of Boarding at Collège du Léman

We believe that a fulfilling boarding experience is built on strong, authentic relationships. You are not just here to attend classes and follow a schedule — you are here to live, grow, and form relationships that will shape your journey.

In our boarding houses, you will not find people who are simply ticking boxes, checking names, or handling only the practical side of your day. Our House Parents and the wider Boarding Team are here for something far more important: to build real, lasting connections with you.

This means getting to know each other properly — learning who you are, what matters to you, what excites you, and what might challenge you. We aim to create a culture of mutual trust and respect, where you feel truly seen, supported, and valued.

Your House Parent will be the adult you live alongside every day. They are here to guide you, to celebrate your wins, to offer a listening ear when things are tough, and to help you navigate the small and big moments of daily life. They will respect your privacy and your personal space, but they will also want to be part of your life in a caring and consistent way.

So when we ask questions about your friendships, your sleep routine, how much time you spend online, whether your room is tidy, what you're eating, or whether you're taking part in activities, this is not about control or intrusion. It's about care. These conversations reflect our commitment to helping you build a healthy, balanced, and meaningful lifestyle.

Being at boarding school does not mean you are expected to do everything on your own. Growing up doesn't happen in isolation. True independence — the kind we aim to help you achieve — is not about being left to figure life out alone. It's about developing the confidence and skills to take care of yourself, make thoughtful choices, and live a life that reflects who you are and what you value.

Connection is what makes this possible. It's what turns a boarding house into a home. And it starts with being open, curious, and willing to engage — with your House Team, with your peers, and with yourself.



Before You Arrive at CDL: Awareness

Awareness: The Journey to Your True Self

Alongside academic success and meaningful relationships, we believe that one of the most valuable outcomes of your time at Collège du Léman is something just as important — awareness.

Self-awareness is not just an idea; it's one of the most powerful tools you can develop during your time in boarding school. It helps you understand your emotions, recognise your strengths, face your challenges, and identify what truly matters to you. It's about becoming the most authentic version of yourself — someone who makes thoughtful decisions, builds respectful relationships, and lives with purpose and integrity.

At the start of each year, you will set personal goals based on your individual profile and what you want to achieve. This goal-setting process is a key part of your journey. Goals are reviewed regularly to track your progress and ensure you remain focused on the objectives you have chosen. For us, this is an essential tool to support and monitor your personal growth.

Awareness grows when you step outside your comfort zone — when you take on challenges, try new things, and listen to those around you who care deeply about your development. Your House Parents, teachers, and mentors are here to support and guide you, not to tell you who to be, but to walk beside you as you become who you are meant to be.

We will ask questions, offer feedback, and celebrate your progress — not because we expect perfection, but because we believe in your capacity to grow.

When you better understand yourself:

- You manage stress and uncertainty in healthier ways.
- You build confidence and take responsibility for growth.
- You make wiser choices in friendships, study, and life.
- You deepen relationships by listening, empathising, and communicating clearly.
- You discover your passions and values, giving life direction.
- You advocate for yourself and ask for help when it matters most.

We see awareness as one of the most meaningful outcomes of boarding. It helps you grow into the person you want to become with honesty, intention, and care. Let awareness guide you. Let it sharpen your focus, strengthen your relationships, and help you live with confidence, clarity, and purpose.



Have you remembered everything?

Before You Pack – The School Dress Code

At Collège du Léman, we ask boarders to dress in a way that reflects our values of respect and community spirit.

Primary boarders wear school uniform for all timetabled school activities and may change into their own clothes after their final commitment of the day.

Secondary students must follow our Dress Code Policy, detailed in the Parent & Student Boarding Policies and Procedures.

During the school week, students should dress appropriately for classes and activities. Clothing should be comfortable, respectful, and aligned with our school ethos. While fashion is a form of self-expression, we discourage an emphasis on designer brands and expensive labels.

Branded clothing can create unnecessary pressure, encouraging comparison, insecurity, and a misplaced sense of status. This is not about rejecting quality clothing, but about promoting self-worth, kindness, and confidence that do not depend on labels.

We encourage students to question the idea that certain brands determine popularity or belonging. Instead, we foster a culture where House spirit, inclusion, and mutual respect matter most.

Adolescence is a time of self-discovery. Through our Boarding Programme and community events, we help students develop a strong sense of belonging rooted in shared experiences, values, and respect for others, rather than appearances or material status.



Have you remembered everything?

Bring the **magic** of your favourite books, along with an abundance of **positivity** and contagious good **energy**!

What to Bring

To help you settle in comfortably at Collège du Léman, we've put together a packing checklist of essential items:

Clothing

- Personal clothing, including smart casual outfits (e.g. polo shirts, blouses, etc.)
- 1 formal outfit for special dinners or events
- Pyjamas
- House shoes (slippers or indoor shoes)
- Winter boots (casual)
- Winter coat (casual)

Personal Items

- Personal toiletries
- Towels
- Hair dryer (optional)
- Torch/flashlight
- Alarm clock
- Watch
- Coat hangers
- Medium-sized padlock (for securing valuables)

Social & Cultural

- Traditional clothing or items from your home country (for international nights and cultural exchanges)
- Board games, card games, or a book to share

Academic Supplies

- Basic classroom stationery (some will be provided at school)

Technology

- Mobile phone (compulsory – a Swiss SIM card will be available on arrival day)
- Headphones (for use with electronic media)

Health & Safety

- Copy of your vaccination book
- Documentation of any medical conditions

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Our activity programme includes sport, outdoor adventures, and creative clubs. Please pack the following:

Sports & Fitness

- Sports clothing (basic kit provided to new students)
- Indoor gym shoes (non-marking soles)
- Outdoor running shoes
- Refillable water bottle
- Swimming costume
- Beach towels for water activities
- Waterproof walking boots (essential for hiking and outdoor weekends)
- CDL ski jacket (provided by the school for winter sports)

Water Sports & Winter Activities

- Water sports gear (if you have your own and wish to bring it – optional)
- Ski gloves, thermal layers, and ski socks (recommended for the winter season)

Creative & Club Participation

- Digital camera (for students joining the Photography Club)
- Musical instrument (if applicable and suitable for travel/storage)



Have you remembered everything?

Prohibited Items

To keep all students safe, the following items are strictly prohibited in boarding houses and on campus:

- Pets
- Knives or any kind of weapons (including replicas and toy guns)
- Candles or any open flames
- Electric vehicles and personal motorised transport (e.g., e-bikes, hoverboards)
- Electrical cooking equipment, coffee machines, or refrigeration devices
- Electric heaters or personal space heaters
- Irons
- Televisions
- Fireworks or explosives
- Illegal substances or drugs
- Alcohol and tobacco products
- Laser pointers
- Large appliances or furniture not provided by the school
- Unauthorised food or drinks in boarding areas (to prevent pests and allergies)
- Medicines (please refer to the Medical Care appendix for guidelines)

For questions about whether an item is appropriate, please contact your House Team before arrival.

Valuables & Personal Belongings

While Collège du Léman is a safe and well-supervised community, we strongly advise students not to bring high-value items or large amounts of cash. The school cannot accept responsibility for lost or damaged personal belongings.

Where personal items are brought to school, we recommend they are clearly labelled and that families keep a record of serial numbers or other identifying features. Self-adhesive labels are available upon request. We also encourage families to arrange appropriate personal insurance for valuable items.

Students are expected to treat all school property with care and respect. Any damage, whether accidental or intentional, may be charged accordingly.



Let's get you settled in...



Settling In: A Guide for New Boarding Families

Joining boarding school can feel overwhelming at first, but most students adapt quickly. With the right support, this transition becomes exciting and enriching.

From the moment they arrive, students receive the guidance and structure they need to settle in smoothly. Early on, there are a few practical essentials to take care of, such as:

- Student ID card
- Timetable and school layout
- PE kit and basic school supplies
- Uniform (for Primary students only)

Every new student is paired with a student buddy, a peer who knows the school well and can answer questions and offer support. All new boarders also go through a comprehensive induction that introduces them to key locations, daily routines, house rules, expectations, and the school's core values.

The Emotional Transition

The early days bring new friendships and discoveries, but it is natural for students and families to feel mixed emotions. Homesickness may appear after the initial excitement fades, as students adjust to being away from familiar support systems and begin forming new ones. It may show up as:

- Frequent or emotional calls and messages home
- Withdrawal from optional activities
- Signs of unhappiness or isolation

Our experienced boarding staff and supportive peers help students navigate this period with care, attention, and encouragement. Most students soon settle in comfortably and begin to thrive.

Let's get you settled in...

How Parents Can Help

The whole school community plays a role in supporting students who may be experiencing homesickness. In most cases, the right combination of attention, care, encouragement, and the expertise of our dedicated boarding team proves to be the best remedy.

That said, families can also take a few simple yet effective steps to help their child navigate this natural part of the transition:

- **Recognise the signs early**, and be ready to talk—but more importantly, to listen.
- **Establish a regular check-in routine** by phone or message. A predictable time to connect provides reassurance and helps maintain a sense of normality.
- **Encourage participation.** Ask about your child's extracurricular activities, clubs, and sports—and actively encourage them to get involved and stay engaged.
- **Stay in close contact** with House Parents. Working together, we will monitor your child's progress and provide tailored support where needed.

Handled with care and positivity, most cases of homesickness pass quickly as students begin to build friendships, routines, and confidence in their new environment.



A happy, safe place to live

At Collège du Léman, we are proud to be a warm, welcoming community where young people can thrive. Each boarding student holds a unique and valued place within our houses. Whether new to boarding or already experienced, students benefit from a nurturing environment that helps them settle into what quickly becomes their second home.

Boarding at CDL provides both the support students need to be happy and successful, and the independence required to grow into confident young adults. When students join our community, they become part of a caring boarding family.

We focus on the emotional, social, physical, and academic development of students aged 10 to 18. These formative years bring change, discovery, and growth, so each student is supported by both their family at home and a dedicated pastoral team at school. Together, we help students build resilience, confidence, and the ability to embrace new challenges.

An experienced team of House Staff, teachers, counsellors, nurses, and administrators works closely to support every student's educational, physical, psychological, and emotional wellbeing. While academic achievement matters, our primary goal is to ensure students are safe, happy, healthy, and motivated.

We encourage students to become the best version of themselves through a balanced lifestyle. This includes healthy living, outdoor programmes, a structured wellbeing curriculum, and opportunities to explore interests and develop talents.

All of this is underpinned by our core values: Respect, Internationalism, School Spirit, and Excellence, known as RISE.



A happy, safe place to live

House Parents play a central role within the Boarding team. They are responsible for safeguarding the wellbeing of each student and closely monitoring both academic progress and personal development. Through regular and open communication, Boarding Staff build a strong triangle of trust between students, families, and the school.

Our pastoral approach is based on three key principles: high expectations, a positive and inclusive culture, and individualised care. When combined, these elements have a lasting impact on each student's growth and the wider boarding environment.

At the heart of this approach is communication—clear, consistent, and compassionate—ensuring that every child feels seen, supported, and empowered.



Special circumstances

House Parents maintain a holistic overview of each student's development. Any special circumstances, however minor they may seem, that could affect a student's life at school should be shared with House Staff promptly. This allows potential issues to be addressed sensitively and the right support to be provided.

A message from our Primary & Middle School House Parents

Welcome to Collège du Léman!

We're delighted to welcome you to the Collège du Léman Boarding Community. Our Boarding Houses are happy, caring places where students feel safe, valued, and part of a friendly family.

Starting a new school, and often a new country, can feel strange at first. New routines, faces, and food may take time to get used to, but this is perfectly normal. With the support of our House Parents, you'll soon feel at home.

At CDL, every day brings opportunities to explore and grow. From skiing in the Alps, sailing on the lake, horse riding, robotics, and cooking with friends, our activities help students build confidence, discover passions, and make memories. There is something exciting for everyone each week.

We also care deeply about your wellbeing. Our team ensures students eat well, sleep well, and feel supported. We monitor screen time and promote a healthy balance of technology, interaction, physical activity, and rest. We aim to create a safe, respectful, and joyful community where students become more independent, responsible, and kind.

We kindly ask families to avoid packing high-value items or designer clothing. Primary students wear a school uniform, and all students follow the dress code. A mobile phone and school iPad are enough, as our full schedule keeps students engaged. If anything from the packing list is missing, don't worry. There will be time for shopping together.

To help everyone enjoy boarding life, we ask students to:

- **Be ready to learn** – Complete homework and read daily.
- **Stick to routines** – Wake up on time, eat well, and follow the daily schedule.
- **Look after your space** – Keep your room and shared areas tidy.
- **Respect quiet times** – Give everyone space to rest and focus.
- **Join in!** – Take part in activities with energy and positivity.
- **Be kind and helpful** – Our RISE values guide how we live together.

Positive effort and a great attitude are noticed and celebrated. We look forward to meeting you soon for a fantastic start to your journey at Collège du Léman, where each day brings new friends, discoveries, and plenty of fun. Safe travels, and see you soon!



Rym HADDAM



Ronan GALLAGHER



Cristina FERRI CORTES



Tarun UPPAL

A message from our High School House Parents

Welcome to the High School section!

High School is a time of remarkable growth and discovery, and in our Boarding Houses, students are supported every step of the way as they prepare for life beyond school. Here, young people learn to become confident, responsible individuals, ready to take on the challenges of the future.

As the largest boarding section, we benefit from a vibrant and diverse community. Thanks to our vertical house system, new students quickly find their place—learning from older peers who act as mentors and role models, while developing their own leadership skills as they grow.

Each House is led by experienced, dedicated Boarding staff who act as a second family. Their focus goes beyond academics: we prioritise safety, wellbeing, healthy habits, and personal motivation. Students are encouraged to aim high, discover their strengths, and challenge themselves, all in a nurturing and respectful environment.

Our wellbeing programme fosters emotional resilience, open communication, and balanced living. From outdoor sports and creative arts to leadership projects and community initiatives, there's something for everyone—whether you want to compete, perform, build, or explore.

Daily life is rich and engaging, shaped by your interests and goals. You'll be supported by House Parents and Academic Pastoral Heads, but also trusted to take ownership of your choices. Help and guidance are always available, but we believe in your ability to grow and thrive.

As one student put it: "Boarding is all about all the things you can do." We couldn't agree more—and we can't wait to see what you'll do next!



Gordon WILSON



Yewande AJALA



Antonio MONTES

Activities and clubs



At Collège du Léman, we believe in a balanced lifestyle and have therefore developed a wide range of activities throughout the year, including weekend programmes, cultural and educational trips during holidays, and city excursions.

From water sports and indoor activities to photography, art, and excursions around the Geneva area, we aim to give students opportunities to stay active, connect with others, develop new skills, and most importantly, enjoy themselves while doing so. Our clubs and student committees play an important role in developing character and life skills such as commitment, leadership, communication, and teamwork.

Our location near Geneva offers privileged access to rich cultural institutions such as the Red Cross Museum, CERN, and the United Nations, as well as Lake Geneva, where students can enjoy a variety of water sports, including sailing, wakeboarding, and paddleboarding.

Students are strongly encouraged to make the most of these opportunities through our extensive Lake Geneva Programme.

Our Clubs:

- Art
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Boxing
- Climbing
- Music
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Woodwork
- Drama
- Debate
- Golf
- Hip Hop
- Horse Riding

Rogerio Rodrigues, Activity Coordinator



Educational Trips: Expanding Horizons Beyond the Classroom



We offer a well-rounded education that goes far beyond the classroom, giving your child transformative experiences, exceptional opportunities, and the values, skills, and confidence to embrace their future.

Immersive trips and adventures are a vital part of our educational philosophy. Whether it's exploring Switzerland's breathtaking landscapes, immersing themselves in the rich cultures of European capitals, honing their skills on the ski slopes, enjoying thrilling moments in Europe's amusement parks, or embarking on unforgettable overseas adventures, our carefully curated trips go beyond traditional travel. They are designed to foster personal growth, cultivate lasting friendships, nurture a global perspective, and help your child embrace cultural diversity while developing a deep appreciation for the world around them.

For details regarding the 2026-2027 Trips Programme, please consult the Trips Booklet. We invite you to explore the wide range of enriching travel opportunities available this year.

Our trips:

- Tanzania Expedition
- Adriatic Experience
- Italy Experience
- Barcelona
- Paris
- Porto
- Athens
- Crans-Montana Ski Week Lucerne & Mount Pilatus
- Zermatt & the Matterhorn
- Ticino & Lugano Region
- Europa Park
- Disneyland Paris

“ Jambo Tanzania!

Apollo – Grade 11 student

This Easter break, we set off on an exciting adventure to Tanzania. During our first week, we joined students from other Nord Anglia schools and took part in meaningful community projects, helping build a school and goat sheds, and installing solar lighting. Knowing our efforts made a real difference was truly rewarding.

The adventure continued with a safari, where we came within five metres of a wild lion! It was also a wonderful opportunity to make new friendships and share experiences with students from around the world.

Our second week brought a well-earned rest on the beaches of Zanzibar. After the busy first week, we enjoyed exploring local history, connecting with the community, and celebrating everything we had achieved. The Tanzania trip is a memorable life experience that will stay with us for years to come.



Youth development programme: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

After several years on pause, Collège du Léman is proud to reintroduce the The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award as part of the wide range of opportunities available to our students.

This internationally recognised programme encourages young people to challenge themselves through experiences centred on Physical Recreation, Skills, Voluntary Service, and an expedition component. Participants receive progressive training that develops independence, leadership, teamwork, and resilience.

Open to both boarding and day students, the Award provides a valuable framework for personal growth beyond the classroom. Through sustained participation, students develop essential life skills such as responsibility, organisation, communication, perseverance, and self-confidence.

The programme requires commitment, consistency, and motivation over an extended period and may not be suitable for every student. However, for those willing to embrace the challenge, it can be an exceptionally rewarding experience, both personally and academically.

Highly respected worldwide, the Award is recognised by many universities and higher education institutions as evidence of initiative, leadership, long-term commitment, and well-rounded development. Participation can therefore strengthen university applications while equipping students with practical and interpersonal skills that will benefit them well beyond school.



Xavier Benenaula
Experiential Learning
Coordinator

Student Voice

Student voice means students actively contributing to school life by sharing their views, concerns, and ideas, and helping shape decisions that affect the community.

Through our committees, we encourage students to develop:

- A voice in the community
- Teamwork and leadership skills
- A sense of belonging in decision-making
- Opportunities to contribute meaningfully
- Experience in collaboration
- Evidence of leadership for university or future work

Our committees meet at least once a month and work on specific projects throughout the year.

Dining Hall Committee

This committee meets monthly and with the kitchen team once a term. Students discuss food choice and quality, provide constructive feedback, and help organise International Dinners. Open to all ages.

House Representatives

House Representatives are spokespeople for their Houses. They gather student opinions and work closely with House Parents and the Student Voice lead. Open to all grades.

House Captains

House Captains are senior students who support House Parents, encourage participation in House competitions, and uphold the values of RISE. They show leadership, school spirit, and strong organisational skills.

Inside Boarding Magazine

This club is run by students who enjoy writing and sharing boarding life experiences. They write about trips, friendships, events, and daily routines for the online magazine, which is shared with families and the wider school community.

Inclusion Society

The Inclusion Society is a student-led committee that promotes respect, belonging, and inclusion. Through dedicated sub-groups, students raise awareness, celebrate diversity, and create initiatives that build understanding and connection.

Charity Committee

The Charity Committee is made up of students committed to service and helping others. Members organise charity events, support school charities, and inspire peers to make a positive difference. Open to all students who want to contribute meaningfully.

Prefects

Prefects are Grade 12 students who act as role models and ambassadors for the student body. They are selected for their behaviour, responsibility, leadership, initiative, and commitment to the school's values. Prefects meet weekly with the Director of Boarding.

A message from our Extracurricular Department



At Collège du Léman, extracurricular activities are an essential part of student wellbeing and holistic education. Boarding students commit to their chosen activities for at least one semester, with the option to change at the end of Semester 1. These choices help create a balanced routine that supports interests, wellbeing, and academic commitments.

The programme includes sports, arts, clubs, and leadership opportunities. House Parents and the Extracurricular Team help students choose activities that match their interests while meeting the weekly requirements:

- Grade 5-6: 4 activities/week
- Grade 7: 3 activities/week
- Grade 8-10: 2 activities/week
- Grade 11: 1 activity/week
- Grade 12: Open choice

Sign-up takes place twice a year. Before arrival, families receive guidance from the Extracurricular Department and House Parents. If summer registration is not completed, House Parents will help students finalise choices during their first week on campus.

Please note: **Attendance is mandatory.** Activities support students' emotional, social, and physical development, and are an important part of boarding life. They also connect boarders with the wider CDL community, helping them build friendships, global awareness, and intercultural understanding

Romolo Calvini
Extracurricular Senior Manager



A message from our Camps Department



At Collège du Léman, the Camps and Boarding Departments work closely together throughout the year to deliver exciting Winter and Summer programmes.

The Orientation Weekend is the first of our Boarding Mountain Weekends, designed to help boarders create memories, learn new skills in the mountains, and connect with fellow students and staff.

During winter, students and staff take part in several weekends in the Swiss Alps. These trips give beginners the chance to try skiing or snowboarding, while more advanced students can develop their skills and enjoy traditional Swiss resorts. Not a keen skier or snowboarder? Our non-skier programme offers a range of winter activities, including curling, ice-skating, snowshoeing, dog sledding, and more.

These weekends are an important part of boarding life at CDL, creating unique experiences and lasting memories.

Claire Rocheteau
Camps Manager

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One of the most impressive things I have experienced is the magnificent scenery of Swiss ski resorts. I have snowboarded in many popular resorts around the world, but nothing compares to Switzerland. I will never forget how I felt when I first visited Crans-Montana, the resort where Collège du Léman boarders travel each winter. It is truly one of the most valuable experiences you will have during boarding life.

Kotaro – Grade 12 student



Keeping you healthy and safe



Our Wellbeing Programme

At Collège du Léman, we prioritise student wellbeing through our comprehensive Wellbeing Programme. Boarding gives us time beyond school hours to support each student's holistic wellbeing. Wellbeing is integrated into every aspect of school life.

In Boarding, we take our responsibility for students' safety and social, emotional, and physical wellbeing seriously. Dedicated House Parents mentor and guide each student, supporting them through challenges at different developmental stages.

Our CDL Wellbeing Programme explores essential topics such as sleep, nutrition, exercise, emotional regulation, relationships, and online safety. House Parents and students engage in activities linked to these themes, encouraging personal growth, open discussion, reflection, and collaboration through individual and community projects.

The Wellbeing programme is structured around five pillars:

Healthy Minds and Bodies

Protecting against Bullying and Respecting Diversity

Building Positive Friendships

Online Safety

Making Safe and Responsible Choices

These pillars guide our work throughout the year, helping students take ownership of their wellbeing. Supported by the caring presence of our dedicated Boarding team, led by House Parents, students deepen their understanding of what it takes to flourish and thrive.

Embracing the Role of Wellbeing Advocates

Our Boarding students have a unique opportunity to take on the role of Wellbeing Advocates, which is essential for fostering a positive and supportive community.

Each of the five pillars is overseen by a staff advocate, responsible for developing content, delivering materials, and coordinating initiatives and events.

Experience has shown us that student participation is essential to the success of our Wellbeing Programme. As a Student Wellbeing Advocate, you will help select relevant themes for each pillar and suggest strategies to ensure our community benefits from the discussions, activities, information, and knowledge shared.

This role supports your growth and resilience while contributing to a compassionate school culture, preparing you to become an empathetic leader beyond school.

Parental Engagement: Our Collaborative Approach

Communication and collaboration with parents are vital in encouraging students to prioritise their wellbeing. Each pillar is explored over 4 to 6 weeks, and at the end of each semester, families receive a detailed Wellbeing report alongside the Academic report.

This approach keeps parents involved in their child's holistic development and wellbeing journey. We value feedback and encourage parents to discuss wellbeing matters directly with the Boarding team.

Salvatore Politano, Deputy Head of Boarding

A message from our Boarding Counsellor



To fully enjoy a rich and successful education we believe every student should be emotionally, socially, personally, and academically guided and supported. As Collège du Léman is a holistic education system, his support is part of the educational programme and is free of charge.

The dedicated Boarding Counsellor works closely with House Parents, the Pastoral Team, and academic staff to create a personalised network of care. This includes regular check-ins, one-on-one sessions, wellbeing surveys, interactive workshops, and house visits—tailored to support each age group.

Focused on both prevention and guidance, the Counsellor helps students navigate challenges like stress, motivation, friendships, and emotional wellbeing. Support is available five days a week, including Sundays and selected evenings, ensuring students always have someone to turn to.

We are here to listen, guide, and empower every student to thrive—both in school and beyond.



Vasiliki Ekoutsidou
Boarding Counsellor



Our Health Centre



The School Health Centre supports student wellbeing and is open from 07:30 to 18:00 on weekdays. Our qualified nurses and assistants care for students who feel unwell, carry out general health checks, and provide a comfortable place to rest.

If a student is unwell, they will remain in the Health Centre for the day. Phones, MacBooks, and iPads should not be used to ensure proper rest. Parents will always be contacted if their child spends time in the Health Centre.

Our school doctor is available on Tuesdays, and we work closely with trusted local doctors who support us daily as needed. Outside Health Centre hours, House Parents will seek medical advice and arrange a doctor's visit if necessary. If hospital care is recommended, House Parents will ensure the student receives appropriate support.

The Health Centre also coordinates optician, dental, physiotherapy, and other appointments. Please note that optical and dental care are not covered by the student insurance plan. For safety reasons, all medication must be managed through the Health Centre. No medication may be brought to school without a prescription or without informing House Parents. We kindly ask families to keep us updated on any health matters, especially after illnesses during school holidays, so we can provide the best possible care.



General health and safety



Health and safety are discussed regularly during House meetings, where staff and students review important matters and identify areas for improvement. Boarders are encouraged to remain aware of health and safety issues and to help maintain a safe, healthy environment for everyone. Regular checks are carried out to identify potential hazards, and appropriate action is taken to address them or make students aware of any risks.

Safe & Sound

The majority of House Parents, Residential Tutors, and Residential Boarding Assistants are first-aid trained.

Notable safety expectations include:

- No knives may be kept in rooms.
- No matches, lighters, fuel, candles, or other flammable materials may be kept in rooms.
- Electrical sockets must not be overloaded. A maximum of one four-socket extension cable is allowed per room.
- Boarders must take care around open windows and balconies and must not lean or hang out of them.
- No medication may be brought to school without a prescription.

Fire / Intruder alarms

All Houses are fitted with systems that alert staff and students in the event of fire or unauthorised entry. Fire safety equipment is checked and maintained regularly, and full House fire drills take place throughout the year. Students who join late are taken individually through the evacuation procedure.

All students must follow fire alarm protocols. Failure to do so will have serious consequences. A panic button is located in the reception area for emergencies.

Always act when you hear the Fire Alarms!

General health and safety

Security:

Boarding Houses are accessible only to students and staff through an electronic key system. Students receive a personal key, and replacements incur a charge. Final Year students may be granted independent House access with parental permission, depending on academic performance and behaviour.

Students must submit passports and Swiss residence permits to the Boarding Office for safekeeping. We also strongly recommend giving travel tickets and other important documents to House Parents. All items are stored securely in the House or School safe and can be retrieved upon request.

For safety reasons, students should not keep large amounts of cash. A strict limit of CHF 200 applies to cash held in room safes. Students are encouraged to use the school's pocket money system for day-to-day needs.

Students are expected to follow common-sense security practices, respect personal and school property, safeguard their belongings, and never take items without permission.

Electronic signing in and out:

Students are not allowed to leave campus except during designated free time, with permission from their House Parent. House Staff are responsible for ensuring student safety. The following guidelines help maintain a clear overview at all times:

- Students' whereabouts are known during the regular school day, including lessons, activities, and school events. Outside these times, students must inform their relevant House Parent of their movements using the House signing-out system.

- Each Boarding House is equipped with an electronic signing-out system. Boarders are expected to use it to inform the House of their whereabouts. Failure to do so may result in consequences, such as restricted movement outside the Boarding House.
- Interaction between Boarding Houses is encouraged, but visiting students of the opposite gender are not permitted outside common social areas under any circumstances.
- All visiting students should sign in and out of another Boarding House and obtain permission from the House Parents in advance.
- Guests, including immediate family members, should obtain permission from the House Parents in advance if they are likely to enter the Boarding House.

Telephones:

All students are required to have a Swiss SIM card, which can be obtained with our team's assistance upon arrival. Telephones are everyday tools and can be important for school communication, family and friends, and safety and security. As long as they are used responsibly, telephones are permitted in the Boarding Houses. However, they should not be used during study hall, mealtimes, or after lights out. Failure to follow the telephone rules will result in temporary withdrawal of telephone privileges, as determined by House Parents or duty staff.

General health and safety

Computers:

The use of computers in the Boarding House is subject to the Acceptable Use Policy for School Computers stated in the School Rules & Disciplinary Section.

Vehicles:

Boarding students may ride bicycles in line with their off-campus permissions. Helmets must be worn at all times when cycling. Bicycles must be parked in designated areas. Electric scooters, mopeds, motorcycles, and cars are not permitted. Students must never travel in cars driven by other students.

Weekend Curfew Times:

All boarding students must return to campus by the specified times and remain on campus for the rest of the night:
All students must be back on campus by 18:30, except Prefects with special arrangements.

Friday	Grades 9, 10 - 20:30	Grades 11, 12 - 21:30
Saturday & Sunday	18:30	

On weekends and after holidays, all students must check in with the duty team upon returning to campus.

Privacy:

A student's House is their home at Collège du Léman, and boarding students are expected to respect the privacy of others. Students should not enter another student's room without an invitation, should always knock on the door before entering, and should only enter when given permission to do so.

Electrical Appliances:

To ensure safety, heaters, fans, cooking appliances, refrigerators, televisions, and sun lamps are not permitted in rooms. Students must consult House Parents before purchasing any item that may be prohibited from being kept in their room.

Cooking:

Students are encouraged to cook at mutually agreed reasonable times, in coordination with House Staff, using the resources available in the House kitchen. Students must seek permission before cooking and follow the safety guidelines provided by House Parents during induction.



Boarding life: Your living space



Your House

Our Boarding Houses offer excellent facilities, each with its own feel and character suited to the students who live there. Room standards are high, though sizes and configurations vary depending on the style and layout of each building.

In their rooms, students have a bed, desk and study chair (except Primary), storage space for books, clothes, and personal items, a fan, a lockable cupboard or drawer (padlock required), a combination safe for valuables, a bedside light, a laundry box, and internet access.

All rooms have toilet and shower facilities close by, and many enjoy wonderful views. Students are paired with a roommate. Sharing a room builds important personal skills and enhances the boarding experience. We therefore do not offer individual rooms, except in exceptional circumstances.

House Parents allocate roommates carefully, considering a range of factors and consulting boarders where appropriate. Requests to change rooms will only be considered where a safety or wellbeing issue is raised.

Students are encouraged to make their rooms feel homely while respecting the surroundings and style of each House. House Parents will guide students accordingly. Any wilful damage to the student's area, including furniture and walls, will be billed to students.

Communal areas

All Houses have generous communal spaces where boarders can socialise, play games, or watch films. Boys may not enter girls' Houses, and girls may not enter boys' Houses, except with House Parent permission and only in communal areas.

These spaces are also used for House assemblies and informal gatherings. Communal areas include spaces and facilities on campus, as well as the fitness room and sports areas.

Boarding life: Your daily routine

Weekday timings

07:00	Wake up
07:30	Breakfast
08:20	Lessons
12:30	Lunch (time depends on grade)
15:50	End of classes
16:15	Activity 1
17:35	Activity 2
18:30	Dinner - Juniors
18:55	Dinner - Seniors
19:30	Social Hour
20:45	Curfew & Study Hall
21:30	Quiet time
21:30	Lights Out (time depends on grade)

Weekend timings

The weekend routine is more relaxed, with timings adjusted according to planned events, activities, workload, and exams.

House Assemblies and Monthly Boarding Assemblies

At Collège du Léman, House Assemblies and Monthly Boarding Assemblies help strengthen our sense of community and belonging.

House Assemblies usually take place on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, giving students and staff a regular opportunity to meet within their house groups. These meetings are used to share updates, discuss relevant topics, prepare for events, and celebrate house successes.

Once a month, the Monthly Boarding Assembly brings together all boarding houses. Held on the first Wednesday of each month, this larger gathering highlights key moments in the boarding calendar and promotes unity across the broader boarding community.

Both assemblies provide meaningful leadership opportunities for students — whether through presenting on a subject of interest, leading discussions, or performing artistic pieces in front of their peers. These moments help build confidence and nurture a sense of pride and ownership in our shared boarding life.

More than just meetings, these assemblies are a celebration of community, voice, and the diverse talents that make boarding at CDL such a unique experience.



Boarding life: Know your boundaries

Out of Bounds, Curfews, and Lake Safety

At Collège du Léman, boarders are trusted to stay within the school boundaries as outlined in the Student and Parent Handbook. After school, boarders are free to sign out but must remain within these limits.

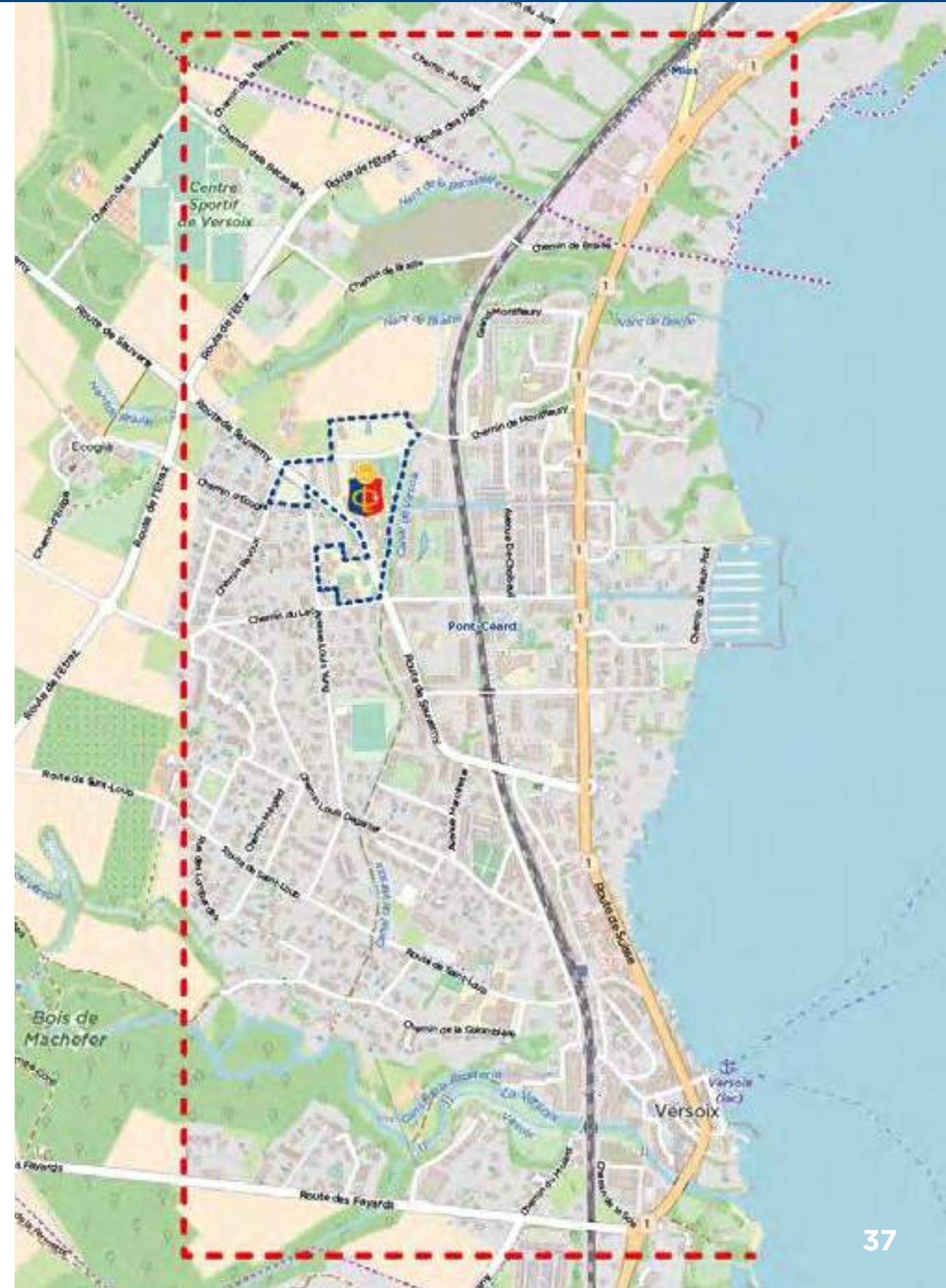
On Friday evenings or Saturday afternoons, boarders from Grade 9 upwards may go to Geneva with the permission of their House Parents. Primary School and Middle School boarders may only go into Geneva when accompanied by an adult. High School students are allowed to go into Versoix once they have signed out with their House Parent.

Please note that all areas outside the dotted red line on the map — including all water — are strictly out of bounds. Anywhere within the dotted red line is within the local area allowed when signing out to Versoix, but asking permission and signing out remain compulsory at all times.

Swimming in the lake without supervision is strictly forbidden.

To ensure your safety while enjoying the water, we organise many activities by the lake through our Lake Programme. This allows you to fully enjoy the lake in a safe and supervised environment. Additionally, we endeavour to keep the campus pool open for as long as the weather permits, providing another safe place to swim.

It is important that you know where you can go and always respect these boundaries. The map opposite shows the 'local' area we consider safe and allowed. For any trips further afield, you must obtain specific permission from both your parents and House Parents.



Boarding life: Practical information and services

Pocket Money

At the start of the school year, or upon arrival, secondary students receive a debit card loaded weekly with pocket money. The card can be used in shops and to withdraw cash at ATMs. Pocket money is issued by the Accounts Office, and parents should deposit funds with the School for this purpose.

If students occasionally need extra money for a special purchase, please contact the House Parent. Students, regardless of age, may not withdraw or keep large amounts of money. As all basic expenses are covered by the School, spending money is strictly regulated. We ask parents to support this by keeping to the recommended weekly amount.

Pocket money per grade:

Primary	50 CHF
Grade 6	70 CHF
Grade 7	80 CHF
Grade 8	90 CHF
Grade 9 & 10	150 CHF
Grade 11 & 12	200 CHF

Laundry Services

We provide a complimentary laundry service for school and personal items, allowing students to have their clothes and belongings cleaned regularly. House Parents and Senior Students are available to help new students understand the laundry system and answer any questions.

All Boarding Houses have washing machines and dryers, which students can use with House Staff supervision and support. Each boarder receives one laundry box for personal items, to be placed in the designated collection area. Two laundry cycles operate each week, with collection and return times provided. Students must complete a laundry slip listing the contents of their laundry box to help ensure safe return. School bed linen is changed every two weeks.

While every effort is made to care for students' belongings, the School cannot be responsible for items that are lost, damaged, or shrink during laundering. Missing-item requests will be sent to our laundry provider, but recovery or reimbursement cannot be guaranteed.

Naming Personal Items

All personal items must be named, including socks, shoes, and bags. Experience tells us that students can misplace almost anything, but named items are usually returned quickly. Clothes should be labelled with sewn-in name tapes or permanent pen.

Lost Property and Insurance

Most lost property is collected and stored in a designated place. If an item is genuinely lost, students should report it to their House Parent, and reasonable steps will be taken to find it. However, neither the House nor the School can be responsible for losses on the premises. Parents are advised to arrange "all risk" insurance for valuable items. Students must use safes and lockable areas for expensive belongings.

Pets

Boarders may not keep pets of any kind in Boarding Houses.

Boarding life: Practical information and services

Access to Houses

Boarding Houses have specific daytime access guidelines. Only Grade 11 and 12 students may return to the Houses after 10:00 am during a private study period, provided they have House Parent permission and maintain good academic standing. For all other students, the Houses are closed during the school day. Access during this time is exceptional and requires management authorisation.

Evening Study Hall

Boarding students in Grades 9 to 12 who have shown they can study independently may complete evening study on their own. Students who have not yet reached this level will attend supervised study hall.

A quiet environment must be maintained during evening study to support focused work. Movement should be avoided during this time. Parents should note that phone calls to students are not permitted during evening study, as they may disrupt concentration and academic progress.

Electronic Devices

Every student is issued an iPad for schoolwork. Grades 11 and 12 are also provided with a MacBook Air. Personal computers, iPads, and similar devices are not permitted in school, subject to the conditions set out in the Acceptable User Policy.

Email

Each student receives an official School email address, which they are expected to check at least once a day. This account is used by the academic team, administrative departments, and Boarding team for important announcements and updates.

House and Social Events

Each Boarding House generally holds one social event per term, giving the whole House time together in a relaxed setting away from school. Past events have included meals out, cinema trips, ice-skating, bowling, and water park visits.

Every Wednesday, House Assembly provides time to discuss important matters, general notices, and administration. Some assemblies are led by House Parents, others by students. Educational activities and discussions linked to the Wellbeing Programme also enrich students' weekly schedules.

Package Deliveries

While the School accepts deliveries on behalf of students, we do not encourage regular use of this service. The School cannot accept responsibility for lost, delayed, or missing items.

We strongly discourage students from buying expensive items online, as we cannot ensure the security of such deliveries.



Boarding life: Practical information and services

Structure, Support, and Responsibility in Boarding

Joining the boarding community means becoming part of a structured, caring environment that gives students clarity, consistency, safety, and belonging. Routines and expectations are clearly communicated, including during a pre-arrival video call with House Staff, so students arrive informed and ready to adapt.

We expect students to engage positively and embrace punctuality, room tidiness, and respectful communication. At the same time, we recognise that each student is unique. House Parents provide ongoing support and guidance, with flexibility where appropriate to help students grow into their responsibilities.

Above all, we want students to respect the rules, and us, not out of fear, but because they understand that our expectations come from genuine care for their wellbeing, happiness, and personal development.



The Disciplinary System

The boarding community functions best when everyone feels safe, respected, and supported. To foster this, we have a clear disciplinary system guided by our House values. These values support respectful behaviour and help students reflect on the impact of their actions.

Our priority is to create a positive, encouraging atmosphere, and we approach discipline with empathy and educational purpose. However, when students consistently behave inappropriately, they may be placed on a Boarding Level, a structured framework of escalating consequences and support.

Level 1 – Managed by House Staff. This involves a clear discussion and mild consequences, such as additional duties or a written reflection.

Level 2 – Managed by the Deputy Head of Boarding. Parents are informed, and the student may face more significant restrictions, such as earlier bedtime, limited social movement, or community service.

Level 3 – Involves a meeting with the Director of Boarding. Consequences may include suspension from boarding as a minimum, with parents expected to supervise the student during this time.

Each level includes restricted privileges to support behavioural change through reflection and accountability. If a student does not respond positively, more serious measures, including expulsion, may be considered. These steps are rare and used only when necessary.

Boarding life: Expectations for students

Respectful Behaviour

In our diverse international community, we uphold respect, kindness, and acceptance. Students are expected to treat peers, teachers, staff, and the school environment with respect, show good manners, and avoid disruptive or disrespectful behaviour. We reject all forms of violence, racism, and discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or any other characteristic.

Academic Commitment

Students are expected to approach their studies with dedication and commitment. This includes completing assignments on time, participating actively in class, and striving for their personal best in all academic work.

Attendance and Punctuality

Students are expected to be in the right place at the right time, both in class and in the House. Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for academic success and a positive learning environment. Students must arrive on time for all classes, activities, and events.

Personal Hygiene and Appearance

Personal hygiene is a basic but important part of boarding life. Boarders are expected to shower daily, and more often after physical activity. Clothes should be clean and tidy, and students are responsible for using the school laundry system once shown how. Students should maintain a neat, appropriate appearance and follow the school dress code.

Sleep

Sufficient, quality sleep is essential for students' health and wellbeing. Students are expected to establish regular sleep patterns and prioritise rest. To support this, they should avoid electronic devices or activities that may disrupt sleep. We closely monitor and promote healthy sleep habits.

Healthy Nutrition

We place strong emphasis on a balanced, nutritious diet to support wellbeing and academic performance. Students are expected to make healthy food choices. We closely monitor processed and unhealthy foods, such as fast food, sugary snacks, and high-fat snacks, to ensure students follow our guidelines.

Room Tidiness

Students are expected to keep the House, especially their own spaces, tidy, clean, and orderly. Beds should be made, clothes stored correctly, personal items put away, and floors kept clear for Housekeeping staff. While House cleaners focus on cleanliness and hygiene, boarders must organise their belongings thoughtfully. Room inspections take place regularly, with at least one thorough inspection each week. This may include checking areas where clothes and belongings are often hidden. Restrictions may apply to students who repeatedly fail to meet House standards.

Active Life

Students are expected to participate in the many opportunities available at school, including physical activities, sports, committees, arts and cultural activities, events, charities, and community service. These experiences support personal development and a balanced lifestyle.

Boarding life: Expectations for students

Integrity

Upholding honesty, respect, and ethical behaviour is fundamental within our Boarding community. Academic integrity, including avoiding plagiarism and cheating, is strongly emphasised. A culture of trust and integrity is cultivated among students.

Respect for Property

Vandalism or any form of damage to school property will not be tolerated under any circumstances, and parents will be billed for any damages incurred. Theft is considered entirely incompatible with the values of our community and may result in severe disciplinary action, including potential expulsion.

Health and Safety

Maintaining a safe and healthy environment is everyone's responsibility. Students should adhere to safety guidelines, follow proper hygiene practices, and report any health or safety concerns to the appropriate school staff.

House Duties

While the Boarding Houses have dedicated cleaning personnel on a daily basis, students are also expected to contribute to the cleanliness and maintenance of their House. Participating in House chores fosters a sense of respect and pride in their living environment. Each duty is designed to be completed within a maximum of 10 minutes, except for kitchen duty, which may require a bit more time. Responsibilities include tidying up their own room every morning, making their bed, emptying bins during the weekend, and assisting with recycling efforts, among others. These tasks contribute to the overall cleanliness and wellbeing of the Boarding House and instil a sense of responsibility among students.

Collaboration and Cooperation

We emphasise the importance of building positive relationships and working effectively with others to create a supportive and inclusive school community. Students are expected to actively collaborate, cooperate, and demonstrate teamwork in all school-related activities. It is crucial for students to accept guidance and support from House Parents and staff members, recognising the vital role they play in ensuring their safety and wellbeing.

Decorations

Students may decorate their rooms within the bounds of decency and good taste, ensuring no damage is caused. They are responsible for any repairs needed due to damage incurred during the year.



Boarding life: Expectations for students

Digital Wellbeing & Phone Policy

We help students develop a healthy, balanced relationship with technology. We recognise that the online world offers opportunities for learning, connection, and creativity. As digital environments evolve, so does the need for wisdom, self-awareness, and responsible use.

Screen Time & Online Safety

We carefully monitor screen time to ensure it does not interfere with sleep, physical activity, or social life. Our online safety programme teaches respect, good choices, and emotional intelligence alongside technical skills. Gaming is permitted only during designated social times, and access to inappropriate content is strictly prohibited. Social media use is monitored wherever possible to help maintain a safe digital space.

Mobile Phone Policy

To foster focus, meaningful connections, and a supportive school community, all Secondary students, Middle School, High School, and Section Secondaire, follow a phone-free school day from 08:00 to 15:50. Phones and personal electronics must remain out of sight and on silent during school hours, stored safely in lockers or bags, not pockets.

- Phones are allowed only for travel to and from school, though discouraged for local students.
- Confiscation consequences apply for rule violations and increase with repeated offences.
- Smartwatches are allowed only as timepieces; misuse leads to confiscation.
- Listening to music with earphones on laptops or iPads during study is permitted.
- Medical exemptions require a doctor's note.
- Emergency contact is always available via the school office.

Boarding & Phone Use

Boarding students' wellbeing is a priority, particularly regarding sleep and social interaction. To support this:

- Students in Grades 6–9 must hand in electronic devices to House Parents at bedtime.
- Phones must remain in the boarding house and are not permitted during the school day.
- Grade 10 students may keep devices overnight, but phones must remain in the boarding house during school hours.
- Grades 11–12 students are expected to follow general boarding rules on responsible and respectful phone use, especially around bedtime. Specific restrictions may apply in individual cases based on wellbeing or behavioural concerns.
- Study hours are strictly phone-free to encourage focus.

We recognise the needs of international students communicating across time zones, and exceptions may be granted case by case. Parents can always reach their child through the House Parent's Office or boarding phone in emergencies or urgent situations. This policy balances connection with healthy habits, better rest, and full engagement in school life.

Why this matters

Research shows that phones in school reduce attention and disrupt learning. By reducing screen distractions, we encourage face-to-face interaction, promote wellbeing, and create fair, consistent expectations across our community.

Boarding life: Expectations for students

Meals

Meals are an important part of boarding life, offering time to connect and share the day. Students are expected to attend all meals, except where specific permission is granted for certain weekend meals with House Parents.

Breakfast, dinner, and all weekend meals are taken in the Leman Dining Room, while weekday lunches are served on campus alongside day students.

Nutrition helps students perform at their best, so our restaurants provide a healthy, balanced, varied menu with multiple options at each service. All meals follow strict Swiss hygiene regulations, are regularly inspected, and follow nutritional guidelines in coordination with a nutritionist.

Students are expected to arrive on time, dress appropriately, including showering after physical activity when necessary, and show good table manners. They are also expected to clear their tables and leave dining areas tidy. Each table includes a designated space for staff supervision.

Take-away Meals

Take-away meals are permitted but strictly regulated. While meals are generally compulsory, Grades 11 and 12 may, where appropriate, occasionally miss dinner if they have shown responsibility and good conduct, and this supports their academic and activity schedule.

With easy access to ordering platforms, students may be tempted by unhealthy meals. We ask families to support school meals, where quality and balance are ensured.

Mealtime Expectations

- Please take at least 20 minutes to sit and enjoy your meal.
- Please be respectful to others in the dining hall, including staff and students.
- Take what you like to eat, but be mindful of waste.
- Please disconnect from screens and headphones and enjoy the company of others.
- Please remove coats, hats, and hoods while inside.
- Please clear your tray, and leave all crockery and cutlery in the dining hall.



Boarding life: Learner profiles

Study Hall Expectations

In the Boarding community at Collège du Léman, we recognise that each student has a unique approach to learning. While students progress in different ways, we expect all students to recognise the privilege of education and strive to do their best. This does not necessarily mean achieving top grades, but demonstrating motivation, effort, and commitment. We also recognise that students require different levels of support as they develop. For this reason, we reward students who show they can manage their learning independently while maintaining a healthy balance beyond academics.

Within the Boarding community, High School and Section Secondaire students are assigned one of three learner statuses based on their motivation and autonomy:

Independent Learner Status

Students demonstrate an awareness of the need to do their best without reminders. They never fail to hand in homework, nor do they underestimate the importance of Formative and Summative assignments. They are organised, punctual to class, and never skip lessons. Their grades reflect their organisation, motivation, and effort. They never miss activities they have committed to.

Standard Learner Status

This category includes the majority of our students. Students demonstrate a general awareness of the need to do their best but require reminders, particularly in some subjects. They generally hand in homework, but sometimes underestimate the importance of Formative and Summative assignments. They are still punctual to class and never skip lessons. Their grades reflect their organisation, motivation, and effort.

Structured Learner Status

This category of students requires support and structure to do their best. Without this support, they may hand in homework late or to an unacceptable standard. They need reminders about the importance of Formative and Summative assignments. In short, they require additional guidance to demonstrate the expected level of motivation toward their studies.

The Boarding Academic Team reviews student status five times a year following Student Performance Review meetings and formal academic reports. Students may move between the three statuses according to the work habits they demonstrate. Students cannot move up between review dates, but they may be moved down at any time if they fail to meet the expectations of their current status.

Study Hall Expectations

Independent Learner: Students are free to choose when and where to work, respecting normal bedtime expectations.

Standard Learner: Students must follow the study hall guidelines, though they may do this in their own rooms.

Structured Learner: Students must follow the study hall guidelines in a supervised classroom environment.

Please note that all new students, when they first arrive, will be assumed to be Standard Learners.

Boarding life: Parent meetings

Your child's progress

House Parents are readily available for open and honest communication with parents at any time. In addition to regular contact, we recognise the importance of ongoing dialogue and are pleased to offer a formal opportunity to receive Wellbeing feedback about your child twice a year.

These sessions complement Parent-Teacher meetings focused on academic feedback and provide an opportunity to discuss your child's non-academic experience at Collège du Léman.

To support these conversations, we hold two online Parent Boarding meetings each year using Microsoft Teams. Each session lasts 10 minutes and covers key aspects of student life beyond academics, including adaptation and connection, activity participation, general wellbeing, resilience, and growth mindset.

We believe these video conferences provide a valuable opportunity for meaningful discussion about your child's progress. Our aim is to maintain open, transparent communication and work together to support their overall development.

Please note:

- Two video calls are scheduled each academic year, one per semester.
- Dates will be shared at the start of the school year to allow for early planning.
- These calls take place a couple of weeks after Parent-Teacher Consultations, which focus on academic progress, to ensure a clear distinction between the two types of meetings.



Boarding life: Academics and parent teacher consultation

Academics, Reports, and Private Lessons

On arrival, your child will receive their timetable. All lessons, including Physical Education, are compulsory. Absences are closely monitored, and persistent or unjustified absence may result in serious consequences, including ineligibility to receive credit or progress to the next grade level.

Academic reports are issued at the end of each semester. At Collège du Léman, we are committed to supporting each student's academic progress. The school uses its internal information system, ITSLearning, where parents can access reports, grades, holidays, and the school directory. Login details are provided at the start of the school year.

ITSLearning also provides real-time access to academic progress and grades. If additional support is required, supervised homework support sessions are available. Private tutoring can also be arranged at an additional cost through the House Parent. Parent-Teacher meetings are organised through an online booking system, and all new parents receive login details by email.

Parent-Teacher Consultation Days

This is a special opportunity for parents to speak to teachers by appointment. We strongly encourage all parents to book online meetings to discuss their child's academic progress directly with teachers.

These meetings are scheduled on:

Friday 6 November 2026

Tuesday 9 March 2027

Should you wish to attend one or both Parent-Teacher meetings during the academic year, the online portal allows you to book a suitable time slot with subject teachers. You will be informed by email when reservations open.

We understand that some parents may not be able to attend in person. In such cases, House Parents closely monitor academic progress throughout the year and will arrange follow-up meetings where necessary.

For questions regarding the booking process or timings, please contact: boarding@cdl.ch. If you experience technical difficulties accessing the portal, please contact: help@cdl.ch



Boarding life: *Exeats* and family visits

Boarding House Visits and Parent Access

Parents, guardians, and family friends are encouraged to visit the Boarding Houses during the daytime. Unless it is an emergency, please contact the House Parent beforehand so visits do not interfere with House routines or compromise security.

Parents have the right to talk to or visit their child at any time, but we kindly ask that visits are scheduled around timetabled events such as mealtimes and study hall to minimise disruption.

Planned Absence / Authorised Leave

(Exeats: a period of time away from school)

If you plan to take your child out of school, please confirm arrangements with the House Parents by email, giving sufficient notice whenever possible.

Boarders may leave on some weekends if they have no school commitments or extracurricular activities. Authorised absence may also be granted during the week for medical appointments or family commitments. School commitments are published in advance on the school website. Parents wishing for their child to leave school during a normal weekend should inform the House Parents and submit the request via **the REACH app** by Wednesday evening. All requests must be completed through the app to obtain permission to leave campus.

For absences during the school week, such as exceptional family occasions, parents should notify the House Parents by email at least one week in advance. This allows the relevant Principal to grant permission. Requests without reasonable validity will be unauthorised.

Early departures or delayed returns after holidays are strongly discouraged, as they can affect academic progress and adaptation to school life.



Boarding life: *Exeats* and family visits

Exeat Requests: Procedures and Guidelines

Boarding students may request an exeat, permission to leave campus for a weekend or short period. Approval is subject to conditions that ensure student safety and wellbeing while maintaining our educational and behavioural expectations.

Key Conditions for Approval

Frequency: In general, House Parents authorise one exeat per month.

Eligibility: To be granted an exeat, students must:

- Be in good disciplinary standing.
- Be up to date with academic and study hall commitments.
- Have submitted all required exeat documentation on time.

Required Documentation

To request an exeat, the following must be submitted:

Completed Exeat Form via REACH App

Must include destination, name and contact details of the host or responsible adult, mode of transport, and departure and return times. Submit no later than Wednesday morning for a weekend exeat.

Responsible Adult Information

Students may not leave unless a responsible adult, generally aged 25 or older, is present and available to care for them. Students may not stay in hotels alone or attend unsupervised events or parties, even with parental permission.

Third-Party Exeat, such as family friends or relatives

If a student stays with someone other than their own family, the school must receive confirmation of arrangements from both the host and parents, and a signed Host Agreement Form submitted in advance.

Departure and Return Times

Students may leave from 16:00 on Friday, or after their last lesson before a holiday. They must return to the Boarding House by 18:30 the evening before school resumes.

Communication Protocol

All exeat requests and confirmations must come by email from the parent or guardian listed as the official contact on school records.

House Parents welcome verbal or informal confirmations, such as a phone call or message, in addition to the official email, but email remains the formal channel for approval.

It is important that families are familiar with the exeat procedures in the following General Conditions.



Travel arrangements



Start, Middle and End of Term

Term dates for the academic year are published in the Student and Parent Handbook as well as on the school website. Parents are asked to plan travel arrangements in line with these dates and timings.

All arrival and departure details must be submitted via the REACH app and communicated to both House Parents and the Boarding Office at least two weeks in advance of travel.

Transport can be arranged by the school at an additional cost. Where this service is used, the school assumes responsibility for students from the moment they are under our care on arranged transport. For students travelling independently, responsibility begins once the student has checked in with their House Parents on campus. For students using the school shuttle service, responsibility begins when they board the bus.

Boarding Houses generally open two days before the start of lessons. Airport transfers can be organised within this period at the start and end of holidays.

We strongly encourage families to plan holidays carefully in order to minimise missed lessons, as absence can have a significant impact on academic progress.

The School is closed during certain periods

Break / Holiday	Leave	Return	Notes
October Break	Friday 9/10/2026, 16:00	Sunday 25/10/2026, 18:00	School trip available at extra cost
Winter Break	Friday 18/12/2026, 16:00	Sunday 10/01/2027, 18:00	
February Break	Friday 12/02/2027, 16:00	Sunday 21/02/2027, 18:00	Ski Week available at extra cost
Spring Break	Thursday 25/03/2027, 16:00	Sunday 11/04/2027, 18:00	Easter trip available at extra cost
Summer Holidays	Last day of school: Friday 25/06/2027	—	Dates depend on Grade. See school calendar.

Boarders are expected to attend lessons until the last day of school and return to campus before lessons begin. Students must also follow the published arrival, departure, and term dates.

House staff and contact details

House Parents - Contact information

Effective communication, regular exchanges, and open discussions with families are essential for the Boarding team to support and guide our students, ensuring their progress. We encourage all families to reach out to the House Parent Team with any questions.

We strive to respond as soon as possible, typically within 24 hours, except in special circumstances. To improve clarity and reduce response times, we hope this contact list will be useful.

If you need to contact a House Parent, use: firstname.surname@cdl.ch (e.g., terri.davis@cdl.ch). However, to ensure the quickest response, we strongly advise always using the House email address.



Boarding House	House Email Address
Champ des Bois	champdesbois@cdl.ch
Villa JB Terray 27	terray27@cdl.ch
Villa JB Terray 31	terray31@cdl.ch
Concha	concha@cdl.ch
Portena	portena@cdl.ch
Léman	leman@cdl.ch
Olympus	olympus@cdl.ch
Villa du Lac	villadulac@cdl.ch
Villa du Lac 16	villadulac16@cdl.ch
Villa Franconis 20	franconis20@cdl.ch
Villa Louis Yung 7	louisyung7@cdl.ch
Villa Saint Loup 4	saintloup4@cdl.ch
Villa Saint Loup 9	saintloup9@cdl.ch
Villa Louis Dégallier 55	louisdegallier55@cdl.ch
Villa Louis Dégallier 56	louisdegallier56@cdl.ch

General contact details

Contact information

Your child's House Parent is the primary point of contact and plays a vital role in their wellbeing and development. House Parents monitor the boarding routine, care for and supervise students, act in loco parentis, and build strong relationships with those in their care. They support nutrition, sleep, screen time, and an active, healthy lifestyle, while also monitoring academic progress, attendance, behaviour, and discipline.

House Parents contribute to the weekend activity programme, communicate regularly with families and school staff, and promote respect for diversity and other cultures within the Boarding House. For initial concerns, please always contact the relevant House Parent. For specific matters, you are also welcome to contact the people listed below.

Department / Role	Contact	Email	Phone
Administrative Assistant	Mélanie Lam Van Ba	boarding@cdl.ch	+41 22 775 55 05
Administrative Assistant	Youssef Mekacher	youssef.mekacher@cdl.ch	+41 22 775 57 84
Student Billing	—	accounting@cdl.ch	+41 22 775 55 81
Director of Boarding	Justin Usher	justin.usher@cdl.ch	+41 22 775 56 01
Deputy Head of Boarding	Salvatore Politano	salvatore.politano@cdl.ch	+41 22 775 56 12
Deputy Head of Boarding	Rebecca Lawson	rebecca.lawson@cdl.ch	+41 22 775 56 12
Activity Coordinator	Rogério Rodrigues	rogerio.rodrigues@cdl.ch	+41 22 775 55 66
Health Centre	—	healthcentre@cdl.ch	+41 22 775 56 11
Boarding School Counsellor	Vasiliki Ekoutsidou	vasiliki.ekoutsidou@cdl.ch	+41 22 775 56 24

We look forward to seeing you on campus.
The Boarding Team



The content of this Handbook was correct at the time it was last updated (May 2026), but we reserve the right to change published procedures as circumstances or improvements dictate. A current version of this Handbook is on the school website (cdl.ch) and will be periodically updated. Students, parents and staff should regularly consult the comprehensive information on the website.