

## COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CHILD

Communication is one of the most important issues for parents and their child. We have included some ideas and suggestions for making communication easy with your child.

In cases of emergency, contact can be made with your child through the schools reception or the Head of Boarding. If it is during school time, contact could be made through the school administration who can be contacted either by email: [reception@lcqs.tas.edu.au](mailto:reception@lcqs.tas.edu.au) or via (03) 6336 6000.

Prior to commencing in the Boarding Community, it has been suggested that parents should discuss with their child when the best times would be for them to call each other. As the boys and girls live in quite a structured environment there are certain times that are great for a chat and others that don't quite suit. The times that we recommend are between 3.45pm and 5.45pm (if not a sport day) and after evening study until 8.20pm. Generally, mornings are very busy with boys and girls having to wake up, get to breakfast, have a shower (hopefully brush their hair and teeth), clean their room and pack their bags ready for their day at school so this also might not be the most conducive time for you to pry out all the information you want from them.

Please also don't be worried if your child doesn't call you, this generally means that they have settled in well and are enjoying their time. You are allowed though to ring your Senior Boarding House Assistant to ask them to give your child the hint that it might be time to ring home because Mum and Dad miss them!

The best methods we have found to communicate with your child is by:

### **MOBILE PHONES**

Mobile phones are permitted; however, a '**Mobile Phone Policy**' sheet must be completed before use and returned to the Senior Boarding House Assistant. Mobile phones will be collected at bedtime each night and kept in the office.

Please be mindful of the amount of data that you provide your child with as we do not have the technology available to monitor your child's internet use whilst using their own data network. Mobile phones can also be used as a 'hotspot' (create an internet connection), for your child's laptop. This will allow them to connect to the internet without using our network, as the computer is now no longer on our network, we are unable to monitor how the computer is being used. If you control the amount of data they can use on the family account, this can limit their screen time.

Alternatively, parents can also choose to install Parent Control Apps to their child's phone in order to have better understanding and control over their child's internet and phone use. Apps can make it easy to track data usage and also make it possible to control the access to certain apps and create curfews for apps, screen time or internet use. A Parent Control App that has been recommended to us is called OurPact and is available on the Appstore.

Mobile Phones will not be permitted to be used in the Dining Room during Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner nor are they allowed to be taken on any Interschool Recreation Activity.

### **SKYPE**

As every boy and girl has access to their own person computer some families use Skype as an effective medium for communicating with each other. Skype is quite personal as both parties are able to view each other while talking. The other benefit of Skype is that it is

relatively economical due to it being streamed across the Internet. Please be mindful not to call your child during Prep time as we try to limit distractions for both them and others.

### **WHATSAPP/SIGNAL**

There are many Apps available on either the iPhone or Android platforms that can now be used through a data network (Wi-Fi and internet) to communicate with your child. Whatsapp and Signal is one that is being used throughout the world because as well as messaging and face time calls you can also use them for normal phone calls. Due to the nature of these Apps using your local area Wi-Fi networks (your internet) there are no call costs involved, meaning, you can talk for as long as you like and not have to worry about the bill at the end of the month.

### **LETTERS AND POSTCARDS**

Letters are an excellent method of communication and most boarding students look forward to receiving mail in the afternoons (and are disappointed if they don't get any). Although a letter is not as immediate as a phone call, it has an advantage in that it can be very well thought out and can be re-read days, weeks and years later. In the settling in stage for new boarding students, letters can be much more helpful than phone calls which can make some feel homesick. Please encourage your child to write home during the term. Some stamped and addressed envelopes sent with your child may be helpful for letter writing activities.

When mail is addressed to a boarder, it should be addressed as in the following example:

Mr/Miss IMA BOARDER  
C/- Boarding Community – Boys/Girls Boarding house  
LAUNCESTON CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
PO Box 136  
**MOWBRAY HEIGHTS 7248**

### **THE FORTNIGHTLY BOARDING NEWSLETTER**

The fortnightly newsletter is a means by which the Boarding Community tries to keep everyone up to date with what is happening for the boys and girls while they are here with us. It will hopefully arm you with 'topics of conversation' that you can use to stimulate your chat with your child, especially if they are not being very forthcoming with information!

We also use the newsletter as a place for you to find out other information regarding Boarding. It contains topic information, weekly menus, recreational activities and most importantly pictures of your child out and about.

The newsletter can be accessed at <https://www.lcgs.tas.edu.au/newsletters/boarding> or via the Boarding icon that can be found at on the home page.