



BIDDLE HOUSE

**Student Information
Package 2010**

BIDDLE HOUSE
The Southport School
Winchester St Southport 4215

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HOUSEMASTER
MR. GRAHAM SWINTON



November 2009

Dear Biddle Parents

A huge welcome to the new boys to Biddle House in 2010 and I hope that your time with us will be filled with wonderful experiences and a holistic, enriched education. To the boys who are returning also welcome and may you continue to enjoy your association with the House and with The Southport School.

Biddle is truly an International House and its strength is its diversity and multicultural flavour. Biddle boys have always been loyal to each other and their school and I am confident that the House Officials will lead the House with confidence and integrity.

Some parents will have met me already when I was introduced at the Biddle House Supper, but for those of you who are wondering who this new face is my name is Graham Swinton and I have a difficult job of filling the boots left by John Wallace. My family and I are looking forward to this next chapter in our lives, especially the weather at the Gold Coast as we have spent the last seven years suffering through Ballarat winters in deepest, darkest Victoria.

You will be reassured to know that I have more than eleven year's experience in Boarding and have a fair idea of what the post entails. I started teaching in St. Andrews Senior School in Kenya where I was head of Boy's Boarding and I am willing to share many a story about camping in the bush, sharing camp fires with cheetahs, and tents with puff adders.

Before accepting this post, I was the Head of Year 12 at a Boy's School in Victoria so I am well aware of the vagaries and challenges that boys present. I have recently finished my second Masters Degree in Educational Leadership, but I expect I will draw heavily on my experience gained in my first Masters which is in animal behaviour where I spent 18 months working with chimpanzees – teaching colleagues often believe I am overqualified for boys because of this !

Coming from Scotland, I have a background in Rugby, and whilst in Victoria I was the assistant Under 18 coach and toured twice to Europe with State sides. Needless to

say I am looking forward to the rugby at TSS and will be keenly following Biddle boys in all activities across the board.

My wife, Julie my youngest daughter Victoria, and myself thank you for the warm welcome received at the Biddle House Supper and look forward to working with your sons over the coming years.

Teresa Manwaring, Biddle Matron, works in the Boarding House daily from 6.45 am to 3 pm catering for the boys' domestic needs. Teresa also takes a strong personal interest in the boys of Biddle. Biddle House resident masters are: Major Gary MacLachlan Head of The TSS Cadet Corps and TSS Soccer Referee, Mr Dai Abe Head of Japanese and Soccer Coach, Mr Liam Du Feu Assistant Coach British Swimming, Mr Cliff Edwards TSS Basketball Coach, Mr John Gordon a medical student and British Swimmer Junior Resident Master Adam Mallett.

It is my strong belief that academic endeavour must be the number one priority for every member of the House. To that end, I have enclosed a copy of the House daily routine so that you are all aware of the best times to contact your son. The phones will be off the hook during Prep/Study and should there be an emergency during Prep times, please contact the Housemaster or Assistant Housemaster.

Coupled with the importance of academic study is the balance provided by the superb co-curricular programme offered by the school. The best in Australia! The busier your son is the less time he will have to waste. All boys should participate in at least two co-curricular activities per year. This is the minimum and I know that most Biddle boys will be involved in more. To attend this great school and not take advantage of the outstanding cultural and sporting activities on offer would be a terrible shame. I trust that you will support me in this.

During the academic week from Monday morning to after school Friday, computer games are banned to enhance the academic ethos of Biddle House.

**Biddle Housemaster 2010
Graham Swinton**

VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR BIDDLE PARENTS

Contact Numbers for Boys Years 8-12

Please refer to the list of direct contacts outlined in the Admissions Handbook. If ever in doubt, contact Mr Swinton. For contact with your son other than mobile please ring the following numbers:

(07) 5531 9830 Year 8 & 9 Junior Dorm

(07) 5531 9831 Year 11 & 12 Middle Dorm

Beck Hall boys (Years 9 & 10) can be contacted on the first two phone lines.

The best times to contact boys in the House are:

Morning 7 am to 8.30 am

Afternoon 5 pm to 5.45 pm

Evening 9 pm to 9.30 pm

Please do not phone boys after lights out.

Student Leave

There are five types of leave available to boys.

Weekly Boarders will be collected after school on Friday and may return either by 8 pm Sunday or 8 am Monday morning.

1. **Weekend Leave** - boys will be collected after school on Friday and return by 8 pm Sunday.
2. **Double Sunday Leave** - boys go on leave after their Saturday sporting fixture and return by Sunday 8 pm.
3. **Sunday Leave** - boys may leave after breakfast on Sunday and return by 8 pm Sunday evening.
4. **Social Leave** - this is available to Year 12 boys on Saturday evening. They must return by 10.30 pm Saturday.
5. **Tea Leave or Special Leave** - this may be taken by any boy in the House on any evening as long as the Housemaster is notified in advance. The boy will be under the responsibility of his parents or guardian.

The first three types of leave available (does not include Weekly Boarders) must be applied for before 9 pm on the preceding Thursday by fax, phone or email (applications made even earlier would certainly be appreciated). Leave can only be granted to a student if there is an accompanying email, fax or letter and that the intended leave is with an approved host family.

No boy is permitted to go on leave without the consent of his parent or guardian and leave is only allowed with an adult known to the boy's parents, not another student.

Leave for Full Boarders is as follows per Semester:

- 8 Full Weekends, 4 Double Sundays and unlimited Sunday Leave, **or**
- 12 Leave applications per Semester for full Weekend or Double Sunday, with a maximum of 8 full Weekends only (**long weekends do not count in the total**)

I have enclosed a copy of the Approved Visitors List Form for you to fill out and either post to me or return by hand. ALL leave officially ends at 8 pm on Sunday night, other than Weekly Boarders, so that there is sufficient time for effective preparation for the oncoming week of school. Please submit the relevant leave document with names of approved families as soon as possible. Also enclosed is the Biddle House Leave Form. Please photocopy and use for fax transmissions for intended leave.

When a boy returns from leave he must sign in with the master on duty. This is most important.

Medical Forms

Please fill out the updated medical form ASAP and post/fax to the school Health Centre. This is a crucial document and if not completed will impede your son's participation in some school activities. **This document must be updated yearly for obvious reasons. No boy will be allowed leave until his medical form is handed into the Health Centre.**

House Clothing Package

Each member of the House is expected to purchase a House Shirt which must be worn on the various days of Inter-House Competitions. This item of clothing can be purchased from The TSS Store. Boys in the House with clothing purchased in previous years may of course wear these items of clothing until the end of their time at TSS.

Pocket Money

TSS has an ATM for Boarders which is located in the TSS Dining Hall. It is a Bank of Queensland ATM. I encourage all boys to use it. The Housemaster operates the boys' pocket money accounts. The boys who deposit pocket money into the Biddle House Pocket Money Account at the beginning of each Term (**cheques should be made payable to the Biddle House**) can draw on this account at any time during the week. At no stage do I want boys this year storing money in their lockers, etc., as this encourages theft. Please make sure that his account is well in credit. Any money left over at the end of the year will be refunded. **Boys are unable to borrow money. History shows that it is often not repaid.** Boys should never have large amounts of cash at school. Again, history shows that it is sometimes stolen.

House Fees

The House Fee is incorporated into the school fee structure. This is used to finance house activities. The major cost is the House Supper held at the end of October each year. Bi-Monthly the House will hold a birthday tea for boys having their birthday in their particular month. We will double up January/February and November/December. During the course of the year there will be informal barbecues, pizza nights, etc.

Security

Boys must accept responsibility for the security of their own possessions. All sporting gear can be locked in their personal lockers in the House change rooms. All wallets and personal items can be locked inside each boy's cupboard. Each boy is asked to provide a lock with two keys to secure items left in the cupboard. Boys should provide the Housemaster with a spare key. **Computers should always be secured and locked and never left unattended. Most preferred laptop lock is a Kensington Lock.** Any items which go missing must be reported ASAP to either Matron or a member of the resident staff. The school has a mobile phone policy which the boys must familiarize themselves with from the beginning of Term.

Email Addresses

Please email the Housemaster your email address. This is a very efficient means of communication particularly for leave or unexpected parental visits.

Holiday Travel

Harvey World Travel Agent, Mr Keith Bond, visits the school each week and assists boys in organising their holiday travel arrangements. Mr Bond can be contacted by telephone on (07) 5539 0333 or by fax on (07) 5539 0195. Boys cannot charge travel costs to School Accounts. It is strongly recommended that parents take responsibility for booking air/bus travel early each year to ensure that boys do not miss days of school, either through a late arrival or early departure due to restricted travel available. **If it is necessary for a boy to depart or arrive at school other than on the prescribed dates, permission must be received from the Dean of Students, Mr Alan Parsons, in advance.** Northern Rivers' boys can book their bus travel for leave during school term with Miss Olwen Williams, by Wednesday of each week. Miss Williams can be contacted directly on (07) 5531 9979.

School Co-Curricular Activities

Term 1 Cricket, Rowing, Sailing, Swimming, Learn to Swim, Debating.

Term 2/3 Rugby, Soccer, Debating and Cross Country.

Term 3/4 Athletics, Basketball, Chess Tennis and Gymnastics.

Choir, Band and Orchestra occur all of the year.

Speech Variety Club occurs in Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Drama activities occur throughout the year.

BIDDLE HOUSE MATTERS OF ROUTINE

Bed Times

- Year 8 – in bed by 9.30 pm. 15 minutes reading allowed at the discretion of the M.O.D.
- Years 9 & 10 – in bed by 9.45 pm. 15 minutes reading at allowed the discretion of the M.O.D.
- Year 11 & 12 - 10 pm in own rooms. No music or telephone calls after 10 pm. Senior boys may study later than 10 pm if the need arises.

Prep Times for All Years

Years 8, 9 and 10 boys have 2 hours supervised prep in the classrooms Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Paid tutors will be on duty these evenings. Year 11 and 12 Boys (as well as boys in Years 9 & 10 with excellent diligence levels) have individual study from 7 pm to 9 pm under the supervision of an MOD. No movement at all unless given permission by MOD. Library and computer room may be used if needed and booked. Year 11 & 12 boys may continue study after this time.

Music During Prep

Students from Year 8 to Year 12 may listen to music during Prep through earphones only. This is only allowed in supervised prep with the permission of teachers on duty.

Cleared House

All boys are to vacate the House between 4 pm and 5 pm daily unless given specific permission by the MOD to study. TSS has ample space for boys to recreate either supervised or unsupervised activities. After a full day at school it is imperative that boys exercise their bodies as well as their minds.

Computer Room

Biddle has five permanent on-line Internet connected computers which are always available for use by the boys seven days a week. There is also a LaserJet printer. In 2010 boys will be able to access wireless in their own individual rooms.

Personal Computers and Laptops

These are the responsibility of the boys. They must be locked at all times when not in use. There are no computer games allowed during the week as many boys play these in preference to their academic work. Boys are permitted to use their computers and laptops for assignment and general class work. Any abuse of computers will incur temporary confiscation as seen fit by the Housemaster.

Television

Year 8 to 10 Evening 9 pm to 9.30 pm
Year 11 to 12 Evening 9 pm to 10 pm
Weekends – this is at the discretion of the M.O.D.

Weekends

All meals are to be attended and boys must report to the M.O.D. to have their name checked off. No privileges will be given to boys who abuse this rule. Home Soccer/Rugby fixtures are to be attended in full school uniform. Beds are to be made and floors cleared each day.

LEAVE ON WEEKENDS FOR BOYS ON CAMPUS

Monday and Friday Afternoon

Students on shopping leave must be in school uniform, including their hat. This is available for all boys from Years 8 to 12. Leave can be taken to Southport Park and the B.P. Night Owl. Boys return by 5.30 pm for dinner. Afternoon leave at any other time of the week is at the discretion of the Housemaster. For leave other than Friday shopping leave, boys must always have a Leave Slip signed by a member of House staff.

Saturday

At the discretion of the M.O.D. Social Leave for Year 12 boys to 10.30 pm. This must be lodged with Housemaster by 7 pm Thursday.
Surfers Paradise is Out Of Bounds for Leave.

Sunday

At the discretion of the M.O.D. Australia Fair after Sunday lunch. Not for Year 8 boys. Dress casual. Boys must report home for dinner at 5.30 pm. A surf bus operates from 9 am – 12 pm in Terms 1 and 4 for all boys Years 8 to 12. This is a most popular recreational activity.

Social Activities and Activity Days

During the four terms there will be sporting and social activities for the boys. This includes interactive activities with St Hilda's and visits to Pacific Fair. The Housemaster encourages the younger members of the House, particularly the Year 8 and 9 boys, to take advantage of these fun occasions.

Remember: Sunday 14th March - Biddle Annual House Chapel Service in the TSS Chapel at 10.30 am, followed by a luncheon barbecue in the Biddle Courtyard. All boys are to attend and parents are most welcome - invitation to follow.

