

The Homestay System at CTC

While CTC does not call itself a 'boarding' college, the College arranges homestay accommodation which students wishing to join the College may elect to use. Our homestay programme has been running for over twenty years, in which time it has grown exponentially. The College does not aim to offer the sort of structured boarding of a traditional boarding school but rather to facilitate the finding of a suitable host family for each student. The College considers the welfare of its students to be of paramount importance and works in partnership with the host family to this end.

Students complete a questionnaire on their application form which is used by the College to select the most suitable homestay, taking account of any special requirements that a student may have. Special sensitivity is used with regard to medical, cultural, religious and dietary issues. Local host families are sought who wish to offer appropriate accommodation to provide board and lodging to students. The system is managed by the Welfare Department which consists of two full-time employees of the College, the Head of Student Welfare and the Accommodation Officer and one part time member of staff, the Office Welfare Assistant.

Host families must be able to provide a safe, secure environment for young people; a single study/bedroom appropriately furnished, together with bathroom facilities. The hostess provides half-board meals from Monday- Friday and all meals at weekends. In practice, many host families treat the student as a family member, involving him/her in other activities, and all are encouraged to get to know the student's parents and to have good communication with them.

All adults in host families undergo CRB enhanced disclosure procedures and are subject to full reference checks and verification. Host families are also regularly inspected by the College Accommodation Officer.

It is the College's view that a homestay environment offers many advantages to young adults preparing for university life. They can be encouraged to become independent, can learn about British cultural and social life, can improve their English and, in some cases, make lifetime friends.

Full details of the homestay programme are published on the College's website at: www.ctc.ac.uk and in "Notes for Students in Lodgings" publication.