



THE HOMESTAY SYSTEM AT CTC

In addition to the CTC Boarding House opened in September 2016 the College arranges homestay accommodation which students wishing to join the College may elect to use. Our homestay programme has been running for over forty years, in which time it has grown exponentially. In the Homestay programme the College endeavours 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 three very experienced staff: the Head of Student Welfare, the Accommodation Officer and one, part time member of staff, the Student Welfare Officer.

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 and College holidays during the academic year. 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 DBS enhanced disclosure procedures and are subject to full reference checks and verification before any placements are arranged. Family memberships aged 16 years and over are subject to enhanced DBS checks. Host families are also regularly inspected by the College Accommodation Officer and receive full CTC Safeguarding training which is also updated annually. Those families providing accommodation to under 16 year olds are also subject to additional checks and visits by Croydon Social Services as per the Private Fostering legislation requirements.

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.