**Information for Host Families**

We always try to place a student with the most suitable family, but sometimes problems can arise due to cultural or personal differences. It is very important that you tell the Homestay Manager, Linda Strachan, if you have any problems. We will do our best to resolve the problem. Please do not wait until small problems become big problems.

**How to treat your student:**

It is important that your student is treated as you would wish your own children to be treated if they were in a foreign country.

Please give your student their own house key, so they can be independent. Students should tell their host family where they are going, who with (names and contact numbers) and when they expect to return. We need to know where to contact the student in case of emergency, and we need to know where they are any time they are not at your home at night (this includes if you take them away with you somewhere). Different students’ agents have different rules about overnight stays. Please check with us.

Some students like the privacy of their own room to study, read or listen to music. They need to be warm and comfortable in their rooms. Please encourage them to join in with your family activities, but be aware that sometimes they just want to chill and not have to communicate in a foreign language.

**Helping your student settle in:**

Talk with your student about the most suitable time for a shower, and what is the latest time that you find acceptable. Explain how the taps work etc. and what to do with the wet towel afterwards. Please also explain to girls how to dispose of sanitary napkins and tampons.

Please show your student where to put dirty washing and explain that you will do the washing for them. If they want to wash their own personal items, show them where to do this and how to dry things (not in the wardrobe!).

**Your house, your rules:**

Each family has their own ways of doing things. You should feel comfortable about that and explain them to your student. It is your house and you should be able to go into the student’s room any time. Knock and go in, if they are home, or otherwise it is fine for you to go into their room just as you would with your own children.

**Problem expenses:**

Most students have their own mobile phones and will not need to use your landline. Monitor things, and if they do use your phone, they will have to pay for calls, depending on your plan. If a student breaks a small item, they are expected to replace it. If there is serious damage, then this should be covered by their insurance policy and if there is an “excess” the student will pay for this.

**Courtesy to you:**

Your student should let you know at least two hours beforehand if they are not having dinner with you at home. If they are going to be later home than expected, they must call you and let you know. Most students have cell phones and will text rather than call.

**Our support:**

Any time you have any concerns or problems, please contact a member of the International Department.

**Newsletters:**

Several times a year we will email you a newsletter, updating student contact details and reminding you of any issues that need extra vigilance. We also hope to celebrate any successes, both in and out of school. We are proud of our international students and how well they adapt to life in our school and our country. Your input is incredibly valuable in making their stay a happy one. Thank you for your welcome and hospitality to our students.