

# Accommodation

Your accommodation is very important, and we want you to be happy where you are staying. Burlington School offers:

- Homestay accommodation
- Onsite Residence accommodation
- Hotel accommodation



Here is some advice and information about the accommodation options.

## Homestay Accommodation

Most students are very happy with their homestay accommodation. To help you enjoy your homestay, remember these points:

- Be friendly and show that you appreciate the homestay.
  - *Some students bring their homestays a gift from their country when they arrive. It is a good way to show your appreciation.*
- Bring house shoes or slippers.
  - *Many homestays ask you not to wear outdoor shoes inside the house.*
- Spend time with them. Communicate with them. Get to know their family.
  - *It is a good opportunity to practice your English, and to learn about other people and cultures - and your homestay provider will want to find out about you and your culture as well.*
- Follow the rules of the house.
  - *The rules are there to make the experience good for everyone.*
- Accept and respect any differences between you - they will do the same.
  - *A home in the UK may be different from what you are used to in your country. Living in a homestay is a good way to learn about different cultures.*
- Be honest - if you have a problem in your homestay, tell them. If you don't want to speak to them yourself, speak to the school's Accommodation Manager.
  - *We want you and your homestay to be happy - talking to each other solves most problems.*

We will send you information about your homestay and the people you will live with, but please email us at [accommodation@burlingtonschool.co.uk](mailto:accommodation@burlingtonschool.co.uk) if you have any questions.



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## Organising your own Accommodation

Many students book their accommodation through the school. However, you may prefer to find somewhere to live independently. We strongly advise you to book accommodation through the school for your first few weeks in the UK. This will give you a chance to look around and find somewhere to live.

If you are thinking about finding your own accommodation, please read this advice.

1. When you go to see a property, find out the address of the property, and **tell someone** where (and when) you're going - or better still, take a friend with you.
2. If you're dealing with an agent **check out** the agency online and call their main number to **make sure** everything is ok
3. **Never** transfer money to a landlord, landlady or agent if you haven't seen the property, or if you haven't met the landlord, landlady or agent.
4. If you are looking for a shared house, make sure you **meet** the other people in the house before you sign a contract.
5. **Always** ask for a receipt for any money you pay (deposit, rent etc)
6. Before you sign your contract, find out about **extra costs** - these can include Council Tax, Internet or other bills (electricity, water, gas). Find out if you will need to pay for any of these, or if they are included in your rent.
7. Make sure you get a signed **contract** for your accommodation (and sign it yourself). If you need help understanding your contract, bring it to the school and speak to the Accommodation Officers.
8. Make sure you have an **inventory**. An inventory is a list of the furniture and other things in your accommodation. Check it and sign it. It is a good idea to take photos as well. This will help if your landlord, landlady or agent tries to make you pay for any damages.
9. If you are having trouble paying your rent, **talk** to your landlord, landlady or agent - they may be able to help you.

