



Boarding at MLC



Contents

Welcome to boarding at MLC	3
The boarding experience	4
Wellbeing	6
Learning support	8
Our Boarding House	10
Life at Tiddeman	12
Recreation and social events	15
Location	16
Our College	18
FAQs	19
Discover more	20

Cover: Ana, Abi and Alina relax after school in the Tiddeman House sunroom; one of more than six homely recreation areas, including a gym, music facility, and a kitchen.



Head of Boarding Jane Shone



Welcome to boarding at MLC

Tiddeman House at MLC is one of the oldest girls' boarding houses in Australia, and we are very proud of our beautiful, historical building.

What I am most proud of, however, is the community of young people who live within the stone walls and arched windows. Our community is made up of students from around the world and all parts of Australia. Together, we create a large family where we share dreams and ambitions, experience adventures, learn new skills and grow in independence and resilience.

Boarding students form a long-lasting bond of friendship and support, sisters away from home, working together and playing together, growing up together. We have a dedicated team of staff with a wealth of experience in

teaching and working with young people, who are here to support and guide your daughter on their journey through secondary school and beyond.

Tiddeman House is the place where boarders feel at home, where lasting memories are made and is a springboard into adult life.

I look forward to welcoming your daughter into our vibrant boarding family.

Jane Shone, Head of Boarding

A boarding experience that gives girls more

For 140 years, MLC has been welcoming boarders from rural and regional Victoria, as well as from around Australia and the world.

Tiddeman Boarding House offers a warm and welcoming family atmosphere to approximately 100 students from Year 7 through to Year 12.

Our boarders come from diverse backgrounds – farming properties, regional towns, Melbourne's urban fringe and cities around the world – to experience everything MLC has to offer, including one of the country's largest and most varied curricular and co-curricular offerings.

From the moment a new boarder arrives at Tiddeman House, she is always supported. The transition to boarding can be daunting, but our experienced and passionate staff are committed to delivering the best boarding experience for girls and young women.

From academic support, scheduled Prep time and subject tutoring, through to extensive wellbeing support from the Boarding House and the College, Tiddeman House is an extraordinary place for boarding students to learn, live and discover their true interests and passions.



Boarders come together for shared meals, fostering a sense of belonging. On Sunday nights, boarders dine within their 'Tiddeman Houses'

More options for your family's needs

We are pleased to offer families more boarding options, extending our care and enhancing the overall College experience for students.

- Full time boarding offers a true home away from home, where students receive round-the-clock support and care. From relaxing with your boarding sisters on weekends to being able to take on every opportunity available from living on campus, boarding is a cherished and life-changing adventure.
- Weekly Boarding provides the best of both worlds, living on campus during the week with support to manage study and co-curricular activities while spending every weekend at home with family.
- Short-stay boarding arrangements are available for MLC day students to live in the Tiddeman Boarding House for a minimum of two weeks, up to a full term. This is a flexible option for parents/guardians who may need to take an extended trip away and prefer that their daughter joins the community, routine and security of the boarding house for this time.

All boarders, regardless of their arrangements, live a shared boarding experience with the same opportunities that come from being at Tiddeman House. Importantly, every student is a valued part of our boarding family.



Boarders decorate their bedrooms as they like; using posters, wall art and bedding.



Experiencing a culture of care, safety and inclusivity

At Tiddeman House we aim to create a friendly, home-away-from-home atmosphere that provides a high standard of care for each boarder.

Our culture of care is offered within the secure, immersive and inclusive community of Tiddeman House, where boarders safely develop the skills and knowledge they need to embrace challenges and opportunities in life.

One-on-one wellbeing support, educators available around the clock, a dedicated boarding wellbeing program (LACE Program) and the comprehensive College wellbeing framework supports students throughout their schooling.

Our team includes the Head and Deputy Head of Boarding, Senior Boarding Coordinator, Administrator, Nurses and Year Level Supervisors, who work together to help each student manage their learning alongside their vibrant life as a boarding student. Year Level Supervisors regularly liaise with our day school teaching staff and parents, ensuring academic progress and wellbeing is being monitored, and students feel supported.

All boarders are allocated into one of four 'Tiddeman Houses', with their own dedicated student House Leader in a 'big sister' role.

The Houses provide a peer support network where students can learn from one another. Throughout the year, Houses compete in friendly competitions, including netball competitions, bake-offs and art competitions, to encourage connection and inclusion. Students also sit within their Houses for weekly Family Dinners which fosters a strong sense of belonging.

LACE Program

Our dedicated boarding wellbeing program, LACE, stands for Lifeskills, Activities, Community and Engagement. The program equips them with crucial life skills related to their mental and physical health and wellbeing; it underpins the holistic and pastoral care of all boarders, encouraging them to grow in confidence and independence.

LACE includes workshops by renowned guest speakers on topics such as cybersafety, nutrition and sleep, practical life skills including basic car care and financial literacy, and even mindfulness and yoga.





Our senior Boarding House staff are qualified teachers with demonstrated histories of working with and supporting young people in residential and boarding school settings.

A structured learning environment for every student

Boarding students are well-supported in their studies with dedicated preparation time in our well-resourced library, qualified teachers among our Boarding House staff, and access to external tutors.

Prep Sessions

Students are supported with their schoolwork through prep sessions, held on Mondays to Thursdays after school. Supervised by Boarding House staff, prep is held in the school library, providing a myriad of resources for students at their fingertips.

Students in Years 7-10 undertake one 90-minute prep session daily, while Year 11 and 12 students complete two one-hour sessions. When students have sports training or other co-curricular activities after school, they are supported by staff to attend a prep session that suits their schedule.

Specialist Tutoring

To further enhance good study habits, MLC partners with specialist tutors who come in three times a week. They work with our boarders in the Boarding House to foster a growth mindset, teach effective study strategies, including revision techniques and essay writing skills, and equip boarders with the skills to succeed.

Boarding House staff work closely with the specialist tutors to best support our boarders to fulfill their academic potential.

“Five years of boarding at Tiddeman House saw our daughter grow into a confident, brave and well-rounded woman. The commitment to encouraging the girls to make the most of their study time was noticeable in academic outcomes. With the support and friendship of the amazing team of staff, it has given our daughter an education that will stay with her for a lifetime.”

Susan, Year 12 boarding parent

Boarders can enhance their learning experience by participating in group tuition with fellow peers, facilitated by tutors at the Boarding House during Prep. Private tutoring sessions can also be organised in the Study Room for one-on-one assistance.





The iconic Tiddeman House is our boarders' sanctuary that provides a safe and secure home-away-from-home environment within the College grounds.

An extraordinary place to live and learn

The Tiddeman Boarding House has acted as the heart of the College for over 140 years. Built in 1882, it is one of the finest examples of the Gothic architecture style in Melbourne and remains the most recognisable building of MLC.

Inside, the renovated Boarding House is bright and airy, with comfortable and inviting furniture and an abundance of natural light.

All students have somewhere to go and relax, whether that be the Common Room or the Sun Room; areas which are equipped with lounges, televisions and kitchenette facilities (a favourite spot for weekend baking, craft activities, movie nights and boardgames), the courtyard, art space, in-house gym or music practice room.

Tiddeman Boarding House is homely yet secure, employing comprehensive modern measures such as external cameras on the main access points, 24-hour security patrolling the grounds and digital Star Cards for access to the building.

The Reception is a main hub for students where they will sign in and out of the Boarding House throughout the day. This is a primary point of contact for anyone entering or leaving the Boarding House, including parents, guardians and visitors.

Students in Years 7-11 share bedrooms with others close in age; new roommates each term help develop lifelong friendships within the boarding family. In Year 12, students have their own bedroom.



[Click here for a video tour of our Boarding House](#)



Exploring and developing her talents

Boarders are encouraged to embrace life at MLC in order to enrich their learning, extend their friendships and improve their wellbeing.

Discover your interests

Our boarding students come to MLC for the unmatched breadth of opportunities available, with one of the most extensive co-curricular offerings in the country, including over 30 sports, music ensembles, choirs and private instrument lessons, Dramatic Arts productions and House activities.

Living on campus means ease of access to before or after-school sports training, participating in our morning yoga, Pilates and spin classes, and boarding students can participate in external competitive sporting clubs to further develop their talents and skills.

Within the Boarding House, there are additional student clubs and activities to become involved in, such as the Green Team promoting sustainability within our community, staging the annual Boarders' Play, and becoming a student leader.

World-class facilities at their fingertips

By living on campus, students have access to our College's facilities and learning environments, including our advanced science centre, multiple sporting facilities, professional TV studio and video editing suite, music technology lab, professional performance spaces and our nearby rowing sheds on the Yarra River.

Our campus is also home to MLC Gymnastics, one of Victoria's largest and most successful gymnastics clubs; competitive swimming club MLC Aquatic, which in 2023 was ranked 2nd in Victoria, and MLC Stars Netball Club, who are a part of the Boroondara Netball Association.

[Click here for a video tour of our College Campus](#)



“As I am originally from a small rural area it was often hard to get to my gymnastic commitments. Now, training at the MLC Gymnastics Club whilst living on campus means I have time for things I didn’t before, like homework, sleep-ins and dinner at home - it really took a load off my parents. Having easy access to world class sport facilities makes it so much easier!”

Rosie, Year 11 boarding student

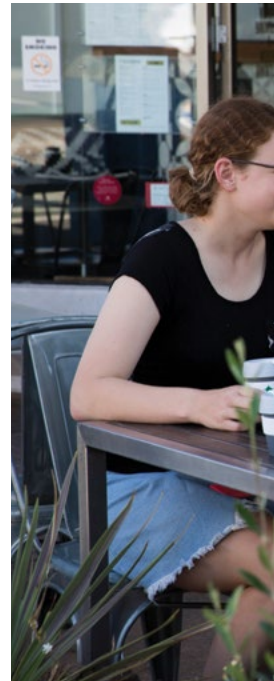


The freedom to grow in independence and confidence

Life as an MLC boarder provides the structure and routine of school, alongside the independence and flexibility of activities and recreation.

Students in different year levels each have their own requirements and needs for care based on age and developmental stage. On the right is a glimpse into what a day in the life of a boarder can look like.

7.30 am	Wake up and have breakfast in the Dining Room. Breakfast consists of a variety of both hot and cold dishes. Students also collect their recess for the day.
8.15 am – 3.30 pm	Day school. Boarders collect their lunch from the Star Café onsite and do not eat in the Boarding House so they can socialise with both day and boarding students in their breaks.
3.30 pm	Students return to the Boarding House for afternoon tea. Menu items change daily with variety including scones, sushi rolls and fruit.
3.30 – 4.15 pm	Free time. Students are encouraged to relax in one of the Boarding House spaces and go for a walk, including down the urban strip of Glenferrie Road, which is right outside our gates.
4.30 pm – 6.00 pm	Prep homework session for all students. Prep scheduling is dependent on the student's year level. All boarders must attend prep sessions unless they have sport or other co-curricular commitments.
6.00 pm	Dinner in the Dining Room. Students enjoy a variety of hot dishes that change daily and cover different cuisines. We always enjoy a Sunday roast too! If a student is absent for dinner due to sporting or co-curricular commitments, a saved dinner can easily be arranged and put aside for her return.
7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	Second prep session for Year 11 –12 students, or if the previous one is missed due to sport or other co-curricular activities, or if the student wishes to get additional support.
8.00 pm	Supper and free time
9.00 – 10.30 pm	Lights out. Times are dependent on the student's year level.





Forging new friendships in a vibrant community

Our Boarding House upholds a strong sense of community spirit, making it a warm and friendly place to call home.

Life at Tiddeman House is never boring; MLC Boarders have an array of organised activities to be involved in, from seasonal celebrations such as Lunar New Year and Christmas Dinner, themed dinner nights and annual special events, including our Boarders' Birthday Night (a tradition dating back to 1899!), the Boarders' drama production and our Boarders' Social.

We encourage all Boarders to participate in these special occasions, whether it's selecting the theme and entertainment, designing costumes and sets, or inviting family and friends from other local boarding schools to attend. MLC Boarders also attend social events hosted by other local boarding schools throughout the year.

Other activities include whole House city excursions, visits to everything from the Zoo to escape rooms and the theatre and even a surf weekend in Geelong, a beach visit to Philip Island or a trip to the snow! In-house recreational activities include arts and crafts, cooking and baking and sport.

Outside of organised activities, students can also walk down Glenferrie Road after school, visit the city, see day College friends on weekends or simply relax in the Boarding House.



Boarders join for the annual tradition of Boarders' Birthday Night, where the collective birthdays are celebrated through music, food and dancing.

“Boarding has taught me how to be more independent and how to interact with new groups of people. All of these skills are essential in life. I'll forever be grateful for all the opportunities and connections boarding has given me in such a short period of time.”

Praan, Year 11 boarding student

Location

The Melbourne CBD is only 7km away, accessible by a short, direct train ride.





A home away from home nestled in the vibrant inner city

MLC is located 7km from the Melbourne CBD, on the border of two beautiful suburbs; Kew and Hawthorn.

The well-known urban shopping strip of Glenferrie Road is right outside our gates. With countless shops, cafes and eateries, supermarkets and a cinema, it ensures that there are plenty of things for boarders to see and do together.

Importantly, we are in close proximity and have strong relationships with the nearby doctor and dentist clinics and pharmacies.

Melbourne is well-known as a cultural and sporting hub, with Tiddeman House easily accessible by public transport. The route 16 tram stops directly outside MLC on Glenferrie Road, whilst Glenferrie Station (less than a ten-minute walk away) offers direct train access to the city centre so students can easily travel to galleries, museums and iconic sights. There is also direct access to Southern Cross Station, connecting to V-Line services across regional Victoria.



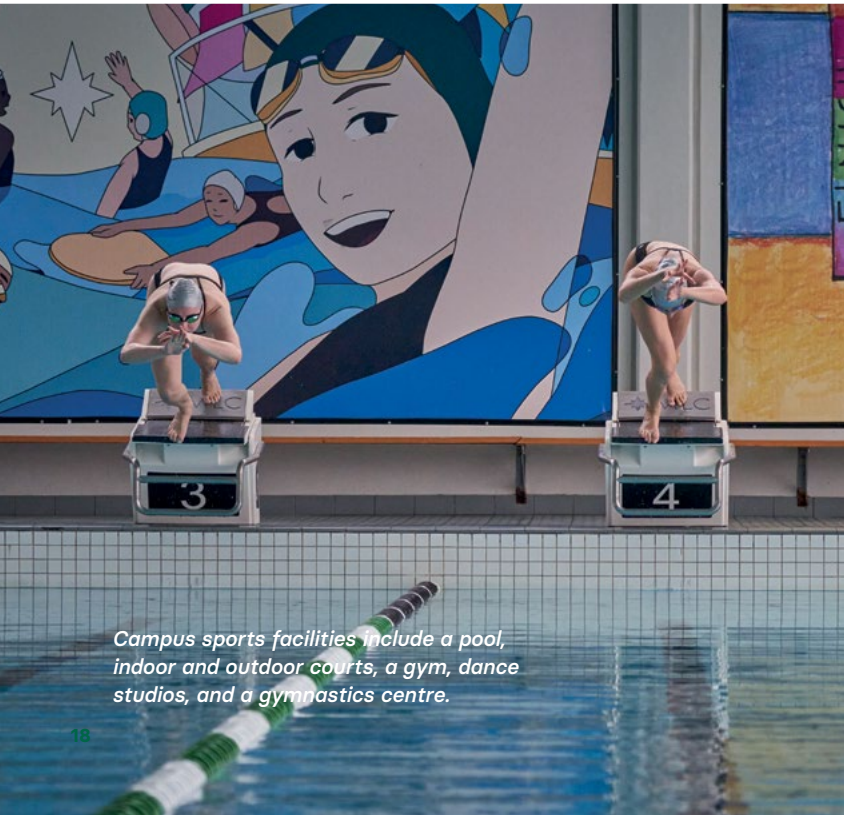
The Nicholas Learning Centre (NLC) overlooks the College's oval, hosting both PE and co-curricular Sport onsite.



The James Tatoulis Auditorium is one of two performance spaces at MLC.



The Year 9 Dr Wood Learning Centre provides a home-base for Year 9, with direct links to the Marshmead curriculum.



Campus sports facilities include a pool, indoor and outdoor courts, a gym, dance studios, and a gymnastics centre.



The Principal's Terrace Garden provides a lush landscape at the heart of the College.

Frequently asked questions

Do boarders leave the Boarding House on the weekends?

The boarding program runs several weekend activities for students; however, students are free to plan their own time, with many boarders arranging social outings in neighbouring suburbs. Whether it's catching a movie, shopping or socialising with friends, boarders have the flexibility to be independent and plan their own schedule.

We use an online platform to manage signing in and out and leave requests. This is connected to each student's parents or Local Support Person, who can then easily grant electronic leave permissions for their daughter's excursions.

The boarding house is closed over the school holidays for cleaning and any maintenance works; students will not be able to stay during this period.

What if my daughter is unwell?

During the school day, students may visit the College Health Centre; this is located alongside the Boarding House. We also have a Boarding House nurse available every evening between Mondays and Thursdays. Outside of these specific times, Boarders who are unwell should seek out our experienced Boarding House staff.

Due to our location on Glenferrie Road in Kew, we have a range of health services on our doorstep. This includes a local GP practice who provides a locum service, dentists, orthodontists, physiotherapists and pharmacies.

Can you cater to dietary requirements?

Our onsite catering company is very experienced in organising alternative items to cater for special dietary requirements such as low FODMAP, Coeliac or a specific food allergy. We focus on providing a healthy, balanced diet and ensuring there is range and choice for students.

Discover More

We hope this has provided you with some insight into life as an MLC boarder. For more information on our college's unmatched breadth of opportunities, learning pathways, Education Outdoors and more, please refer to our Prospectus or our website.

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If you have not already attended an Open Morning, this is the best way to see Tiddeman House in person and gain first-hand insight into the breadth of learning and wellbeing experiences available. Hear from our Principal and student speakers and take a student-led tour of our College campus.

Alternatively, we also offer Boarding Open Days during the school holidays. If you are unable to travel to Melbourne, virtual personal tours can also be arranged. If you have any questions, please contact our Admissions team, who will be able to assist you further.

We look forward to assisting you as part of your enrolment journey.

**Click here to register for an
Open Morning or Boarding House Tour
or visit mlc.vic.edu.au/openmorning**

MLC Admissions

207 Barkers Road

Kew Victoria 3101 Australia

T: +61 3 9274 6316

E: admissions@mlc.vic.edu.au

W: mlc.vic.edu.au