



Academia at Tibbs House

Prep

Tibbs House prides itself on the reputation it has for high academic standards and a solid support structure that allows students of all levels to exceed their potential. The cornerstone of Tibbs House is the requirement of all boarders to do Prep.

Prep is what most people call homework or study but we call it Prep because it means just that: it prepares boarders for their lessons the next day and for their exams at the end of each term.

Prep runs from 7pm-8:45pm (with a 15-minute break in the middle) every Monday to Thursday night and there is also a Prep session on Sunday night from 7:30-8:45pm. In the weekend leading up to the School examinations, we also run Prep Weekends which involves 6 hours of Prep spread across Saturday and Sunday.

Prep is carried out, for the Juniors, in either the Prep Room or the Dining Hall. For selected Form 5 students, Prep occurs either in their own rooms (if there is a desk in it), in the Senior Rec Room, or in the Prep Rooms. For all other Seniors, Prep occurs in their own room at their desks. Strict rules exist around talking and moving during Prep to ensure that there are no distractions and that all students have the best possible environment.

Prep rules:

- The bell will ring 5 minutes before Prep is due to start. Boarders are to be seated quietly at their desks by 7pm or the stated time for commencement of Prep
- No boarder is to move and/or ask questions of another boarder during the first half of Prep. Only movement to the Tutor or (booked) computers is permissible in the first half of Prep
- No boarder is to talk to another boarder without the permission of the Duty Master or the Prefect on duty. If boarders wish to find out information from other boarders they must do so before Prep or during the Prep break, if there is one
- The Prep break will commence at 7.45pm. The bell will ring again at 7.55pm and all boarders must be re-seated at their desks by 8pm. Senior boarders who have the privilege of studying in their rooms must not begin their Prep break until the prep break bell rings at 7.45pm. Prep concludes at 8.45pm
- Sunday Prep runs from 7:30pm-8:45pm with no break. All boarders who return to the hostel must sign in and commence Prep immediately.
- There is no borrowing of books or equipment during Prep
- Prep is not a time for reading books unless they are a set text for English or another subject. Boarders without homework to do should revisit old work or revise for the exams
- There will be no 'testing each other' in pairs or groups in the first half of Prep
- Senior students who break the Prep rules may lose the privilege of working in their rooms

- All junior students must have a homework diary for a Master to check and sign
- Prep during exam time - junior students sit in the Prep room and senior boarders do their Prep in their rooms or, at the discretion of the Duty Master, in the Prep room. Failure to study during these times may result in boarders having to study at School
- All boarders must ensure they are dressed appropriately for the studious environment of Prep. This includes having footwear on and not bringing bedding into the Prep room
- Any Master can ask to see the browser history of any boarder who he believes is off-task. If the student has misused his time, the device will be confiscated for a period of time
- A Duty Master can also ask any boarder to shift nearer to him during Prep as a means to monitor the student and redirect his focus back to meaningful study

Tuition

Every weeknight during Prep, our boarders have access to a variety of academic staff who can help them with any difficulties they might have. This is a free service and all boarders - whether they be junior or senior - are encouraged visit the Quiet Room when needed to take advantage of this service. These staff members are:

- The Duty Master for that night
- A second Auckland Grammar School Master who is employed by Tibbs House as a specialist tutor covering one of the four main core subject areas: Mathematics, Science, History/Geography, or English
- One of our two resident Tutors

External Tutoring Whilst Prep is supervised by Masters, some parents also opt to supplement this with paid external tutors. Near Tibbs House there are many external private tutors or tutoring companies that can be attended with the permission of the Director of Boarding.

Additionally, the School compiles a list of senior day students from Form 7 who also offer their services (at a cost) as tutors. The Director of Boarding holds this list for dispersal to interested parents.

Devices

It is recommended that boarders have a device of their own to use during Prep - either a tablet or a notebook. The hostel does provide a dozen computers in the Prep Room for those that do need access to a computer. All boarders have access to the Tibbs House Wi-Fi network (7am-10pm). Normal school rules apply at all times when using devices on site.

Missing Prep

Boarders may miss one Prep session a week but only with the permission of the Director of Boarding. Boarders who wish to gain permission to miss a Prep session must have their parents email the Director of Boarding stating the time, place, transport to and from, and the reason for missing Prep. Reasons for a boarder to be absent might include: a club training, a School training, a School event or for private tuition.

In special circumstances, a boarder may miss more than one night of Prep per week. This is typically given to boys in representative teams where evening trainings are unavoidable and necessary to attend (in terms of selection).

As in the case of missing a solitary Prep session, parents must email the Director of Boarding seeking permission. Parents and boarders should note that it is rare for a boy to miss more than one Prep session per week.

Any boarder who is given permission to be absent from Prep, must ensure that his Prep is done after school and that it is checked off by the Duty Master before he leaves. Failure to do so may result in this privilege being revoked by the Director of Boarding.

Permission to be absent from a Prep session(s) is always given at the discretion of the Director of Boarding.