

# Pippa's Post

January 2022

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## Welcome from Ben

Welcome to Pippa's Post, our newsletter for host families in which we bring you updates and news of the Pippa's Guardians community. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new host families to Pippa's Guardians, and I hope you enjoy this newsletter.

It's been another busy term here at Pippa's Guardians. Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed an

ever-increasing number of new pupils to the UK. The Autumn term saw our Area Managers meeting new pupils and helping them to settle into their new schools, and soon after the beginning of term comes the first exeat weekend. For many, this is the first time our students will stay with their host family, and we are so grateful to you for welcoming them into your home. The warmth and hospitality you show

them is second to none, and undoubtedly helps them to feel at home despite being miles away from their own families. To receive thanks from delighted and relieved parents that their child is happy and cared for gives me a great sense of pride,

and I am so grateful to you for your support. I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year.

**Ben Hughes**  
Managing Director



## Our team is growing

In preparation for another busy year, we have added some new faces to our team.

Despite the many challenges Covid has created both for schools and the international travel industry, we are fortunate to still have a growing business. A huge part of this is down to your support in caring for students who cannot return home for holidays as easily as they have previously. To ensure we are prepared for another year, we are creating new Area Manager positions across the country. If you know of anyone with knowledge and experience of the independent school sector and working with children who would be interested in a fulfilling and hugely rewarding role, please ask them to contact Jodie@pippasguardians.co.uk for more information.



**Lizzie Pollitt**  
Area Manager for Malvern and Gloucestershire



**Jo Gregory-Newman**  
Area Manager for Oxfordshire



**Jenni Hughes**  
Area Manager for Worcestershire



**Robby Razzaboni**  
Travel Coordinator

## Refer & Earn

As the number of students registered with us looks set to rise again between now and September, we are looking for more host families throughout the UK. Many of our new host families have joined Pippa's as a result of personal recommendations from existing host families and their friends. Please do continue to tell your friends and family about your hosting experiences and encourage them to contact us – we'd love to have them on board. As a thank you we offer a rewards scheme for our 'Super Recruiters' who can earn up to £100 in gift vouchers for each successful referral.

## Sharing is caring

Whether you are new to hosting Pippa's students, or a host who has been with us for years, you no doubt have lots of stories and advice to share about what makes students happy. Many of you have hosted for longer periods of time in the last 2 years, due to lockdowns and school closures, and may have found yourself at times, short of new ideas, especially when it comes to what to cook for tea. We would therefore like to give you all a platform to share ideas and recipes with each other.

Carol Sturrock, a host family in Dorset got in touch with us to share her hosting top tips!

"I always have some sachets of Itsu miso soup paste in the cupboard which you can buy from most supermarkets together with some frozen Itsu dumplings. So when a student arrives and is extremely hungry I can give them this option. You just add water to the Itsu paste, then bring to the boil add the frozen dumplings and when the dumplings rise to the surface they are ready. So it is quick and easy to prepare and the students seem to really enjoy eating it. Equally I also have in the cupboard some instant noodles now these are not pot noodles as none of the students I have had like these but Chinese, Korean or Japanese (please see photo

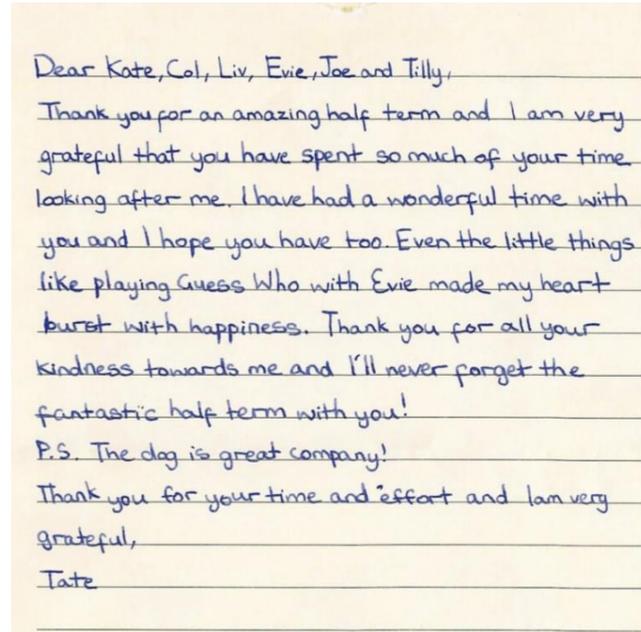
for a Japanese one, which comes in many flavours (with sesame being very popular). These are significantly cheaper than pot noodles and you can get them in oriental supermarkets but increasingly Tescos and Sainsburys stock some of these. To bring in the changes at lunch time fajitas have gone down well, these could be vegetarian or meat ones. The fajita mix is served hot with warm tortilla breads and students can help themselves to various topping such as chopped tomatoes, shredded lettuce, sweetcorn, grated cheese etc. Lidl sell Fajita packs which include the tortillas, fajita seasoning and tomato salsa and are really quick and simple to prepare but very tasty."

If you have any recipes, tips or experiences to share among the Pippa's hosting community, please email jodie@pippasguardians.co.uk



### Bursting with happiness

We were overjoyed to see this note from one of our students to their host family. Knowing their child is with a caring family, who help create wonderful memories and experience is a great comfort to parents and we are proud to have such amazing host families.



### Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year will fall on 1st February 2022 and will be the year of the tiger. Although this is probably not a time when you will be hosting, many of you may host Chinese students and want to wish them a happy new year.

This festival, also known as Spring Festival, is as important in China as Christmas is to us, and usually lasts for at least seven days. Traditionally, gates and doorways are decorated with spring festival couplets, which are red paper decorations expressing good wishes and thought to bring happiness and luck for the coming year. Children are given a red envelope containing money, there is usually a big celebratory dinner and then fireworks are set off to scare away evil spirits.

### High hopes for University

Pippa's offer our students a University Advisory Service in which we assist students with applying to the top universities in the UK. This involves guiding them through the application process, writing personal statements, interview techniques and entrance exam practice. We are delighted that already 13 students have been offered interviews at leading universities, including 4 for Oxford University and 8 for Cambridge University. 7 students using this service have already received offers from their chosen universities to study some very competitive courses such as Medicine.

### A family Christmas

Many of us would consider Christmas as a time to share with friends and family. Although some of our students don't typically celebrate the Christmas holidays, we know from speaking with them and their parents, that they those who were hosted this December, thoroughly enjoyed all of your efforts to involve them in the Christmas festivities; from Christmas tree shopping, family games, traditional markets, stockings and presents and of course, a traditional Christmas lunch. Our aim is to find students a 'home away from home' for the holidays and this is exactly what you provide, so we would like to say a heartfelt thankyou on behalf of the Pippa's team, our students and their parents.



### Safeguarding update

I think the beginning of the New Year is a good time to extend a very heartfelt thank you to you for the extraordinary levels of care you have shown to our students over the past year. I know it has been an incredibly challenging time for many people in so many different ways.

It has been very heartening to see how schools, host families and Pippa's Guardians have been able to work

together to support our students through these past challenging months. Providing an understanding ear, a safe and secure space, consistency and kindness are all traits in our host families that I see time and time again in my role of supporting our students.

The isolation, uncertainty over exams, lack of face to face teaching and peer support during these past months have caused many of our students to struggle with issues such as low mood, anxiety and insomnia. I know for some these issues have manifested themselves in students displaying high

emotions, unusual behaviours or withdrawn personalities. I wanted to use this opportunity to say thank you to each and every one of you that has allowed our students to express how they have been feeling in a safe and non-judgemental way.

It's a good time to remind all of you that help, support and advice is available to you at all times from Pippa's Guardians. Please do chat with your Area

Manager in the first instance or myself if you think we can help or support you or your student further in any way.



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