

Pippa's Post

For Host Families

February 2025

Dear Host Families

As it is tradition this time of year can I once again wish you all a 'Happy New Academic Year' and a sincere thank you to you all for the support and warm welcomes you provide for our students.

I am pleased to confirm that Pippa's Guardians has received a record number of new students joining us for this September and I'm aware that many of you have welcomed our new families into your homes recently to meet with them for the first time, so again, a sincere thank you. When new families first approach us to discuss our Guardianship service the information of the host family is the number one priority for them. They are always eager to hear more and, if possible, to meet with you. I assure you a successful initial meeting means Mum and Dad can return home with peace of mind that their child will be safe and well cared for. The anxiety around who the host family is will be much reduced and the impact for them is profound.

We see this first hand at this time of year and it is most rewarding for us as well as our families I can assure you.

In return, I hope by hosting your students you genuinely feel you are making a difference and supporting a child who is so very far from home. I also appreciate that many of you are welcoming your students for another academic year and for this I am also very grateful to you.

Back in the early 1990's my parents, Peter and Pippa, used to host Thai children from my boarding school, it was a wonderful and fulfilling experience for us as a family. So much so, that I am still in touch with my old friend 'Mo' even though he lives in Thailand and we first met 32 years ago. I have so many fond memories of our time together, it was like having another brother! So, whether your students are new to you this September, or more long term guests, I hope you recognise the difference we are all making to their wellbeing and to

their lives, something not to be underestimated and I hope the benefits are reciprocated for you as well.

As a small business owner I am always curious as to how we can better support our network of host families. Despite 26 years of working with host families we very much don't have all the answers! If there is something Pippa's can do, to better support you, please do let me know personally. I would love to hear from you with your ideas, this would be most helpful so please do get in touch.

Pippa's continues to go from strength to strength through our popular study camps, increased Guardianship students, events in Japan and more complementary products to follow. In fact this November we are bringing 14 of the leading boarding schools in the UK to Tokyo for a Boarding School Fair which is very exciting indeed. This is a new venture for us and so far it has

been met with huge interest from Japan. Updates can be found through our website if this is of interest to you.

I wish you all a successful year of hosting and I very much hope you enjoy this Pippa's Post. It is designed to support and help you all with your hosting and I hope you find it informative and reassuring. If I can help you in anyway, I'd love to hear from you and please do have a think about how we can better support you, our valued host families.

I wish you all the very best, thank you.



Ben Hughes Managing Director of Pippa's Guardians

ben@pippasguardians.co.uk

What does a Chaperone do to support the children you host? Could you become a chaperone?

A Pippa's Guardians chaperone undertakes an extremely important role for our families. They are responsible for ensuring the safe travel of their children from the airport, when they arrive in the country. Meeting them at the arrivals gate with a personal banner with their name and visible Pippa's Guardians branding to ensure the children feel secure and safe, they drive them to their school or host family, taking them and their luggage safely inside. Safety is paramount.

As a host family, you provide the wonderful home environment and care for a period of time that our children need. A chaperone provides a more task specific role that is more short-term. Working hand in hand, the two roles have the same overall objective – to give our families security and peace of mind.

If you would be interested in knowing more about the role of a Chaperone and how much you would be paid, please get in touch with your Area Manager.

We also provide Chaperone services to support Japanese families visiting schools as they make decisions about

their children's education. Typically lasting a week, Pippa's Guardians organises the entire trip, including scheduling school visits, and booking hotels and restaurants. The Chaperone oversees every aspect of the trip, ensuring the family is well cared for. This includes driving them to all locations on time and offering attentive assistance throughout. If requested, the Chaperone stays with the family at their hotel and joins them for meals, ensuring they feel fully supported and at ease during their visit.

If you would be interested in knowing more about this role, please contact your Area Manager.

New faces

Helen Butler – Registrar

Helen has a background in school admissions. She previously worked in asset management and for the Guggenheim museum in New York.

She lives in London with her husband, Alexander, and their blind springer spaniel Dottie, who loves nothing more than a trip to HQ and a hike up the Malvern Hills. When not at work she volunteers for Spaniel Aid carrying out home checks and helping Stanford university to welcome new UK families.

She enjoys a good park run, going to the theatre and sport - she has spent a lot of time around club and school sport watching her children play cricket and hockey.

Belinda Brown – Area Manager, Surrey

Belinda has joined Pippa's as Area Manager for the Surrey region, looking after students at Charterhouse, St. Catherine's, Aldro and Epsom.

She has recently returned to live in the UK after spending 14 years in Singapore with her husband, three sons and two dogs - Rolo (chocolate coloured cocker spaniel) and Wicket (golden cocker spaniel).

Belinda's background working in Admissions for the Tanglin Trust School in Singapore and her personal experience of having a son boarding in the UK, while she was based overseas, gives her a unique understanding of what it means for parents to be apart from their child and the importance of host family care and support.





Chinese Culture workshop

Our Chinese Liaison Officer, Rebecca Finney, is running a workshop about Chinese life, education and culture for some of our schools in the East of England, hosted by Uppingham School. Becky will cover topics such as how Chinese families are structured and how schools can support the culture change from China to the UK. Her guidance will help staff at these schools understand more about

how to support and care for their Chinese students.

If you host children from China, this could be a very interesting and useful workshop to listen to.

We will be recording the session and will have presentation notes. If this is something you would be interested in knowing more about, please contact georgie@pippasguardians.co.uk.



Rebecca Finney
Chinese Liaison Officer

Do you have friends who might be interested in being a host family?

We offer £75 for any referrals!

As our numbers grow, we are always looking for new host families to join our wonderful caring community. As you may know, we offer a £75 voucher as a thank you for any referrals you make who go on to become Pippa's host families.

If you have any family, friends or neighbours who would like to speak to someone at Pippa's

about becoming a host family, please email their contact information to hostfamilies@pippasguardians.co.uk.

Pippa's Guardians covers the whole of the UK, so your referrals do not need to be local to you. They could be friends or family from afar who would like to know more about hosting.

Thank you in advance for any referrals you send. Your support is always appreciated.



Food Glorious Food!

We are busy compiling recipes for our cookery book and we'd love to include your favourite meals that you cook and share with your family, friends and students. Any recipe that you know hits the spot with young and old, vegetarian or carnivore, we'd love to include it in our book.

Please send through any recipe you'd recommend to other host families!

If you have any photos of meals taken with your students, we'd love to include them too. Please email recipe ideas and any photos to georgie@pippasguardians.co.uk. Thank you to everyone who sends in their ideas!

Safeguarding update - Rose Vigers-Belgeonne

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Pippa's. In addition to my safeguarding role, I'm an Area Manager, supporting students in schools across South Somerset and Dorset, including Port Regis, the Sherborne schools, Bryanston, Milton Abbey, and King's Bruton, where I previously taught for many years.

- While our students are in your care, you provide them with a safe, secure, and comfortable environment where they can relax. In such settings, young people may feel able to share their concerns and worries with you, whether at home, during a dog walk, or even in the car on the way to or from school.
- If a student discloses something that raises any concern, please let them know that you cannot keep this information to yourself but will share it with someone who can help. In such cases, please inform their Area Manager, who they already know well.
- The Area Manager will then contact me, ensuring the student receives the necessary care and support.
- In an emergency situation, please do not hesitate to contact the Duty Phone or reach out to me directly via email at safeguarding@pippas.co.uk, or call me at 07731997732.



Read all about it!

Why not keep up to date with more news from Pippa's Guardians by checking out the news section of our website: <https://pippasguardians.com/news/>

Recent articles include:

- The benefits of a UK education
- How students might celebrate Christmas at their school
- Seasonal socials (students and their Area Managers)
- Pastoral care and support



Safeguarding course

- As you may already know, safeguarding our students is at the heart of all we do at Pippa's and we do require all of our host families to take this training if they host with us. If you haven't yet taken the safeguarding training course, may we ask you to find time to do so.
- The course has been written specifically for Guardians and Host Families by the chair of AEGIS, Adam Lubbock. AEGIS is our Governing body and we are very proud to hold their top tier Gold membership status.
- The course can be found at this link here and should take about 30 minutes to complete. You will need to register through the link with a password of your choice and you will then be able to begin the training.
- On successful completion of the course, you will be emailed a certificate shortly afterwards which is for your records. We will also note the date of completion on your hosting record.
- We will offer you the opportunity to renew this safeguarding training every three years in line with AEGIS best practice.
- If you do have current (dated within the last three years) safeguarding training that you have taken elsewhere we may be able to accept this if you can email through your course certificate to imogen@pippasguardians.co.uk.