

**YESHIVA GEDOLA
LUBAVITCH - LONDON**

STUDENTS HANDBOOK

Updated August 2023

The Dean, Rabbi Gedalya Lieberman שליט"א, and teaching staff welcome you as a student and will do everything they can to make your stay at our Yeshiva a rewarding one. We look forward to helping you grow in your Torah-learning and performance of Mitzvos, as well as in your character development and general commitment to all aspects of Judaism.

In order for these aims to be achieved, there must be a way of life within the Yeshiva, which harmonises with and encourages the implementation of the teaching contained in all that the student learns.

The following information and rules have been designed to encourage such a way of life. Most are not new. They have evolved over many decades and are, in fact, common to most Yeshivos. With regard to the network of Lubavitch Yeshivos in general, and the Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch – London in particular, they are a summary of the guidance and directives which have been given orally and in writing by the Lubavitch Rebbeim, past and present.

Please read this handbook carefully; some of it may appear to be unimportant and even trivial, but it is designed for your spiritual and physical wellbeing and development.

AIMS

The yeshiva's aims are as follows:

- 'to encourage the students to put into practice at all times its ethos which is predicated on a cardinal principal of Judaism: To Love One's Neighbour as One's Self
- to provide an orthodox Jewish education within the framework of the Code of Jewish Law in a conducive atmosphere
- to enable the students to successfully reach the standard required by each course, whilst fostering an enduring delight in, and enthusiasm for, these studies
- to teach a methodology in learning: teaching how to learn
- to foster in the students an understanding that Torah study is not an academic exercise, but an instruction in lifestyle
- to encourage the students to actively participate in outreach programmes within the wider community
- to generally put into practice the subject of their Jewish education.'

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The physical welfare of our students is of the utmost importance to us. On arriving at the Yeshiva, you will be acquainted with the Health and Safety Policy in force. Copies of this Policy are available from the Yeshiva office. The rules contained in this Policy must be strictly adhered to; they are for the benefit of you and your fellow students. Overseas students may find the rules differ from those in their own country. They must remember the Torah maxim: "The law of the land is the law." This applies to every aspect of their stay in the United Kingdom.

In particular, care must be taken to see that all corridors and gangways are kept clear of litter and obstacles; that all doors are kept closed; that you are acquainted with the fire drill rules in the case of an emergency.

Smoking is not allowed anywhere on the Yeshiva's premises.

Details of Fire Precautions are posted at vantage points throughout the Yeshiva; the Assembly Point in the event of fire (at the back of the back garden) is clearly marked. In the event of the fire alarm sounding, students must immediately make their way to the Assembly Point without stopping to collect any possessions, etc. A Fire Drill is carried out at least once a term during the academic year.

ACADEMIC YEAR

The academic year comprises two terms.

The first term commences on 1st Elul, (September) although some overseas students do not arrive until 1st Cheshvan, (October/November) two months later. (If you are coming from abroad, this will save you returning home for the High Holy Days which occur over a period of three weeks and the Yeshiva will not be in session.)

The first term ends on the 6th Nissan, before Passover, and the Yeshiva is closed for three weeks until the second term begins on the 30th Nissan. The second term ends on 7th Av, which is the end of the academic year.

These dates may be adjusted by 2/3 days. We will send all students an email with the exact dates for the academic year, there will also be a paper on the bulletin board with the dates for the academic year.

Overseas students are encouraged to return home for the Passover Festival. You may only spend this time elsewhere with the express permission of Rabbi M Gordon, which will only be granted if he receives written confirmation of permission to do so from your parent or guardian.

All students are encouraged to spend some or all of the three week period between the end of one academic year and the beginning of the next assisting as counselors at Summer Residential or Day Camps organized by Lubavitch in the United Kingdom or abroad. Again, this is with the permission of your parents or guardian.

TIMETABLE

You are expected to familiarize yourself with, and strictly adhere to, the Timetable of the Yeshiva, which starts at 7.30am and continues until 9.30 in the evening. For your safety, and to ensure the smooth running of the Yeshiva, attendance registers will be taken at least four times during the course of the day.

A typical daily timetable is as follows:

7:30 Study session for Chassidus.
9:00 Break
9:20 Daily morning prayer
10.15 Breakfast
11.00 Study session for Talmud (depth)
1.15 Talmud lecture
2.00 Lunch
3.15 Daily afternoon prayer
3.35 Study session for practical Halacha
4.30 Short tea break
4.35 Study session for Talmud (girsas)
6.45 Daily evening prayer
7.00 Supper
8.00 Study session for Chassidus
9:30 Break

10.45 Bedtime

11.15 Lights out.

The afternoon and evening prayer times in this schedule are for winter days and are slightly different in the summer.

Punctuality is imperative, as is utilizing the time of the personal study periods for the purpose for which it is intended. You will note that there are substantial periods every day that are set aside for personal study, or for preparation for, or revision of, lectures. It is particularly important that you are punctual for these periods as well.

No student may be absent from any period without prior permission from Rabbi Gordon or Rabbi Lieberman. If you are unwell or have a medical appointment, you must inform the Dormitory Counsellor or Rabbi Gordon before leaving the premises.

In order to assess and track your progress at the Yeshiva, there will be regular written and oral tests each term. The frequency of these tests depends on the topic being tested. Furthermore, all test results will be given to you, and termly reports of your progress will be sent to your parents/guardians.

ADHERENCE TO SLEEPING TIMES

You are expected to be on the Yeshiva premises by 10.45pm, in time for "Lights Out" at 11.15pm. The only exception to this is when there is a Farbrengen or other special event organized by the Yeshiva.

No student may leave the Yeshiva premises after 10.45pm except with the express permission of Rabbi Gordon or Rabbi Lieberman.

No student should do anything which could disturb the sleep of others after 11.15pm.

No student may sleep anywhere other than the Yeshiva without the express permission of Rabbi Gordon or Rabbi Lieberman. This also applies to overseas students who remain in the Yeshiva between terms, when there is no regular Timetable.

SENIOR STUDENT ADVISERS (SHLUCHIM)

Prior to each academic year the Central Lubavitch Yeshiva of New York appoints senior students to act as voluntary advisers to students of the Yeshiva and to organize projects for them. Whilst continuing their own studies prior to their final year before Rabbinical ordination, they give individual assistance to students who may be having difficulties in certain aspects of their learning and act as mentors to the younger students. They also arrange many of the Outreach Programmes which the students carry out on Friday afternoons, Festivals and other special occasions.

You are encouraged to spend time in the company of these senior students and listen to the advice they are able to offer, as they have been hand-picked to transmit the unique traditions of Lubavitch in both Torah and Chassidus.

DORMITORY COUNSELLORS

One/Two of the senior students appointed by the Central Lubavitch Yeshiva of New York acts as Dormitory Counsellors. They are resident at the Yeshiva, and responsible for attending to your welfare during out-of-school hours. They are responsible for the security of the premises during that time and for ensuring that the lights-out procedure is strictly adhered to. In case of a security or welfare emergency, they will contact the appropriate emergency service or authority, and will inform Rabbi Gordon or Rabbi Lieberman.

The Dormitory Counsellor is hand-picked for his personal and inter-personal qualities and is here for your benefit. Please treat him with respect, and he will treat you with respect too. Should you have any personal problems, please feel able to discuss these in confidence with the Dormitory Counsellor, who should be your first port of call.

DORMITORY RULES

Rooms must be kept clean and tidy at all times. You are expected to respect the property of the Yeshiva and of other students. Beds must be made up each morning before studies begin. Students who have brought their own bed linens etc have the responsibility to have them laundered regularly.

You will be encouraged to respect each other's privacy. No student may enter the room of another student without his permission.

Under no circumstances may a student allow anyone who is not a full time student of the Yeshiva into his room without the specific permission of Rabbi Gordon or Rabbi Lieberman.

Smoking is not allowed anywhere on the Yeshiva premises whether inside or outside.

The Yeshiva cannot accept responsibility for the safety of your private possessions. Individual lockers with keys are available for the students to store and protect their personal property. Students are advised to deposit their passport, ticket and/or surplus money with Rabbi Gedalia Hertz for safekeeping until they are needed.

Washing and drying machines are available for personal laundry.

DRESS CODE AND GENERAL APPEARANCE

Students must at all times present a good appearance and be clean and neatly dressed, in line with the expectations of a Lubavitch student.

Only white shirts may be worn with plain dark-coloured dress trousers. Shoes must be Dress shoes and black. Sneakers may be worn during the week for recreation. During prayers, a jacket and a dark-coloured hat must be worn. A two/three piece suit is to be worn on Shabbos. Long and unkempt hair will not be tolerated.

MEALS AND FOOD

Breakfast

There is always a wide variety of cereals, bread, milk, margarine, vegetables, eggs, jam and peanut butter, tea and coffee etc available. Crockery and cutlery is available.

Lunch and Dinner

A cooked meal is served for both lunch and dinner. The meals are carefully varied to ensure that you receive wholesome food together with healthy options. The Yeshiva is happy to cater for individual diets. Please see Mr Menachem Chabib if you wish to avail yourself of this opportunity.

Drinking water is available at all times. All the necessary ingredients for hot drinks, such as tea or coffee, are available from 7am throughout the day.

Only food or snacks with an acceptable kashrus certification may be brought into the Yeshiva. There is a vending machine for soft drinks on the Yeshiva premises.

The dining room and kitchen must be kept clean and tidy at all times. Health and Safety and Fire Regulations must be strictly observed.

Food from the dining room may not be brought into the study halls. No food or drink may be consumed during lectures.

Water, tea or coffee may be brought into the study halls during personal study periods, but empty cups/cartons/bottles must be removed after use.

Fruit

Fruits are available in the dining room during meals and breaks.

LIBRARY

The Yeshiva's large library of books on general and specialized subjects in a variety of languages is constantly being renewed and updated. You are encouraged to make use of this excellent resource to enhance your learning experience at the Yeshiva. In addition, there are large numbers of reference books in the study halls.

There is also a lending library of suitable English reading books. Full details are available from the Dormitory Counsellors.

We recently added the world famous "Otzar Hachochmo" computerized database to the library which will enhance any research experience tremendously.

Mivtzoim (Outreach)

All students are encouraged to spend time on a weekly basis interacting with the wider British community via the Mivtza'im programme. This form of interaction includes encouraging non-orthodox Jews to don Tefillin (phylacteries), distributing the L'Chaim weekly newsletter and promoting the performance of Mitzvos (positive commandments of the Torah). In this vein, it should be noted that students are only permitted to distribute literature that conforms with the ethos of the Yeshiva. When in doubt, students must discuss the matter with Rabbi Gedalia Hertz before embarking on their Mivtza'im

RECREATION

The Yeshiva adjoins a park which has excellent facilities for sport and recreation. Students are encouraged to use these facilities during their spare time.

The indoor swimming pool at Lubavitch House, Stamford Hill, is available for use by Yeshiva students by arrangement.

FIRST AID, MEDICAL CARE AND EMERGENCIES.

A well-stocked First Aid kit can be found on each floor of the Yeshiva building. Mr Menachem Habib, who has first aid training, is responsible for first aid and for checking and re-stocking the boxes.

In cases where **emergency** first aid or medical assistance is required, Hatzola, a recognized local Paramedic and First Aid Organization with a response time of 3 minutes, should be summoned immediately. Hatzola will provide an ambulance if required. **Hatzola telephone number is 0300 999 4999. This is a 24 hour service.**

For general medical care, the students are encouraged to register at the local GP practice, Heathfield Medical Centre (telephone number: 0208 458 9262) which is a 5 minute walk from the Yeshiva. Out of surgery hours, there is a walk-in clinic at Finchley Memorial Hospital until 10pm; and a 24 hour Accident and Emergency Unit at the Royal Free Hospital.

In case of emergencies, Police, Fire or Ambulance should be called on 999.

SUGGESTIONS AND GRIEVANCES

The Yeshiva prides itself on the happy and positive atmosphere that pervades throughout, and expends a great deal of effort to ensure that the students are content with both its religious and material ethos. As such, the Yeshiva welcomes constructive suggestions from students, and encourages students to be involved in its Student Council. The current Chair of the Student Council is Mendel Yaras. Students can also approach Rabbi G Hertz or any member of the Yeshiva staff with any

suggestion or grievance that they might have. As mentioned earlier, there is also the option of discussing these matters with the Dormitory Counsellor.

There is a Complaints Policy available from the Yeshiva office which outlines the procedures should you wish to make either a formal or informal complaint about any aspect of your life at the Yeshiva.

Rabbi M Gordon is the Yeshiva's Designated Safeguarding Lead, and all safeguarding issues should be directed to him. His deputy, for when Rabbi Gordon is unavailable, is Rabbi Y Silberstein.

PERSONAL PROBLEMS or CONCERNS

If a student has a personal problem or concern which he would prefer to discuss with somebody outside the Yeshiva, it is suggested that he should contact either:-

Dr Bunim Weinbam
9 Hayes Crescent
London NW11 0DG
0208 455 8335

Rabbi Shmuel Aryeh Hackner
40 Highfield Avenue
London NW11 9EX Tel:-
Tel:- 0208 455 3175

You can rely on their confidentiality and on receiving a sympathetic ear at all times.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is hoped that you will feel fulfilled during your years of study at Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch – London, and that you use the opportunity to develop your strengths and capabilities during these pivotal years of your life.