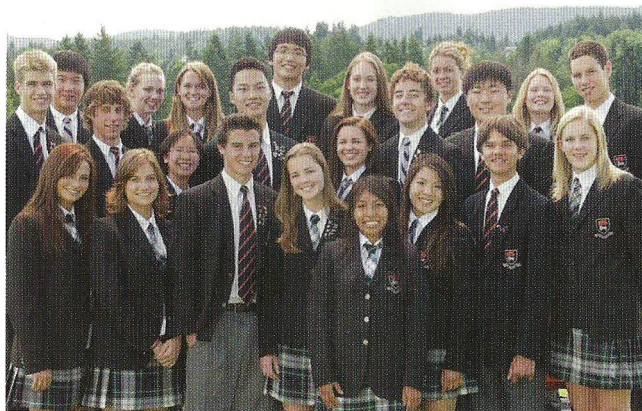


# Education

## The boarding school question

To board or not to board? Two representatives from top Canadian boarding schools are visiting Qatar this month. Victoria Scott looks into the process of sending your kids abroad for school



Dormitories in snow-topped Gothic towers, study rooms with roaring fires, a canteen under a magical night sky; there's no doubt that *Harry Potter* has done great things for the image of boarding schools. Some of us at *Time Out Kids* were at boarding school ourselves, and we have to say that although it wasn't all merry-making Muggles and Quidditch, we did enjoy it, and got a decent education to boot.

The decision to send a child to boarding school is not an easy one though, no matter how positive a spin J K Rowling might put on it. It is, however, a good option for expats who would like their children to be educated in their home country, or for those who want their children to pursue interests that might not be met at school in Qatar.

If boarding is something you're considering, you may be interested

to meet two representatives from leading Canadian boarding schools who are coming to Doha this month. Clayton Johnston from Brentwood College School and Struan Robertson from Upper Canada School are keen to meet parents and talk to them about what their schools have to offer.

'We represent schools that offer completely different choices to prospective families,' says Johnston. 'Upper Canada College is an all-boys school situated in Canada's largest city, Toronto, while Brentwood College School is a co-educational school situated on the shores of the Pacific Ocean in British Columbia. Both schools are considered to be among the top in North America.'

Johnston is keen to explain why he thinks Qatar's residents should opt to send their children all the way to Canada for an

education. 'Canada is recognized for the quality of its education, the safe and friendly culture, and its tolerance for (and acceptance of) diversity,' he says.

*Time Out's* ex-boarders admit we were rather homesick at our school, something that Johnston says both schools are well equipped to deal with. 'We offer the full boarding experience,' he explains. 'With students from all over the world, we are well-equipped to deal with issues like homesickness, travel arrangements to and from airports, and medical problems. We also offer strong mentoring and 24-hour supervision of pupils.'

Furthermore, Johnston says that the schools are careful to only offer places to those students they feel really want to board. 'Students are only accepted if it is their own choice to be there. Attrition at both schools as a result is very low.'

Johnston is also keen to point out that life for a boarder nowadays is vastly different to the school experiences of today's parents. 'The modern boarding experience is a marvellous bridge to university,' he says. 'Students learn to live together in community while gaining their independence.' *Representatives from Brentwood College School and Upper Canada College will be at the InterContinental Hotel in Doha on October 15. To learn more about the schools or to make an appointment, please contact clayton.johnston@brentwood.bc.ca or srobertson@ucc.on.ca.*