

# Wilkes Academy of Performing Arts Become a Host Family

**As our Academy continues to grow and young people continue to relocate to Swindon to be trained and educated in the performing arts industry, we are looking for families living in the Swindon area who are willing to open their homes to our younger students (16-18)**

**Host families provide students with a home away from home and a place that they can relax when not partaking in a busy schedule. Students will require access to 3 nutritious meals a day, a room (can be shared with another student) to call their own where they can relax but also communal spaces in your home where they can get involved with you and your family.**



Our mission is to provide the best professional training available, so that our students are fully equipped in their technique to successfully gain and sustain longevity in one of the most competitive, yet rewarding of industries.

#### **WHAT DOES OUR SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE:**

Students will need hosting 36 weeks (about 8 and a half months) each year – September – July. During this time, they will have some break from studies (non-term time) and will go back to their own home

#### **DO HOST FAMILIES DO THEIR LAUNDRY?**

No, we do not expect you to do their laundry. The students are more than capable of doing it themselves if you show them how to run the washer and dryer.

#### **DO HOST FAMILIES HAVE TO DRIVE THE KIDS AROUND ONCE THEY ARE DROPPED OFF AT NIGHT?**

We do ask that you drive the students around initially so they can do some errands, go watch a movie or hang out with some friends or at least until they know the local area well enough to fend for themselves. We do not expect you to drive them every single time but it is expected that they are able to explore the area when their schedule permits and when they plan it with you.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HOST FAMILIES LEAVE FOR THE WEEKEND OR GO ON HOLIDAY?**

We do not expect your life to stop because you host a student. If you are leaving for a week, weekend, or even a night, we will arrange to have your student put into a temporary house while you are out of town although we would prefer if you could book for non-term time to help the student settle in to studying away from home.

**WHAT SUPPORT DO HOST FAMILIES RECEIVE?** We will support you with guidance throughout and students will be expected to work within our own student code of conduct. We will provide you with training and development opportunities

**WHAT SHOULD A HOST FAMILY PROVIDE FOR MEALS?** For breakfast we ask that the students have access to food and that they can sort themselves before training. For lunch we ask that you make a lunch for them to take to college, some students can make their own lunch. To aid a healthy lifestyle we ask that dinner time meals are made fresh and is the same or like what you would cook for yourself and your family.

**HOW DO HOST FAMILIES KNOW WHAT THE STUDENTS ARE DOING?** We send out a weekly schedule, via email so you know exactly what is going on for the coming week. All students are expected to attend the academy mon-fri 8:30am – 5:30pm (this may increase during show season)

**WHAT DO WE DO IF WE HAVE A STUDENT WHO IS NOT OBEYING THE RULES?** Do not be afraid to discuss the rules with them and give them gentle reminders about curfews. If mentioning the rules again does not stop the behavior then please contact our staff who will help to resolve issues right away.

**If you are interested in becoming a host please email [dean@wilkesacademy.co.uk](mailto:dean@wilkesacademy.co.uk) or [sara@wilkesacademy.co.uk](mailto:sara@wilkesacademy.co.uk) to discuss**