



## 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 years old)

Host families provide students with a home away from home. A safe and clean environment that is a place that they can relax in 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.

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### FAQ's:

**WHAT SHOULD A HOST FAMILY PROVIDE FOR MEALS?** For breakfast we ask that the students have access to food 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.

**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. Term dates are detailed on our website

**HOW DO HOST FAMILIES KNOW WHAT THE STUDENTS ARE DOING?** We will 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/performance season/s)

**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.

**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.

**DO HOST FAMILIES HAVE TO DRIVE THE STUDENT/S AROUND IN THEIR SPARE TIME?** 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 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.

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If you are interested in becoming a host and would like to find out more about this opportunity and the financial benefits please email [dean@wilkesacademy.co.uk](mailto:dean@wilkesacademy.co.uk)

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