



Fleming College
Residence

PARENT RESOURCE GUIDE



This is an exciting and anxious time for most families as students prepare to come to college—most are leaving home for the first time. We are sure many of you are experiencing feelings of pride in your child's accomplishments, a sense of time rapidly passing, and a little worried at what the next year has in store for them.

Sometimes the transition to the independence of college social and academic life can be a challenge. It is fortunate that Fleming has a caring and committed group of professionals whom are here to help your child make this transition from high school or work as smooth as possible. In this guide we have outlined some of the services available so that you may direct your son or daughter in an appropriate manner if the need arises. We have also highlighted some tips in helping both you and your child throughout the next few months.

Travis Doak,
Director, Housing & Conference Services

THERE IS A HELPING HAND AT FLEMING

As the parent/guardian of a college student, it is almost inevitable that sometime over the next few years you will receive a phone call, e-mail or text from an apparently distressed son/daughter/family member. It would not be unusual for them to experience any or some of the following:

- Feeling absolutely overwhelmed by the workload
- "I'm in the wrong program/course!"
- Feeling homesick – missing family, boy/girlfriends or the stability of "home"
- A lack of funds – expenses are so much more than anticipated
- A new sense of identity
- The loss of an old boy/girlfriend
- Upset about roommates
- The excitement and anxieties of forming new friendships and relationships

Nor would it be unusual for them, in the heat of the moment, to make some impulsive decisions that in the long run may not be in his/her best interest. Hopefully, before doing anything too rash, they will confide in you as a parent/guardian and you will be able to offer some support and stability to the situation and refer them to the appropriate service on campus. Therefore you should know about the many support services at Fleming and the many people who are only too willing to assist, encourage and support your son/daughter.



FACILITIES AND STAFF AT FLEMING RESIDENCE

While we provide quality rooms and furnishings, academic and personal growth workshops, clean and well-maintained buildings, and many more amenities, it is your son or daughter who really creates his or her own residence experience. At Fleming, we maintain the importance of adhering to residence policies, we encourage a supportive academic environment and expect all of our residents to behave responsibly and respect others. We also know that starting college and living in residence are big steps – and we are here to help. The Residence Life Staff works hard at organizing several different activities to help residents. So, we encourage your son or daughter to get involved – his or her residence experience will be that much more enjoyable.

DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & CONFERENCE SERVICES

Travis Doak, Director of Housing & Conference Services, is responsible for the overall operations of Residences and Off-Campus Housing at Fleming College. His goal is to develop a community based on respect, individual responsibility and involvement in which programs, activities, and discussions take place formally and informally that assist, you, the student to make informed decisions in your life.

MANAGERS OF RESIDENCE LIFE

Norma Jean Newbold and Chad Munday are responsible for the overall operation of the residence. Their goal is to ensure a balance between the academic and social aspects of residence life.

RESIDENCE LIFE COORDINATOR

The Residence Life Coordinator at Frost, Kate Kinsella, works closely with the Residence Life Staff to ensure everyone has a rewarding residence experience.

RESIDENCE LIFE ASSISTANTS

Catherine Rutherford, Rachel Datlen, and Judy Murison play an active role in developing a community at residence as well as running the residence office and assisting the Managers with residence related projects.

RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF (Senior Residence Assistants/Residence Assistants)

Our Residence Life Staff (RLS) are full-time upper-year students at Fleming College. They are a valuable resource regarding life in residence and are available to answer questions about campus life, to handle emergencies, and to help out as needed. They participate in extensive training in topics such as alcohol, homophobia awareness, mental health issues, racism and other wellness and educational topics. The RLS work to maintain a safe learning environment for all residents by enforcing College and residence policies, rules and regulations. The Residence Assistants represent the residents living on their floor and the Senior Residence Assistants oversee the entire building.

RESIDENCE COUNCIL/REZ NET/ GREEN

Our residence volunteer opportunities consist of students who organize residence events and activities and plan for a fun experience in residence. Students are encouraged to get involved in their community, as it will increase their satisfaction in their living environment.

MEAL PLANS

Residence students have the option to purchase a meal plan or a convenience card if they wish. Chartwells services may be reached at www.dineoncampus.ca/fleming

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC)

The Learning Resource Centre is an integrated learning environment designed to help students succeed. It offers:

Audio Visual – provides a comprehensive range of media equipment and research materials for use by staff and students

Learning Commons – an open computing facility; students may use the computers for research using the Internet, completion of assignments and computer based courses using CD-ROMs

Learning Support Services – provides learning support to meet the needs of students

Student Access and Referral Services (SARS) – provides an initial point of contact for students to access services that have been designed to maximize their success

Counselling Services – qualified counsellors are available to help students resolve issues relating to academic, career and personal concerns in a supportive and confidential environment

Fleming Academic Advisors – every new student attending Fleming College is provided with an Advisor



STUDENT SERVICES

Health Services – a Registered Nurse is on campus during the day and is available for health education and counselling on a variety of issues. As well, a physician is on-site and is available by appointment.



Aboriginal Student Services – The aboriginal student services staff together with the Native Education Council, work to enrich the lives of students and staff at Fleming by providing support within the Fleming Community through programs, services and events.

Recreation Department – a variety of programs are offered in the recreation department such as intramural and varsity athletics, weight room, aerobics and much more.

Career Services – offer a variety of services for current students and graduates of Fleming to assist them in their job search.

Student Life Office - Student Life is committed to welcoming and supporting students. Through our programs and services, students will have a successful transition to college and access to opportunities throughout their time at Fleming, to get involved and stay connected.

What Can I Do To Help?

SHOULD I ASK THEM IF THEY ARE HOMESICK?

The power of association can be a dangerous thing. (A friend once told me “the idea of being homesick didn’t even occur to me, what with all the new things that were going on, until my mom called one of the first weekends and asked ‘Are you homesick?’ Then it hit me”).

The first few days/weeks of school are activity-packed and friend-jammed and the challenge of meeting new people and adjusting to new situations takes the majority of a first-year student's time and concentration. So, unless they're reminded of it, perhaps by a well-meaning parent, they'll probably be able to escape the loneliness and frustration of homesickness. And, even if they don't tell you during those first few weeks, they do miss you.

SHOULD I ASK QUESTIONS?

First-year students are “cool” (or so they think) and have a tendency to resent interference with their new-found lifestyle, but most still desire the security of knowing that someone is still interested in them.

Parental curiosity can be obnoxious and alienating or relief-giving and supportive depending on the attitudes of the persons involved. “I-have-a-right-to-know” tinged questions, with ulterior motives or the nag should be avoided. However,

honest inquiries and other “between friends” communication and discussion will do much to further the parent-student relationship.

SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT THOSE EMOTIONAL PHONE CALLS/ E-MAILS/TEXTS?

Parenting can be a thankless job, especially during the college years. It's a lot of give and only a little take. Often when troubles become too much for first-year student to handle (a flunked test, ended relationship and shrunken T-shirt all in one day) the only place to turn, write or dial is home. Often, unfortunately, this is the only time the urge to communicate is felt so strongly, so you never get to hear about the “A” paper, the new partner or the domestic triumph.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY SON/DAUGHTER CALLS HOME IN THE EVENING ABOUT A CONCERN?

If something goes wrong sometimes students will utilize you as their first responder when they're experiencing a crisis. Remember that we have staff available 24 hours a day to assist in dealing with complaints and emergencies. Refer your son or daughter to find an RA or SRA to help deal with a situation and to also dial our emergency line of ext. 4444 to reach security.

SHOULD I CONTACT THEM?

Although first year students are typically eager to experience all the away-from-home independence they can in those first weeks, most are still anxious for family ties and the security those ties bring. This surge of independence may be misinterpreted by sensitive parents as rejection, but I'd bet that most new students (although 99% won't ever admit it) would give anything for some news of home and family!

In these “crisis” times your student can unload trouble or tears and, after the catharsis, return to routine, relieved and lightened, while you inherit the burden of worry.

Be patient with those “nothing-is-going-right”, “I-hate-this-place” phone calls or letters. You're providing a real service as an advice dispenser, or sympathetic ear. Granted, it's a service that makes you feel lousy, but it works wonders for a frustrated student.

ARE THESE THE BEST YEARS OF THEIR LIVES?

This first year (and all the other ones as well) can be full of indecision, insecurities, disappointments, and, most of all, mistakes. They're also full of discovery,

inspiration, good times and people, but except in retrospect, it's not the good that stands out.

It took a while (and the help of some good friends) for me to realize that I was normal and that my pop culture perceptions of what residence was all about were inaccurate. It took a while for me to accept that being unhappy, afraid, confused, and making mistakes were all part of the show, all part of this new reality, all part of growing up. It took a while longer for my parents to accept it.

Any parent who believes that all college students get good grades, know what they want to do after college, have always activity-packed weekends, thousands of close friends and lead carefree, worry-free lives is wrong. So are the parents that think that college-educated means mistake-proof. Parents that perpetrate and insist upon the "best years" stereotype are working against their child's already difficult self-development. Those that accept and understand the highs and lows of their student's reality are providing the support and encouragement where it is needed most.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THEM?

Finding oneself is a difficult enough process without feeling that the people whose opinions you respect most are second-guessing your own second-guessing. One of the most important things my mom ever wrote me in my three years at college was this: "I love you and want for you all the things that make you the happiest; and I guess you, not I, are the one who knows best what those things are". She wrote that during my final year. If you're smart you'll believe it, mean it, and say it now.

HOW MUCH STUDYING GETS DONE IN RESIDENCE?

The residence environment is designed to provide as much quiet and study time, as your student needs. There are quiet hours for sleep and study and a shared understanding among all residents to maintain an atmosphere conducive to sleep and study. Stricter 23-hour quiet hours are maintained during examination periods. If there are any noise disturbances, students are encouraged to try to communicate with the resident causing the noise to alleviate the problem. If this is not successful, students are encouraged to contact the "on duty" RLS and they will follow-up.

CAN I CONTACT THE RESIDENCE ON BEHALF OF MY SON/DAUGHTER?

The post secondary experience is about learning to be independent and understanding more about you. As a post secondary institution we are only able

to discuss general inquiries. We are unable to answer any questions pertaining to your son or daughter's specific residence account or experience. We encourage you to support your student by referring them to the appropriate service and ensuring they resolve any issues/concerns they may have. If your son or daughter still wants to have you involved please contact the residence and we can assist you in filling out the necessary paperwork.

HOW SAFE IS THE RESIDENCE AND THE CAMPUS?

Fleming strives to provide a safe and secure environment and is dedicated to promoting safety in the residence and on the campus. Doors are locked 24 hours a day. Individuals who live in the residence need their keys to enter at all times. Guests may enter the residence provided that they are accompanied by a resident and have an appropriate guest pass. On a rotational basis, our Residence Life Staff is available 24 hours a day to respond to emergencies and disturbances within the building.

In addition, College security has a "walk safe" program that is available to escort interested students safely to and from the main college building. There are also emergency telephone located on the path between the residence and the campus. We take these measures not because Fleming isn't a safe place, but because we want to keep it safe.

WHERE CAN MY SON/DAUGHTER GET FINANCIAL ADVICE?

Many students who are in need of some financial assistance choose to apply for OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program). For more information regarding OSAP go on line at <http://osap.gov.on.ca/>

Fleming's Financial Assistance Department has many bursaries available to students. The dates for applying for the bursaries vary so check with the department or our web site www.flemingcollege.com/financial follow the link from student information.

OUR RESIDENCE LIFE COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The students and staff of the residence of Fleming College are a multicultural community of individuals. We are of diverse backgrounds, and national origins. Our views encompass a broad spectrum of religious and political beliefs, and our sexual orientations differ. We are unique in that we strive to work and live together and, in the process, we learn from one another in an atmosphere of positive contact and mutual respect.

We are committed to behaving and expect others to behave in ways that demonstrate our beliefs about the respectful treatment of each member of our community. We believe that we are individually and collectively responsible for our learning, and maintain an awareness of the differences that exist in our community in order to avoid actions that diminish others.

Bigotry has no place within our community, nor does the right to denigrate another human being on the basis of age, physical challenge, national origin, sexual orientation, race, gender, or religious affiliation. We will not tolerate verbal or written abuse, threats, intimidation, violence or other forms of harassment against any member of our community. Likewise we will not accept ignorance, anger, alcohol or substance abuse as an excuse, reason, or rationale for such behaviour.

STUDENTS RETURNING HOME FOR THE SUMMER/WINTER BREAK

When a College student returns home for the summer/winter break, many changes have taken place. Your son/daughter will be a lot more independent and will not be used to telling someone what time they will be home, where they are going or generally being told what to do. The best way to avoid an argument is for you to sit down with your son/daughter and discuss the changes and compromise on what the at home rules will be. Remember that your child has had to do a lot of growing up and has only had to be concerned with his or her self the past year.

PRIVACY POLICY

PERSONAL INFORMATION TO FAMILY/FRIENDS

The information contained on your son/daughter's Residence application and subsequent forms in their file is used for administrative and statistical purposes at Fleming College and the Ministry of Colleges & Universities, as established by Section 5 of the Ministry of Colleges & Universities Act. We are obliged to obey strict standards as to the collection, storage, use and dissemination of personal information. Before information can be given to a third party on their behalf, we must receive the appropriate paperwork.

Encourage your son/daughter to give their contact information to family and friends as the residence staff will not/cannot give out this information.

IMPORTANT CONTACT/ONLINE INFO.

Fleming College (Toll Free Number) 1-866-353-6464
Residence (Lindsay) 1-705-878-9328
Residence (Lindsay) Frost-Residence@flemingc.on.ca
Residence (Peterborough) 1-705-749-5100
Residence (Peterborough) Sutherland-Residence@flemingc.on.ca
Website www.flemingcollege.com
Housing Link www.flemingc.on.ca/index.cfm/go/service/sub/housing.cfm
Student Conduct Handbook
www.flemingc.on.ca/PDF/Residence_Handbook_SRV.pdf (Peterborough)
http://www.flemingc.on.ca/PDF/Residence_Handbook_FR.pdf (Lindsay)
Residence Contract
<http://www.flemingc.on.ca/PDF/Resident-Contract.pdf> (Peterborough)
<http://www.flemingc.on.ca/PDF/Resident-Contract.pdf> (Lindsay)

IMPORTANT DATES 2011-2012

FALL TERM 2011

September 4 &5	Residence Move-In
September 6	Fall Term Begins
October 10	Thanksgiving Day – No Classes
October 24-28	Independent Learning Week – No Classes
November 4	Second instalment of Residence Fees due (Plan B)
December 16	End of Fall term
December 17	Last Day to Move Out of Residence (by 2:00 p.m.)

WINTER TERM 2012

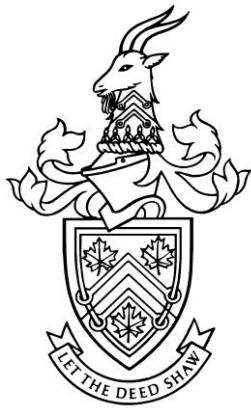
January 8	Move Back Into Residence
January 9	Winter Term Begins
February 20	Family Day – no classes
February 27 – March 2	Independent Learning Week - No Classes
April 6	Good Friday – No Classes
April 9	Spring/Summer Term Residence Fees due
April 20	End of Winter term
April 21	Last Day to Move Out of Residence (by 2:00 p.m.)

DID YOU KNOW?

OUR HISTORY

Sir Sandford Fleming College was named after Sir Sandford Fleming, a famous Canadian, who was responsible for pioneering the concept of standard time, designing Canada's first postage stamp, and played a critical role in the construction of the famous Canadian Pacific Railway.

COAT OF ARMS



The College of Arms in London England has granted these armorial bearings to Sir Sandford Fleming College. While they resemble those of the Fleming family, they are unique and reserved for the exclusive use of this institution. Several distinct features are included. The goat's head recalls the Fleming family crest, but is unique because of the angle irons, which are symbolic of the technology programs at the College. The band of trilliums represents the Ontario location. Angle irons appear also on the coat of arms, along with three maple leaves representing Canada and symbolising the College's applied arts programs.

"Let the Deed Show" is the motto of the Fleming family, and has been preserved in its Scottish form. Its emphasis on "deed" is particularly appropriate for a College of Applied Arts and Technology.

LIFE AFTER FLEMING

The Alumni Association of Sir Sandford Fleming College ensures that the network between our graduates, their related industries and current students is developed and used for the benefit of all. Fleming graduates hire our students and alumni, assist in the design and development of our programs and curricula, and they often return as guest speakers to provide insight on industry, job search methods and employment opportunities. When students reach the milestone of graduation, they automatically become a member of our Alumni Association. All alumni are sent our Alumni newsletter "Fleming Ties".

ADVICE, INSPIRATION, REFLECTIONS, MYTH DISPELLATIONS AND OTHER WORDS OF WISDOM FOR PARENTS OF SOON-TO-BE FIRST-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE