

Middlemore House History

After 4 years as members of the 3 Day Houses it was considered time for the establishment of a House just for girls at King's.

Work began on the site of a Boarding House in Golf Avenue in August 1983 and continued at a great pace through Term Three and the summer holidays. Most of the building was finished for the first Boarders who arrived on February 1st. Finishing touches continued and were completed in time for the dedication by the Archbishop of New Zealand, the Right Reverend P A Reeves, on Saturday March 10th 1984. For this initial year there were 10 full and eight weekly boarders plus seventeen daygirls who were all members of Middlemore Lodge.

For 1985 the numbers increased with 24 Boarders and 15 Daygirls. Fourteen of the girls were daughters of old boys. Philip Bird was the first Housemaster with his wife Alison the Matron. They were succeeded by:

- * J E Feeney
- * G M Simpson
- * R Sewter
- * K Mackay
- * S Lofroth (current)

The demand for places soon outgrew the buildings and again demolition, designing and building saw another addition to one of the College Houses. The new senior dormitory, housing an additional 25 boarders, was cleverly linked to the earlier structure.

In 2005, Headmaster, Roy Kelley, decided that the time had come to split the House in to two Houses so that the separate pastoral needs of the day and boarding students could be better catered for. Since Middlemore House was initially a boarding House, the 'new' house would retain this name and day students were transferred to the new Taylor House in 2006.

The location of Taylor House was seen as crucial as everyone felt it vital for girls, as a minority group in the school, to be in close proximity to Middlemore House. With the current roll of 46 girls in Middlemore, it still proves the popularity of the innovation that was rather contentious nearly 30 years ago.