Some handy hints from students to new boarders (Newbie’s) in 1908

1. On arrival, announce your name in a clear voice. If you are able to write, your name should be written on a card and handed to George.
2. The hands and face should be thoroughly cleansed with soap and water, before meeting the headmaster.
3. On sitting down to a meal, you will find various implements surrounding your plate. That on the left is known as a fork, that on the right is known as a knife.
4. The knife may be divided, for purposes of explanation, into two parts – the handle and the blade.
5. The part made of ivory or bone is the handle.
6. The part made of steel is the blade.
7. Both sides of the blade should be tested with the thumb, before beginning to eat.
8. The side which makes the thumb bleed, is technically known as the edge.
9. The edge is used in attacking food, but a pleasant way of spending time between the meat and pudding is by carving your initials in the dining room tables, which are placed there for that purpose.
10. The knife is should on no account be used for conveying food to the mouth, unless of course you are alone.
11. At breakfast and tea, each boy will find on his knife-side a cup of hot liquid. This is Tea and is intended to be drunk, but may of course be used to water the pot plant on the table.
12. When the bell on the master’s table is rung, on no account take any notice, but if possible talk louder than before, as this is merely a signal to George that “He who always go twice” is ready for his second helping.
13. On arising from your bed you should remove your pyjamas and assume your ordinary clothes. Then and not until then will you proceed to Chapel for prayers.
14. On leaving the school it is customary to present the head with a “douceltr” (a French dictionary will give you the meaning) This may be placed in his hat or under his plate at breakfast.
15. When spoken to, think twice before replying and then say something else.

16. During the time you are in school always make as much noise as possible by talking at the top of your voice, shuffling your feet, whistling on the fingers etc, this prevents the master from going to sleep or concentrating his mind on particular subject and greatly facilitates the lesson. A useful sort of noise can be made by thumping the desk with the leg of a table. Should you not have one handy it may be obtained from any of the Master’s tables as they come off quite easily when bashed with a tomahawk.

17. On meeting a Master, never raise your cap and when speaking to him, on no account address him as “Sir”, as it gives him an undue sense of his own importance and by not doing so, you are providing beyond doubt that you are a “Freeborn Citizen” and you are striking another blow for “Democracy”.

“Newbie’s” in 1908