Homerton College

Alcohol policy statement for students

Homerton College encourages everyone who chooses to drink alcohol to do so responsibly, and not to abuse it. If you chose not to drink you should not be expected to do so. It is both irresponsible and dangerous to encourage others to drink alcohol more than they ought or wish by forcing them to participate in competitive drinking games or in forms of initiation to student societies.

During the last few years, over-consumption has resulted in some serious incidents requiring hospitalisation. Binge drinking can lead to alcohol poisoning resulting in hypothermia, respiratory arrest, severe dehydration, seizures and possible asphyxiation on vomit, to name but a few. Students who have required the use of the emergency services including attendance at hospital will be expected to see the college Student Health Advisor. Students who repeatedly fail to exercise self-restraint will be asked to see their Tutor or the Senior Tutor to identify any underlying problems and discuss solutions, perhaps in consultation with a Counsellor.

The Dean will see any student(s) whose behaviour is so affected by alcohol that others feel threatened and any student(s) who require the involvement of the emergency services, including Addenbrooke’s A&E department, as a result of alcohol consumption.

The college will normally expect individuals concerned to pay any bills arising from their actions whilst intoxicated. Students who need a taxi back from Addenbrooke’s Hospital or the city centre to college following intoxication with alcohol (or illegal drugs) will be billed for the taxi fare, plus the cost of any necessary cleaning, which can frequently be around £100. Students will also be charged for any damage to college property and for additional cleaning required on site. These types of incidents may also result in a college fine of at least £50, so the total financial consequences may be very significant.