

## Garden Hall

Set within three Victorian terraced houses, Garden hall has probably the most nostalgic architecture amongst the Princes Garden cluster. It offers an experience of what living in a post-modern British house may feel like, although much of the inspirations have been built over to accommodate for more rooms. However, with its age, Garden hall does have a number of inefficiencies.

Unlike other halls situated in the Princes Garden Cluster (including Weeks, Eastside and Southside) Garden hall lacks a lift. Having lived on the fourth floor, starting out my life here was a real climb. This may cause some difficulty when lugging heavy objects. The lack of toilets within each room may not be favourable for those who prefer convenience or not want to use a shared toilet (Usually shared amongst 10 students). Only the premium single rooms are equipped with wash basins.

Living in Garden hall however, does have its advantages. For one, it is the cheapest accommodation located within close proximity to school. A single room costs only £129.50 per week, whilst a double room costs within the range of £90. The slew of hall gatherings, such as barbeque lunches, external events as well as weekly movie nights allow for much interaction with fellow hall-mates. The 'Ethos' gym facility is only a 15 second walk and being able to wake up 10 minutes before classes and yet make it on time proves extremely valuable during crunch weeks. Each room is installed with a personal refrigerator, which most halls elsewhere do not have. This gives you the assurance that your food would never get stolen. Kitchens are shared between a small group of 8-10 students, allowing it to be less congested and messy. Shower facilities, despite being shared, are well maintained and queues hardly occur. Garden hall has two lounge rooms, a games room, a study room as well as a laundry room. A foosball table, piano and two plasma televisions are available within the lounges. You would also get access to Weeks hall, which offers a mini bar, table tennis and also a pool table.

I would thoroughly recommend Garden hall as a choice place to stay, given the availability of so many features that people from other halls could only envy. Despite the minor inconvenience of not having a lift, climbing would not be too much of an issue once you get used to the routine. The problem of smoke alarms being activated exist in most halls. However, on observation, Garden hall has much less alarms going off as compared to the other halls around us. Overall, if you prefer to live in halls where facilities are less shared and opportunities for social interaction are less prevalent or if you're not comfortable with living in such a traditional setting where creaky wood panels still exist, perhaps Garden hall may not be suitable for you.