

AGFEST 2011

Boarder boys help each other thrive

WHEN Will Fergusson started boarding at the Hutchins School in Hobart he was a fresh-faced 12-year-old from Triabunna on Tasmania's East Coast.

Will is now in Year 11, and says he has changed a lot since he first arrived at the school's boarding facility Burbury House. The boarding house is being redeveloped and will be completed in September.

What are your first memories of boarding?

"I was the only Year 7 boy in Burbury House when I started. That made me the youngest boarder in the whole house by two years as those closest to me in age were the Year 9 boys.

"You'd think I was out of my depth but I loved it!

"I always knew I was going to be a boarder. My dad was a boarder in Burbury House and my grandfather was a boarder at the old Hutchins School campus in Macquarie St."

Did you find it easy to make friends?

"A number of older boarders took me under their wings. I looked up to them and they all looked after me. They were all great role models.

"I also have two younger brothers, Sam and George, who are both boarding with me in Burbury House so I always feel like I am close to home.

"A great memory for me is



GOOD MATES: Hutchins boarders Will Fergusson, left, and Jack Fizzle working on a homework project.

fellow boarder Tom Allwright, another AFL draftee, kicking a 50-metre goal with his ugg boots on, dressed up in the Hutchins lion suit."

How would you describe the Hutchins boarding experience to someone who has not been a boarder?

"The best part about boarding at Hutchins is having a heap of mates around me all the time.

"We all hang out together, talk a lot and share stuff. The masters are also easy to get along with. They lay down the law when it is needed but are very understanding and approachable when you have a

problem."

What has boarding taught you over the years?

"The international students provide me with an experience of a variety of cultures from around the world.

"I have even visited some of their home countries and it has inspired me to do some more travelling when I am older."

What is your favourite part of your day as a boarder?

"Dinner time! It's a chance to catch up with my mates and the food is great. The chef Adam does a great job."

12-02 CWA Grove



HOME ATMOSPHERE: Hutchins boarders come together at breakfast.