



Abbotsholme

AGENT HANDBOOK

I. KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- Abbotsholme School is a friendly, warm and unique British boarding and day school for boys and girls from ages 2-18.
- Located in the middle of the UK, on the Staffordshire and Derbyshire borders. One hour from Manchester; 45 minutes from Birmingham; 35 minutes from East Midlands; two and half hours from Heathrow and two hours to London by train.
- Abbotsholme School is
 - An all-inclusive fee school
 - A family school with a caring ethos
 - A [Round Square](#) school
 - A small school of 311 pupils with class sizes of around 15, enabling individual attention and support
 - Friendly and warm
- Abbotsholme School offers
 - Outstanding individual academic achievement and excellence
 - Extensive outdoor as well as state of the art indoor learning
 - A farm, equestrian centre and ménage
 - An indoor climbing wall and excellent outdoor education programme
 - Boarding from age 10, with exclusive Sixth Form log cabin boarding village
- Abbotsholme School has currently:
 - Boarders (full and weekly): 112
 - Pre Prep and Prep School represents 26% of total pupils
 - Senior School represents 56% of total pupils
 - Sixth Form represents 18% of total pupils
- [Click here](#) to view the site map of the school.

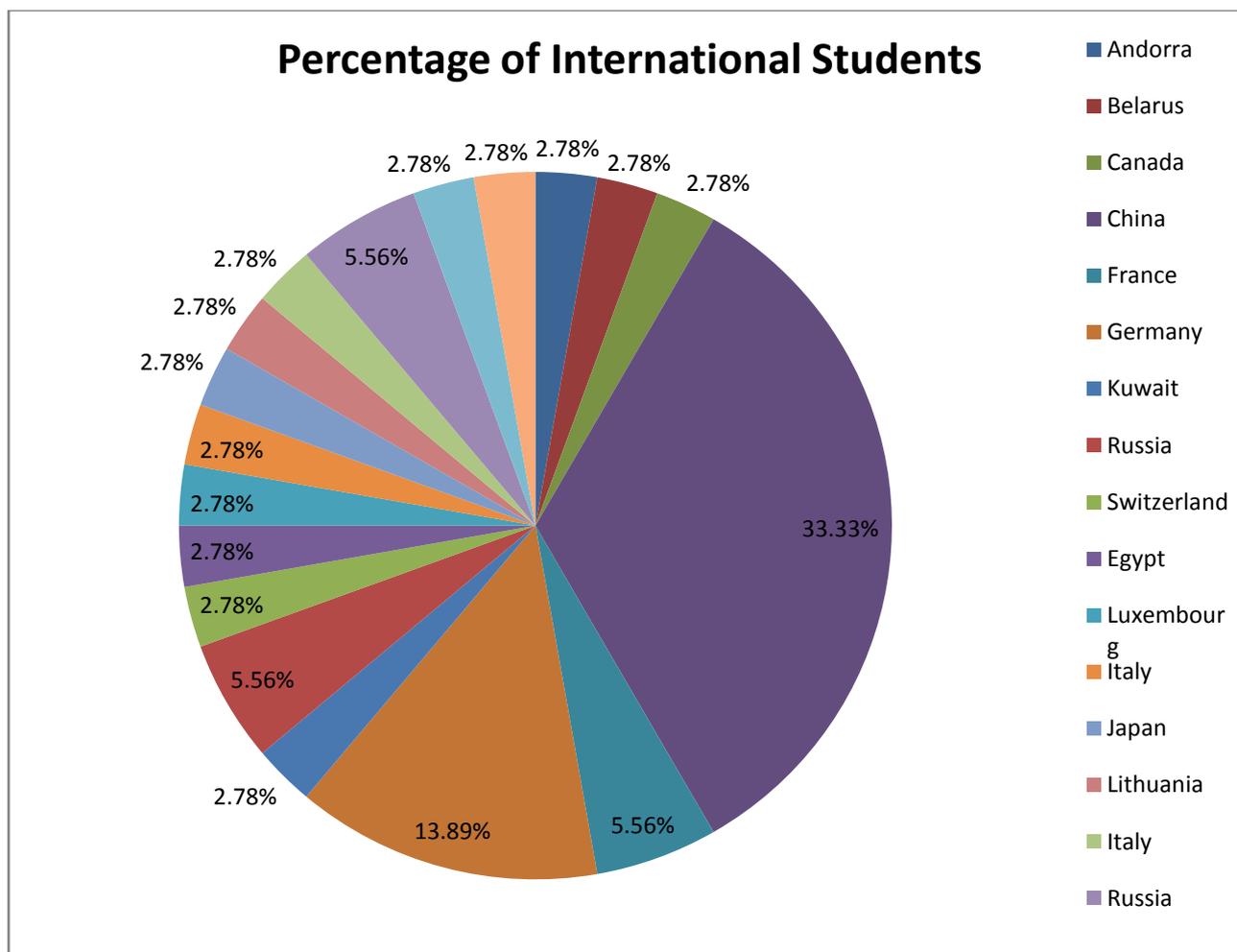
- Facilities: Our school is unique in offering more than just the best education; it offers exceptional facilities for learning beyond the classroom. Our excellent facilities include the following:
 - Chapel
 - Dingle and woodland for outdoor education
 - Dining room (Hogwarts style!)
 - Electric car racing team headquarters
 - English as an additional language department
 - Equestrian centre and ménage
 - Farm
 - Film Studies studio
 - Food Technology centre
 - Indoor climbing wall
 - Library, and specialist fiction library
 - Log cabin boarding complex (sixth form)
 - Music department with recording studio and practice rooms
 - Sixth form centre
 - Sports hall and fields
 - Theatre
 - Two ICT suites

2. LOCATION

- Located in the middle of the UK, on the Staffordshire and Derbyshire borders. One hour from Manchester; 45 minutes from Birmingham; 35 minutes from East Midlands; two and half hours from Heathrow and two hours to London by train.
- Please [click here](#) to view the whereabouts of Abbotsholme School in the UK.
- Please [click here](#) for directions on how to get to Abbotsholme School.

3. BOARDING/INTERNATIONAL PUPILS

- Our UK and overseas pupil's board from Year 5 (9 years) until Year 13 (18 years).
- International pupils represent 32% of all boarders and 18% of the Senior School.
- There is no limit to the number of international pupils we do take (only in the sense of boarding places available).
- We have four boarding houses:
 - Flaxfield for younger girls (Y5-Y8/9)
 - Orchard for older girls (Y9-Y11)
 - Cedarholme & St.Vincents for boys (Y5-13)
 - Barnfield Cabin Village (Y12-Y13)



- Our boarding houses provide small, comfortable and happy homes for all ages, each having their own character and personality. Younger pupils will usually share a bedroom in threes and fours whilst older pupils have single or shared study-bedrooms.
- We have dedicated Sixth Form boarding accommodation by way of log cabin complex. Built in a peaceful setting within the school grounds, yet only a stone's throw from the school's central facilities, these self-contained, purpose-built cabins provide a wonderful opportunity for our Sixth Form students to experience a greater degree of independence and privacy.
- Pupils get up at 7am in the morning during the weekdays and later on the weekends.
- Pupils should bring with them toiletries, two towels, personal clothes for the evenings and weekends as well as a duvet cover if they like to make their area more 'homely'.
- All students have the ability to bring along their own mobile phones (out of school time), laptops and tablets. There is access to the internet, Skype and the telephone.
- The food is amazing at Abbotsholme. Every morning there is a choice of cereals, a cooked breakfast and toast; at lunch there is a wide range of choices from salads and soups, to sandwiches and from two or three hot choices. Supper is the same. All the food is made in the kitchens and is good, wholesome locally-sourced produce.

- We require guardians for all our overseas pupils regardless of whether they reside in Europe or further afield.
- We have no exeat weekends. We do not provide host families for half term holidays; this is the role of the guardian.
- We can provide approved transport to and from school e.g. airports. The cost will be charged to the pupil's invoice.
- We currently do not have an international study centre or Summer School. However, during the summer Project International arrange English language courses at Abbotsholme and use our facilities.
- [Click here](#) to view our boarding handbook.
- All our overseas pupils are welcomed to Abbotsholme and go through an induction with their houseparent and tutor. During the induction, pupils are shown the school and are assigned buddies to help settle in, friendships etc. For the September intake – we arrange a special day for our overseas boarders and their families which include meeting teachers and boarding staff, tours of the school, lunch, meeting the Headmaster and a traditional afternoon tea with house parents and boarding staff.
- Boarding is like being part of a family at Abbotsholme. With lots of activities in the boarding houses and outside, Abbotsholme is a great place to board.
- There are lots of activities at the weekends from shopping trips to theatre trips and from outdoor education trips to visiting football stadiums or shows. Abbotsholme prides itself in ensuring our pupils have endless opportunities during the week and at weekends.
- We are a British Boarding School and all of our overseas pupils are part of the school and British life and are not separated in any way or form. We value all our pupils and their well being.

4. THE CURRICULUM

- The British academic year runs for three terms between September and July. Pupils are placed in each year group according to their age:
 - Year 5 – Age 9-10
 - Year 6 – Age 10-11
 - Year 7 – Age 11-12
 - Year 8 – Age 12-13
 - Year 9 – Age 13-14
 - Year 10 – Age 14-15 (GCSE)
 - Year 11 – Age 15-16 (GCSE)
 - Year 12 – Age 16-17 (A Level)
 - Year 13 – Age 17-18 (A Level)
- Class sizes of around 15, enabling individual attention and support (staff ratio 1:15)
- The school day starts at 8.20am and finishes at 5.00pm. There are 10 lessons (35minutes duration) per day with morning, lunch and afternoon breaks. At the end of

the day boarding pupils go back to their houses and homework commences at 5.30pm. [Click here](#) to view the School Day.

- Staff ratio to pupils at weekends is 1:8.
- A Pre-A Level course is designed for pupils who wish to take A levels but their English is weak. We offer a three year course with the first year being intensive English, as well as being involved in tutorials, introductory courses, outdoor education and sports. The pupil at entry to the Pre-A Level can be of an English level CEFR A1 but to proceed to the second year they would need to reach CEFR B1 level.
- EFL is included within the fee. We also support with IELTS (any exam fees are added to the pupil's invoice).
- We offer a number of BTECs.
- We do not offer scholarships or bursaries for overseas pupils.

5. GCSE COURSES

- Please [click here](#) for our latest GCSE courses.
- We provide an iGCSE course in English.

6. SIXTH FORM: A LEVEL COURSES

- Please [click here](#) for our latest A Level courses

7. ENGLISH FOR A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Our EFL support is included within the all inclusive fees.
- Our Pre-A level is an intensive English programme to ensure pupils are able to improve to a sufficient standard for them to access the AS course at the start of their second year (see curriculum for more information).
- Abbotsholme also offer IELTS for its Sixth Form pupils in preparation for a British university education.

8. EXAMINATION RESULTS

- [Click here](#) for our results for 2013.

9. DESTINATION OF LEAVERS

- Recent overseas pupils who have left Abbotsholme, have gone on to do:
 - Wildlife Conservation at Liverpool John Moores
 - 3D Design at Plymouth
 - Psychology at The University of Sheffield
 - Business and Human Resource Management at Birmingham City University
- [Click here](#) to see further destinations.

10. VALUE ADDED

- **Individual academic excellence and achievement**
 - Small class sizes (around 15), enabling individual attention and support

- 70 acre working farm and BHS approved Equestrian Centre
- New dedicated Sixth Form Centre for independent learning
- Boarding from age 10, with exclusive Sixth Form log cabin boarding village
- Individual English as an Additional Language lessons taught by specialist staff
- Outstanding outdoor education programme with indoor climbing wall and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme to Gold level
- Sporting excellence with key focus on hockey, rugby and cricket
- First class facilities for music, art and drama

11. FEES

- Commission to agents: 10% of annual fees.
- [Click here](#) to access the agent contract.
- Deposit fee is £1000 which is returnable at the end of the pupil's school days.
- Registration fee is £100 (this is non-refundable).
- Different payment options are available please [click here](#).
- There is a 5% sibling discount which is attributed to the younger child.
- Early payment discount is available for September starters. If paying before August 31st then a 3% discount is applied.
- We are an all inclusive fee school, so this will include all boarding, food, trips, books, tuition, inclusive of EFL, activities etc. It does not include: school and sports uniform, overseas trips or private lessons in for example music.
- [Click here](#) for our fees.

12. ADMISSION

- We accept pupils at any stage during the academic year.
- We can accept pupils for a minimum of one term; however, priority is given to pupils wishing to stay one year or longer.
- We do not offer scholarships or bursaries for overseas pupils.
- For further information on the application process for overseas pupils and English level please [click here](#).
- Entry requirements to enter for the sixth form is as per our Admissions requirements for overseas pupils (see below).
- Admission requirements for European pupils [click here](#).
- Admission requirements for non-European pupils [click here](#).
- Our busiest years are Year 10, 11 (for GCSE) and Year 12 for Sixth Form (for A levels and Pre-A levels).

- There are no application deadlines as we will take pupils throughout the academic year depending on availability. We will endeavour to work to your deadlines and requirements.

13. GUARDIANS

- We require guardians for all our overseas pupils regardless of whether they reside in Europe or further afield.
- We do not have any particular links to guardians, but are able to recommend the following [click here](#) or alternatively visit www.aegisuk.net, the regulatory body for guardian organisations.

14. TERM DATES

- [Click here](#) for our 2014-2015 Term Dates
- It is expected that all pupils are present when school starts every term. Boarders are welcomed back the evening before school starts. When leaving, the pupil can depart in the evening of the last day, or the following day to catch a flight. This ensures that pupils do not miss out on work that they would have to catch up on, school social activities at the end of term, and integration activities at the beginning of terms.

15. EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Outdoor Education is an integral part of the school life at Abbotsholme, providing excellent opportunities for each young person's development, whatever their level of ability and experience. Not only this, it is real fun, and can be truly life changing.
- All pupils have to do hikes and camps. Outdoor Education is an important part of the schools ethos. OEd challenges pupils and by doing so gives pupils' confidence and courage to try new things, an important part of the Abbotsholme educational experience as well as part of our behavioural charter.

- **Outdoor Education**

- Hikes
- Caving
- Walking
- Climbing
- Bouldering
- Canoeing
- Sea Kayaking
- Mountain biking, to name a few

- **Activities (weekly, one afternoon)**

- Fencing
- Farming
- Fishing
- Basketball
- Clay pigeon Shooting
- Dance
- Climbing
- Cookery

- **Abbotsholme Enrichment Programme:**
 - Horse Riding
 - Conservation work
 - Farming
 - Drama
 - Cookery
 - PHSE (Personal Health and Social Education)
 - Duke of Edinburgh Award

- **Life Skills**
 - ICT
 - Bushcraft
 - Environmental awareness
 - Estate management
 - First Aid
 - Teamwork
 - Leadership
 - Careers
 - Public speaking
 - Financial Management

16. WORKING WITH AGENTS

- Commission to agents: 10% of annual fees in the first year only
- [Click here](#) to access the agent contract.

17. LITERATURE

- We have a number of brochures that we can send hard copies to you. Alternatively you can download the following:
 - [Abbotsholme Brochure](#)
 - [Abbotsholme Information Booklet](#)
 - [Abbotsholme Fee Information Pack](#)
 - [Abbotsholme International Brochure](#)
 - [Abbotsholmian](#)

18. KEY CONTACTS

Abbotsholme School
Rocester
UTTOXETER
Staffordshire
ST14 5BS
Telephone: +44 (0)1889 594217

Admissions Contacts:

For brochure requests and admissions requirements:



Michele Archer,
Admissions Co-ordinator

Telephone: +44 (0)1889 594265

Email: Michele.archer@abbotsholme.co.uk

Skype: michele.abbotsholme.co.uk



Hannah Akers,
Development Assistant

Telephone: +44 (0)1889 594289

Email: Hannah.akers@abbotsholme.co.uk

Skype: Hannah.abbotsholme