

A Parents Guide to Taster Days and Assessment Days at Abbotsholme School

Taster and assessment days are an integral part of the admissions process at Abbotsholme and we recommend all pupils have one or two.

A Taster Day allows a child to visit the school as a pupil for a whole school day during term time, to study and play alongside the 'same year' students, who would ultimately become his or her classmates. There's probably no better way of finding out whether your child will fit in well than doing a 'trial run'. Children are able to gain an understanding of the school's ethos and routines, and, perhaps most importantly, diminish those 'first day of term' anxieties. Care is taken to find out as much as possible about a prospective pupil's strengths and interests beforehand, so that he or she can visit on a school day that is rich with the lessons and activities of particular interest to the child. During the Taster Day your child will sit tests in Maths and English, and if they are Dyslexic, Dyspraxic, or have other learning support requirements they will also be assessed by the Learning Skills Department. Overnight taster days are also possible so that students whose families are considering boarding can experience a full 24 hour visit. You can also try out our bus service, details of which can be found [here](#).

Abbotsholme has three types of taster and assessment days:

TASTER DAY

Many parents prefer to have a full trial day without assessments which is what our taster days comprise of. We usually try to ensure a pupil has a go at activities and lessons that he or she likes. We do not need a registration form and fee at this stage, but we do need a taster day medical form filled in.

We provide you with a programme of the day by way of confirmation before the day and your child will have a carefully selected buddy for that day. The day begins at 8.15 where you will be met by a member of the Admissions Team, the Head of Year and your child's buddy.

Your child will be given a feedback sheet to be filled in by every subject teacher they are taught by throughout the day to show them how well they are doing. Additionally, we will be ensuring your child is enjoying his or her day and gaining feedback from the teachers he or she comes into contact with. We can then give you this feedback when you come to collect your child at 5.00pm.

The next step will be to have an assessment / taster day or just return for an assessment.

ASSESSMENT AND TASTER DAY

As a parent, you might prefer to do the assessments and taster all in one go, especially if you reside a little further away making numerous trips more difficult. This day comprises of Maths and English tests / Learning Skills assessment. The Maths and English tests take one hour and a quarter and the Learning Skills assessment takes two hours. The rest of the day will revert to a taster day before or after these assessments have been completed depending on the scheduling. We again usually try to organise activities and lessons that he or she likes. We require a registration form and fee at this stage, as well as a taster day medical form if one has not already been filled in from a previous taster day.

We provide you with a programme of the day by way of confirmation before the day and your child will have a carefully selected buddy for that day. The day begins at 8.15am where you will be met by a member of the Admissions Team, the Head of Year and the buddy.

Throughout the day, we will be ensuring your child is enjoying his or her day and gaining feedback from the teachers he or she comes into contact with. We can then give you this feedback when you come to collect your child at 5.00pm.

The next step will be to have a further taster day if you would like and for an offer of a place to be forthcoming should the feedback and tests come back confirming this decision. We will endeavour to offer

you a place by noon the day after the assessment/taster day and for you to receive this in the post the following day. Overseas pupils will receive a PDF offer additionally to a posted offer.

ASSESSMENT DAY

The final taster / assessment day is purely as assessment morning or afternoon if you have had a taster day and just want your child to sit the assessments. The assessment will comprise of Maths and English tests / Learning Skills assessment. We require a registration form and fee at this stage.

We will provide you with a programme of the day by way of confirmation before the day and agree whether a morning or afternoon will be preferable.

We will endeavour to offer you a place by noon the day after the assessment day and for you to receive this in the post the following day. Overseas pupils will receive a PDF offer additionally to a posted offer.

If at any stage, you need to clarify the process, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Team on 01889 594 261 / 594 265 or email admissions@abbotsholme.co.uk