

Abbotsholme School

Information for Overseas pupils





Abbotsholme School: Who are we and what is our school like?

Welcome to Abbotsholme School, and our international brochure for overseas pupils!

Abbotsholme is a friendly, warm and unique boarding and day school for boys and girls from ages 2-18. It is set in the countryside in the centre of the UK, north of Birmingham, and on the Derbyshire / Staffordshire border.

Abbotsholme School, which was founded in 1889, has often been described as one big family. With less than 300 people at Abbotsholme in the Prep and Senior Schools, and around 15 in a class, the staff know every pupil and pupils look after each other whatever age group they are in.

As a Round Square School, we are proud to say that we have a strong overseas community as part of the Abbotsholme family, which we believe really enhances the school environment. British pupils can really learn about other cultures, customs and languages and get a sense of the multi-cultural world we live in; overseas pupils can get involved in English activities, learn English and enjoy a very real British boarding school experience.

We have overseas pupils from a variety of countries including China, Egypt, Germany, Kuwait, Hong Kong, Russia, Spain, the Baltic States, Canada, Africa and Japan.

Understanding the British education system and our Year Groups.

The British academic year runs for three terms between September and July. Pupils are placed in each year group according to their age.

Year Group	Age band
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)

Achievement
Opportunities



Abbotsholme's 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 manège
- Farm, and Prep School 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

Our facilities ensure all pupils have the opportunity to try many different activities and to find out what they enjoy and are good at outside the classroom. At Abbotsholme this is just as important as a good academic education. As a school that provides both we are proud to say that this all-round education really does give all our pupils the very best start before beginning life after Abbotsholme.

Warm
Individual

Lea Hueck, Sixth Former (from Germany)

"I love Abbotsholme because the teachers teach overseas pupils very well. I like being able to help out with the photography around the school. Up in Barnfield I received a warm welcome from the first day I arrived, and now it's like a family to me. I also like the opportunity to go to the farm and to the stables in my free time to do some sports and activities, and help out."



Boarding

Boarding at Abbotsholme is a way of life. With over 35% of our pupils being boarders, and 20% of the school roll coming from countries other than the UK, we have a vibrant and warm boarding community, in which pupils develop friendships that last a lifetime.

Our boarding houses provide small, comfortable and happy homes for all ages, each having their own character and personality. Younger pupils (ages 10-15) will usually share bedrooms in threes and fours whilst older pupils (ages 15-18) have single or shared study-bedrooms.

Our boarders learn independence, time-management skills and responsibility and, with guidance and support from houseparents, they learn how to balance academic work with social time.

Sixth Form pupils (ages 16-18) now have some dedicated sixth form boarding accommodation by way of a 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 Abbotsholme's sixth form students to experience a greater degree of independence and privacy.

Our belief is that this development plays a significant part in preparing our young people not only for university but, more significantly, for their whole lives.

Friendly Community



**Bader Esbaitah, Sixth Former
(from Kuwait) [centre of image]**

"Abbotsholme School is the best school I have been to. It feels like home because of the friendly atmosphere and family feel. My house parents are my second mum and dad and are always there when I need them. We have a lot of fun in the boarding house with birthday parties, meals in delicious restaurants and activities like go-karting, paintballing, quad biking, and so much more."





Activities and Trips for Boarders

At Abbotsholme, there is no shortage of things to do. Throughout the year, there are weekend trips for boarders to enjoy and take part in. They are all included in the school fees, so pupils can sign up to everything if they like!

Recent trips have included:

- Shopping trips each weekend to Derby, Nottingham, Uttoxeter, Manchester, Chester, or Liverpool
- Theatre trips to see Wendy and Peter Pan, and Sweeney Todd
- Fun trips to the Clothes Show Live, Manchester United Football ground, the NBA Basketball finals, and to go paintballing, go-karting and play laser tag.
- Cultural trips to York, London, Stratford and Cheshire

Additionally there are special events for overseas pupils trips run by the EAL department. These have included trips to Stratford (the home of Shakespeare), to have afternoon tea at Callow Hall, trips to York and Cambridge, as well as celebrating special cultural occasions like Chinese New Year.

Unique
Welcoming
Happy

Ahmed Elshamy, Year 11 (from Egypt)

"I love Maths at Abbotsholme and the teaching is great. I played rugby for the first time recently and it was great fun. I enjoy the food a lot and we have a lot of choice. Boarding is great and I am sharing a boarding room with a boy from Andorra. I love my room and the boarding house. At the weekends we go on trips to see various cities and cultural places."





Abbotsholme School

every moment matters



Manège 1

School Entrance 2

Car Park 3

Pre-School 4

Chapel 5

Dining Hall 6

School Reception and Main Entrance 7

Library 8

Cedarholme and St Vincents 9

Food Technology Department 10

Learning Skills Centre 11

Science Department 12

ICT Suite 13

Roseyard 14

Sixth Form Centre 15

Oakholme Classrooms 16

Prep School 17

Snell Building 18

Rockholme and OEd Centre 19

Design and Technology Department 20



Orchard Boarding House 21

Sixth Form Log Cabin Village 22

The Farm 23

Equestrian Centre 24

Farm Bungalow 25

Flaxfield Boarding House 26

Swimming Pool 27

Prep School Playing Area 28

Music Department 29

Sports Hall 30

Art Department 31

Theatre 32

Pathway to Sports Fields 33

To Toboggan Hill and Reddie's Grave 34

Geography Department 35

Fiction Library 36

Health Centre 37

Dingle 38

Prep School Animal Pens and Allotments 39

Year 10 and 11 Common Room 40

Extra-curricular Activities and the Outdoor Curriculum

Outdoor Education is an integral part of 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.

From Year 7-9 (ages 11-14), outdoor education forms a specific part of the school curriculum. Each pupil does a whole afternoon of outdoor education, every fortnight, presenting pupils with personal challenges, and teaches them the importance of taking responsibility for themselves and for others. It alternates with our Abbotsholme Enrichment Programme, which includes horse riding, conservation work, farming, drama, cookery and PHSE. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is also an option and the Bronze Award is undertaken by all pupils in Year 9, with many continuing onto Silver and Gold Awards.

The whole school (staff and pupils) participates in a three-day expedition every Autumn term called 'Hikes'. During Hikes all pupils take part in a variety of journeys throughout the UK. In the Summer term all year groups have a summer camp. During 'camps' pupils are presented with a varied and progressive outdoor programme of new challenges as they advance throughout the school years. Every pupil is expected to take part in these two activities.

There are also regular weekend trips within the UK, involving caving, walking, climbing, camping, canoeing, sea kayaking and mountain biking, as well as opportunities to participate in challenging and exciting expedition adventures abroad.

On Wednesday afternoons, pupils can choose from a number of activities including fencing, farming, fishing, basketball, clay pigeon shooting, dance, climbing and cookery.

Additionally, Abbotsholme provides Life Skills lessons (AXs) during which pupils for example can learn about ICT, bushcraft, environmental awareness, estate management, first aid, teamwork and leadership, careers, public speaking and financial management.

The diversity and extent of our programmes means that there really is something for everyone; each pupil can find something that fires and excites them and enables them to shine and grow.

Family Quality
All round



How do I get to University?

Abbotsholme offers IELTS (International English Language Testing System) for its Sixth Form pupils in preparation for a British university education.

Established in 1989, it is an international standardised test of English language proficiency and jointly managed by the University of Cambridge ESOL examinations and the British Council and IDP Education Pvt Ltd.

IELTS tests all four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking. The IELTS Speaking test is a face-to-face interview with a certified examiner.

No minimum score is required to pass the test. An IELTS result or Test Report Form is issued to all candidates with a score from “band 1” (“non-user”) to “band 9” (“expert user”).

Each university has its own admissions criteria for its courses. Abbotsholme advises each individual pupil on the entry requirements needed, in respect of grades and numbers of A Level subjects, for the course and university each pupil wants to access.

We do know that universities are looking for more rounded pupils to access their courses and not just pupils with great academic records. Abbotsholme can help your child or client’s child achieve both.

Happy
Confidence
Friendly

Guotian Li, Pre-A Level Sixth Former (from China)

“The teachers and the students at Abbotsholme are very friendly and the school’s location in the countryside is lovely. I have settled in well in the boarding house, and everybody studies really hard to improve their English. On Wednesday afternoons I enjoy art and library time. This term I have loved making cakes, and the recent trip to the Drayton Manor theme park was great fun. Abbotsholme allows me to study hard and enjoy lots of activities too.”





Leavers' Destinations in Recent Years

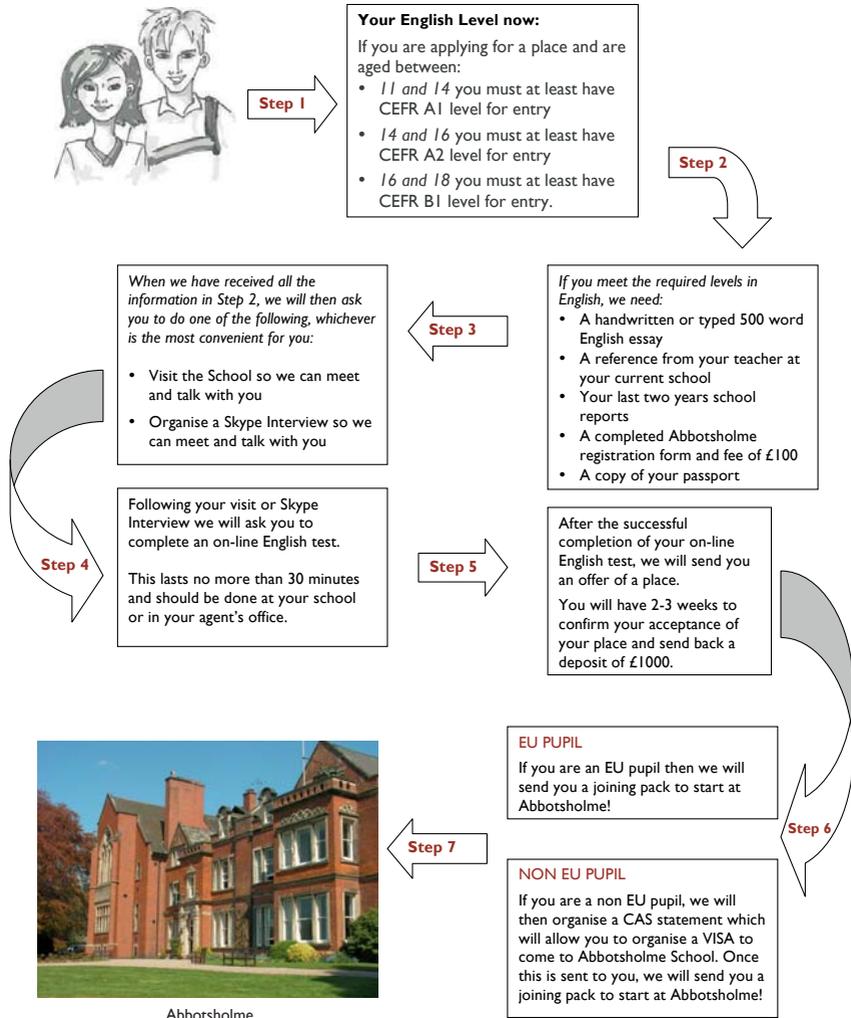
**ABBOTSHOLME
SCHOOL**

Name	Destination	Course
ANTONIA BERNAU*	Liverpool John Moores	Wildlife Conservation
CHARLOTTE BISHOP	Leicester University	Archaeology
REBECCA FRY	Portsmouth University	Combined Modern Languages
ANNABEL GILL	Birmingham University	English Literature and Spanish
MATTIAS KUSTER	Cardiff University	Sport Coaching
ALEXANDER LAIN	Royal Holloway, University of London	Mathematics
MATTHEW MEAD	Oxford Brookes	History
JAMES PASHLEY	University of Oslo, Norway	Business Administration
IAN RIOS*	Plymouth	3D Design
OLIVIA ROBERTS	Brighton University	English Literature
SORRELL RYLEY	Chichester	Events Management
JACK SANDERSON	Liverpool John Moores	Sports Development with P.E.
GEORGE STONE	Falmouth	Fine Art
JACOB THREADGOULD	Plymouth	Robotics
TOM BAILEY	De Montfort University	Business and Management
CHRIS BROWN	The University of Stirling	Nursing (Adult)
AGNES BRUNNER*	The University of Sheffield	Psychology
CHLOE CHESHIRE	York St John University	Psychology
LUCY DARLING	Sheffield Hallam University	Early Childhood Studies
HENRY JAMES	Royal Agricultural College	Property Agency and Management
ALEX KUSTER	Cardiff University	English Literature
SAMUEL MURPHY	De Montfort University	Law
JAMES PORTER	Harper Adams University College	Agriculture
ARAN SAHOTA	The University of West London	Photography
RUPERT SANDERSON	Sheffield Hallam University	Accounting and Finance
LUKE SEYMOUR	Staffordshire University	Computer Games Design (Extended)
FREDERICK SKITT	Lancaster University	Organisation Studies and Psychology
EDWARD THIRKELL	Coventry University	Physiotherapy
KRISTA CHAN*	Birmingham City University	Business and Human Resource Management
LOUIS ZHANG*	The University of Sheffield	Mathematics (3 years)

*These pupils are former overseas pupils at Abbotsholme.

Admission into Abbotsholme School

So you have read all the literature and love Abbotsholme and want to come. Here is the step by step process of what you need to do to start at Abbotsholme:



Contact: admissions@abbotsholme.co.uk

Testimonials

Achievement Opportunities



Rafal Dovgialo, Year 9
(from Lithuania)

"The best thing about Abbotsholme are the teachers. This is because they really help everyone with our work. I love Flaxfield. It is really different to Cedarholme, because there are more activities like the conker competition I did recently. I love sport and football, and now I have started playing rugby and I play lots with other boys, including Maruta, of all age groups. The English support I receive is exceptional."

Antonia Lehmbecker, Year 11
(from Germany)

"My favourite activity is hockey. I really love it. Abbotsholme is a great school because it's so different to Germany, and all the people are so nice and I have got to know people well so quickly. The food is not too bad and you find something in every meal to enjoy. The boarding house is good and the house parents are lovely and try to make you comfortable and happy all the time by making the house feel like a home."



Daniel Grachev, Year 10
(from Russia)

"Abbotsholme is a nice school and I really like it. I do electric car racing as an activity and I have already done two races with the team in the green car called Reddie. Boarding is nice and the boarders are great because you can always go and talk to your friends. I am speaking English all the time and I am really improving. The food is ok too because there is lots of choice."

Confiden

Sam Meng, Year 11 (from China)

“Abbotsholme is located in the beautiful British countryside. Pupils come from everywhere in the world and the School really respects different cultures. The most enjoyable part of Abbotsholme for me is the Outdoor Education, which has a special part to play in the Abbotsholme ethos. It includes mountaineering, camping, climbing, caving and kayaking, amongst many other outdoor activities, and I love it. Abbotsholme School and its teachers inspire and lead me - and everyone - to try these things that I only ever heard about from others, or in newspapers.”



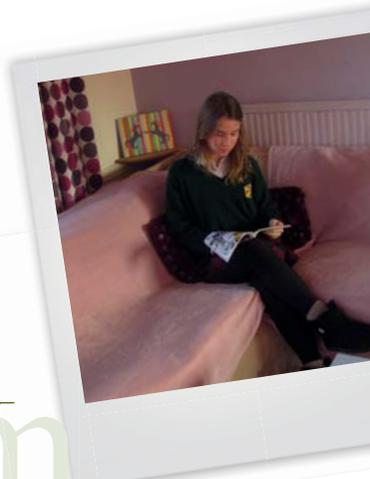
Laura Gomez Tome, Year 9 (from Spain) [Right of the picture]

“Abbotsholme is ace for horse riding. I ride at least twice a week. The boarding parents are lovely and I have settled in very well. My English is improving day by day and being in a room with other pupils who are not Spanish means that I have to speak English all the time. I play hockey and I really like this, and I had never done this sport before Abbotsholme. The food is really nice, and so much better than my school in Spain.”



Kristina Smolkova, Year 10 (from Russia)

“Abbotsholme offers amazing experiences and many wonderful opportunities, but the first day and leaving my family was hard. Since then, I have met some lovely people and made some great friends. I get to ride horses lots, and on the weekends I go on trips with friends - it is great fun. It feels like a second family here.”



Maruta Kiyonaga, Year 10 (from Japan)

“Abbotsholme is a good school. There are a lot of activities and I love football. The people are great because they are easy to talk to and really nice. I like the boarding house and it's a friendly place to be.”



Abbotsholme School

Times from key desinations:

Airports (by car):

Manchester - 1 hour
Birmingham - 45 minutes
East Midlands - 35 minutes
Heathrow - 2 hours 35 minutes

**Train from London St Pancras
International - 2 hours**



Abbotsholme is here!

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