

BOARDING @ ACS COBHAM

Here we take a look at some of the key considerations for choosing a boarding school and how ACS Cobham offers a unique, world-class experience.

1. WILL MY CHILD BE HAPPY HERE?



Ultimately, a child's happiness and wellbeing are the most important factors for parents when reflecting on any schooling option. The provisions in place for student wellbeing in boarding schools are truly unparalleled - the duty of boarding staff is to ensure that all boarders have the constant support, guidance and care to be happy, inspired and ready to make their mark on the world.

An innovation developed by our boarding team at ACS Cobham is the '1,000 Hour Project', which leverages key research around student attainment and wellbeing. The initiative gives over 1,000 hours a year of staff time to focus on simply talking with boarders.

Regular hour-long meetings are carefully planned to cover the six different elements of wellbeing on the Warwick Edinburgh scale; this means the students' thinking is focussed, but the interaction remains personal. Self-assessed ratings are recorded but the process, rather than the result, is their key take away and of most benefit.

The feedback we've received from students and parents has been overwhelmingly positive. Teenagers, however reluctant they may appear, seem to flourish in having time reserved just for them.

2. WHAT ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES ARE THERE FOR BOARDERS?

On top of the sense of community and the wellbeing support, the activities boarders are able to take advantage of are really what makes boarding schools stand out from other educational settings. A rich boarding experience must include a variety of fun and educational extra-curricular activities as an integral part of boarding life, to nurture the whole student.

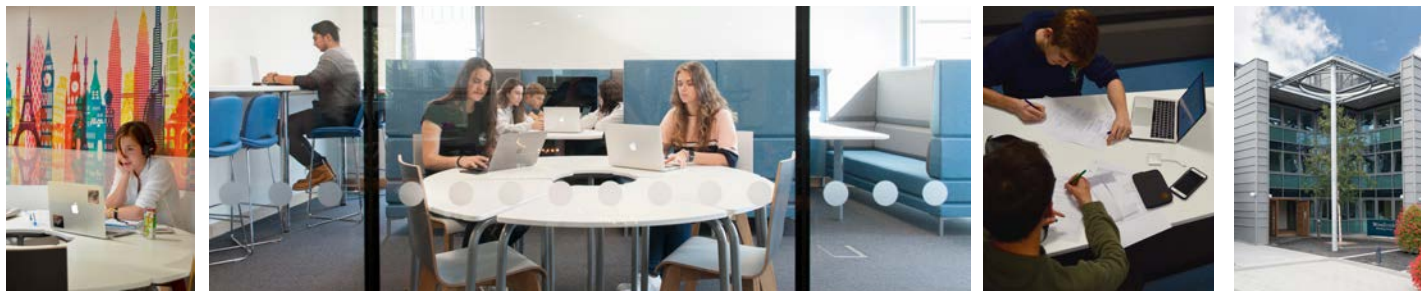
At ACS Cobham our boarding students benefit from a wide range of activities outside of the classroom, from service and volunteering opportunities like packing hampers for the local Foodbank, to performing arts and sports clubs including cheerleading. Toasting marshmallows around a fire, ice-skating, bowling, cinema trips, go karting and trampoline activities all regularly feature throughout each term too.

Each month we offer excursions to London and further afield to places like Bournemouth providing another depth of experience for students. These experiences - that go far beyond the classroom walls - are so important for the development of learners who are well-rounded, resilient and ready to thrive in the 21st century global community.



3. WILL MY CHILD THRIVE ACADEMICALLY AT THIS SCHOOL?

Of course, while the extra-curricular timetable is important, school is still school and the key purpose of boarding is to receive excellent education. One of the benefits of living amongst peers as well as specialist staff is that there is always someone to turn to for academic help. Boarding staff work very closely with teachers to support and encourage each student to reach their potential, and extra help is always available for those who need it.



In our boarding houses, there are plenty of quiet study spaces where students can work each evening. We have an unusually high number of teachers who also work in boarding so, whether a student has a maths problem or a grammar question, help is always at hand.

We work with teachers to embed a tracking system to follow academic progress and ensure that the right support is in place in the boarding houses. In addition, to support our diverse student community of over 30 nationalities, we offer English as an Additional Language (EAL) support out of school hours, dependent on the student's age and needs, and a Native Language Enrichment programme.

4. HOW SAFE WILL MY CHILD BE AT BOARDING SCHOOL?



Boarding inspection in independent schools in England is carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) every three years, to ensure that schools are meeting national minimum standards and, because of this, schools are safer, more secure and more in tune with students' needs than ever before. Whether a boarding school is situated in a city centre or on a leafy rural campus such as ours, providing safe and secure accommodation remains resolutely of paramount importance.

Our contemporary boarding houses sit within a secure, 128-acre campus surrounded by beautiful Surrey countryside. We have 24hr security guards, an alarm system and ID-only entries to the boarding houses for all students and staff.

5. WHAT OTHER BENEFITS ARE THERE TO BOARDING?

Being part of a global community has never been more important. Joining a boarding school will undoubtedly give your child the opportunity to mix with a melting pot of cultures from all over the world, building understanding, empathy, international-mindedness and cultural awareness.

At ACS Cobham we like to think that we're a little bit different. We champion internationalism, with over 70 nationalities represented - 30 within boarding alone. Everyone in our community has one thing in common - what makes us all different is ultimately what makes us all the same and binds us together. We are more than a school that simply enrolls students from other countries - our very foundation is international, unified by renowned academic programmes and English as our common language of instruction.



Find out more about our Boarding options at ACS Cobham: acs-schools.com/boarding.