



ACS  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
COBHAM

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# INFORMATION BOOKLET

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# READY FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

We created this brochure to answer common questions about ACS Cobham – everything from “what curriculum options do you offer?” to “where are you located?”

Of course, no brochure could possibly say everything about such a vibrant, inclusive school. To find out more, including how our distinctive approach to education ensures our students are ready for the rest of their lives, we encourage you to visit us – either for an individual tour or as part of one of our regular Open Days.

To arrange your visit, simply email our admissions department at **[cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com](mailto:cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com)** or call us on **+44(0) 1932 869744**.







## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

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ACS Cobham is a co-educational day and boarding school for students aged 2 to 18, representing around 70 nationalities. Our rigorous academic curriculum includes the highly-regarded International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programmes. In addition to our excellent academic reputation, we are recognised for our outstanding co-curricular and sports programmes.

Our beautiful 128-acre campus boasts state-of-the-art facilities, including a sports centre with a 25-metre, competition-class pool, a cutting-edge interactive learning centre and a stunning 500-seat theatre in our performing arts centre.

We are equally proud of our two boarding houses, where premium accommodation and a welcoming, multicultural ethos create a real home away from home for a diverse group of boarders aged 13 to 18.

## ADMISSIONS

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### **Application procedure**

We operate a rolling admissions process that enables students to join us in any Grade and at any time of the academic year, subject to acceptance and availability.

Our online application process takes a holistic approach, assessing each candidate individually by reviewing previous school records, references, student questionnaire answers and standardised test scores. We also ask for additional information such as educational psychologist reports or English as an Additional Language (EAL) tests, where relevant. This helps us understand the complete student, giving us a real insight into who they are today and how we can make them ready for tomorrow.

We also sponsor boarding students who require a child student visa. Contact our admissions office to find out more.

### **Offer and acceptance of place**

We ask that each application is accompanied by a non-refundable application fee, paid online. If your application is successful, we will contact you with an offer of a place for your child. To secure the place, we require a non-refundable enrolment deposit, which we set against the second semester tuition/boarding fees. For more details of application fees, deposits and tuition costs, see the School Fees section of our website.

### **Practicalities for international families**

We have many years' experience of helping international families with the practicalities of moving to a new country. Our **Welcome Guide** provides useful information on settling in the UK.

## BURSARIES

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ACS schools is a registered charity with the mission of advancing education for all. As part of our philanthropic goals we offer financially assisted programmes in the form of means-tested bursaries.

Our bursary programme enables us to offer places to talented students who would benefit from our world-class education but whose family circumstances make it difficult to meet our usual fees.

These financial awards range from 10% to 100% of our full fees. All bursaries are means-tested, with each award dependent on the student's individual circumstances. In line with our values, we look for students with enquiring minds, an international perspective and a strong desire to make a difference.

We offer Middle School bursaries for students aged 11 or 13 (Grades 6 or 8), and High School bursaries, including the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP), for students aged 16 (Grade 11). Students applying for the IBDP bursary should display the ability to benefit from an academically rigorous programme.

### **Our criteria for awarding bursaries**

We welcome applications from parents who believe their child will benefit from our international curriculum and who will make a real contribution to life at ACS Cobham. We ask only that the candidate and parent are residents of the UK with the right to remain and are local (living within the school busing catchment area). Following an application, we assess the student information and financial data provided and reach a decision in the March prior to the academic year of entry.

### **Calculating the bursary award**

Bursaries are awarded for up to seven years and range up to 100% of the full tuition fees. In exceptional circumstances, these awards can also include additional school-related expenditure so students can participate in every aspect of school life. We calculate the size of each bursary based on an assessment of parental income and other financial assets, so we ask for appropriate documentation as part of each application. We review bursary awards on an annual basis to ensure they reflect any changes in parents' financial circumstances.

There is a strict deadline for bursary applications. Families are advised to consult the website for these dates and apply as early as possible not to be disappointed.

## SCHOOL STRUCTURE

### Divisions

ACS Cobham is organised into five divisions: Early Childhood & Lower School for students aged 2 to 10, Middle School for those aged 10 to 14, Upper School for those aged 14 to 16 and High School for our oldest students aged 16 to 18. Each division is run by a highly experienced principal, ably assisted by superb teaching staff and support specialists.

### Grade placement

Children come to our school from a wide range of countries and schools. This table shows the equivalent class age and curriculum for different education systems.

AGE	US / ACS COBHAM GRADES		UK YEARS	EDUCATION PROGRAMMES
<b>2–3</b>	Flopsy Bunnies	Early Childhood	Nursery	–
<b>3–4</b>	Scramblers	Early Childhood	Nursery	–
<b>4–5</b>	Pre-Kindergarten	Early Childhood	Reception	–
<b>5–6</b>	Kindergarten	Early Childhood	Year 1	–
<b>6–7</b>	1st Grade	Lower School	Year 2	–
<b>7–8</b>	2nd Grade	Lower School	Year 3	–
<b>8–9</b>	3rd Grade	Lower School	Year 4	–
<b>9–10</b>	4th Grade	Lower School	Year 5	–
<b>10–11</b>	5th Grade	Middle School	Year 6	–
<b>11–12</b>	6th Grade	Middle School	Year 7	–
<b>12–13</b>	7th Grade	Middle School	Year 8	–
<b>13–14</b>	8th Grade	Middle School	Year 9	–
<b>14–15</b>	9th Grade	Upper School	Year 10	–
<b>15–16</b>	10th Grade	Upper School	Year 11	–
<b>16–17</b>	11th Grade (Junior)	High School	Year 12/Lower 6th	IB Diploma Advanced Placement
<b>17–18</b>	12th Grade (Senior)	High School	Year 13/Upper 6th	IB Diploma Advanced Placement

## BOARDING AT COBHAM

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ACS Cobham offers boarding as an option for students aged 13 to 18. Our modern boarding houses have a friendly, family atmosphere. All study bedrooms are twin, with single rooms available for final year students (subject to availability). All bedrooms benefit from an en-suite bathroom. Comfortable and contemporary, every room is furnished to a high standard with wall-to-wall carpeting, fitted wardrobes, desks, lamps, bookcases, beds and bedside units. Our boarding houses feature spacious lounges with large screen televisions and access to streaming channels, Wi-Fi, laundry facilities and kitchenettes. All main meals are taken in our school's superb modern dining hall, located next to the boarding houses.

Access to the boarding houses is security card protected at all times. Boys and girls live in separate areas, with some shared common rooms. All our boarders are welcome – in fact encouraged – to use our excellent on-site sports facilities.

On top of this, we also offer our boarders exciting weekend and after-school activities. Our proximity to London means regular trips to West End plays, art galleries, The Harry Potter Tour, Buckingham Palace and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Entertainment back at the boarding house includes pizza parties, talent shows and inter-house competitions.

In addition to 7 day full boarding, we offer weekly boarding from Monday to Friday. This arrangement is ideal for dual working parents who want their children to have a wonderful boarding experience while still maintaining family time at the weekends. Our close proximity to London and other local towns makes the trip home on Friday afternoons eminently doable.

## ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

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All ACS schools offer a unique educational experience, characterised by a bold international approach that builds on our proud American heritage. At the heart of this experience is a commitment to providing exactly the right support for each student, so they thrive within our culture of high expectations. As part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we support a wide range of student interests and abilities.

Another distinctive feature of ACS culture is our attitude to exams. We focus on assessment for learning, rather than simply preparing for tests. We use high-quality data and feedback regarding each student's achievement to improve individual performance and optimise their learning.

The result is a flexible system that works for every student, regardless of ability. At the heart of this is our rigorous academic programme, designed to help highly ambitious learners excel in widely-respected international qualifications that support strong applications to universities in the UK, USA and the rest of the world. At the same time, we encourage all our students to pursue individual passions and explore personal interests.

Put all this together and ACS schools deliver what we call transformational learning: we help students help themselves, by teaching them how to learn. We help them to become effective learners, confident individuals and caring contributors, making them the world's next thinkers and doers.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMME AGES 2–6

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Our Early Childhood programme focuses on purposeful play, active learning, creativity and critical thinking. We encourage our young learners to explore the world as part of a dynamic and joyful community with solid educational foundations.

Small classes provide daily self-initiated activities, guided lessons, small group interactions, and large group experiences. The core programme is enriched by regular lessons in art, music and drama, French/Spanish, PE and Forest School - all taught by specialists. Amazing outdoor areas - dedicated playgrounds, all-weather activity field, woodlands and meadows - offer a rare mix of stimulating learning spaces for children to grow cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally. Timetables vary according to the age group and can be provided by our admissions teams.

## LOWER SCHOOL PROGRAMME AGES 6–10

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Our broad and balanced primary curriculum (more commonly called “elementary” in the US) prepares students for independent learning through core studies in language, mathematics, science and social studies. Students work with specialists to explore language and culture, art, music and physical education, celebrating our diverse cultural backgrounds and participating in a wide range of activities including assemblies, musical performances, field trips and community service. Our world-class outdoor spaces support a Forest School curriculum that connects students with the natural world.

The Lower School is purpose built with a dedicated playground and playing field, science lab, art room, performing arts rooms, and library in addition to our spacious classrooms. Our students also have access to the sports centre and pool, outdoor learning areas and dining room.

*Refer to daily schedule opposite.*

### **The Responsive Classroom**

In both Early Childhood and Lower School, the Responsive Classroom approach is known for teacher effectiveness, higher student achievement and the emphasis it places on creating ideal spaces for learning. The goal of the Responsive Classroom is to create a safe, joyful and challenging learning environment for every child. Students scaffold their learning through an aligned curriculum. Simple skills and routines can be fostered and developed. The common language of the Responsive Classroom is introduced at the very beginning of language development in each 2 to 3 year old.

### **Benefits**

- Sets a positive tone and builds a sense of belonging each day in our Morning Meeting
- Teaches children the essential skills to participate successfully
- Treats mistakes as opportunities to learn, grow and improve
- Uses positive language
- Teaches in ways that build excitement about learning
- Gives children opportunities to reflect on their behaviour and learning
- Invites parents to become a partner in their child's education.

*Refer to special area classes opposite.*



## Example Daily Schedule (Grades 1-4)

<b>7:45 – 8:00</b>	Early morning drop-off
<b>8:00 – 8:30</b>	Early morning recess
<b>8:30 – 8:50</b>	Morning meeting
<b>8:50 – 9:40</b>	Literacy
<b>9:40 – 10:20</b>	Mathematics
<b>10:20 – 11:10</b>	World languages*
<b>11:15 – 12:15</b>	Lunch and recess
<b>12:15 – 12:45</b>	Discovery centre – research
<b>12:45 – 14:00</b>	Inquiry unit
<b>14:00 – 14:20</b>	Recess
<b>14:30 – 15:20</b>	PE*
<b>15:20 – 15:30</b>	Closing circle
<b>15:30 – 17:00</b>	After school clubs

\*Specialist teachers teach the special area classes and their programmes are integrated with the curriculum in order to expand children's understanding of themes taught in the classroom.

## Special Area Classes

FLOPSY BUNNIES	SCRAMBLERS	PRE-K
Performing arts	Performing arts	Performing arts
PE	PE	PE
Forest school	Forest school	Forest school
Swimming	Foreign language (Spanish or French)	Foreign language (Spanish or French)
STEM	Swimming	Swimming
	STEM	STEM
		Art
KINDERGARTEN	GRADE 1-2	GRADE 3-4
Performing arts	Performing arts	Performing arts
PE	PE	PE
Forest school	Forest school	Forest school
Foreign language (Spanish or French)	Foreign language (Spanish or French)	Foreign language (Spanish or French)
Swimming (all year)	Swimming (1st and 3rd trimester)	Swimming (1st and 3rd trimester)
Art	Art	Art
STEM	STEM	STEM
		People skills

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMME AGES 10–14

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Our approach to learning in the middle years emphasises intellectual curiosity, encouraging students to look for connections between what they learn in school and the world beyond the classroom. Our students develop communication, intercultural understanding and global engagement through a curriculum that improves self-confidence and builds background knowledge. As students develop from childhood into adolescence, our Middle School offers a caring and supportive environment that prepares them for High School, and establishes good habits of mind to encourage lifelong learning.

We offer students a broad background in mathematics, science, social studies, language arts and foreign languages while also developing thinking and problem-solving skills. Student interaction and self-expression are encouraged. We supplement the core curriculum by including instruction in health, drama, art, music, information technology and physical education.

### Middle School subjects

<b>5th Grade</b>	English, Reading, Integrated Mathematics, Integrated Science, Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations, World Language, Spanish 1A, French 1A, Comparative Linguistics 1, Physical Education, PHSE.
<b>6th Grade</b>	English, Integrated Mathematics, Integrated Science, Social Studies: British History, World Language, Spanish 1B, 1AB, French 1B, 1AB, Comparative Linguistics 2, Physical Education, PHSE.
<b>7th Grade</b>	English, Integrated Science, World Language, Spanish 1A, 2A, French 1A, 2A, German, Comparative Linguistics 1, Social Studies: Geography, Physical Education, PHSE.
<b>8th Grade</b>	English, Integrated Mathematics, Integrated Science, Social Studies: Indigenous Cultures, World Language, Spanish 1B, 1AB, 2B, French 1B, 1AB, 2B, German, Comparative Linguistics 2, Physical Education, PHSE.

### Activities and events

Students participate in many enriching experiences including assemblies, performances, field trips, after-school and weekend activities, and community service. Visits from artists, authors, musicians, actors and performers are a regular feature of our extended school programme. Sports, drama, theatre and music provide an extensive range of opportunities beyond the school day. All Middle School Grade levels take part in an extended trip early in the school year to sites offering historical and cultural experiences and outdoor adventure challenges. These 4-day trips provide opportunities to work together outside of the classroom and form strong bonds.

### The 3Cs

Caring, Culture, Community are key components of the Middle School identity and embody the qualities we consider to be invaluable in creating a safe, vibrant and welcoming environment in which to learn and grow.

**Caring:** We care about each other and ourselves, our challenges and achievements, our emotional health, and our growth and development. We share our caring with each other as well as with people in the wider local and global communities.

**Community:** We believe all good learning begins with good relationships and these emerge from, and strengthen, a dynamic community where individuals aim to live, work and grow together.

**Culture:** We build our Middle School culture by celebrating and honoring the exciting variety of cultural backgrounds and experiences our students and their families bring with them.







## UPPER SCHOOL PROGRAMME AGES 14-16

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Upper School comprises Grades 9 and 10.

The focus in these grades is to:

- Support all students as they transition from Middle School
- Allow all students to develop the academic and intellectual skills necessary to succeed in further education
- Encourage self-directed learning, critical thought, sound analysis, and problem-solving
- Help students develop areas of personal interest and advance their academic abilities prior to High School course selection
- Prepare students for work in a rapidly-evolving societal and technological environment
- Ensure a high level of student engagement in challenging and stimulating classrooms
- Foster a sense of belonging, encouragement, respect, team work and acceptance within the Upper School community
- Develop suitable mentoring and counselling pathways for students in Grades 9 and 10;
- Empower students with knowledge and insight into the importance of resilience, character building and values-based decision making.

Upper School students engage actively with High School students through the House system allowing meaningful relationships to develop.

Throughout Grades 9 and 10 our students choose from a wide selection of subjects that gain credits towards their High School Diploma.

Students will also start to work closely with our University & College Counselling team to select their preferred pathway for Grades 11 and 12.

In Grades 9 and 10, students must take 8 subjects\*:

- English
- Mathematics
- Languages
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education and Health
- 2 additional subjects\*

*\*Subjects vary depending on student interest and availability. Examples of courses include: Creative Writing and Media, Graphic Design, Film, Jazz Band, Textiles and Fashion, Ecology, Geography, Global Studies, Sports Science and Studies, Introduction to Engineering, High School Computer Science and Genetic Engineering.*

### Assessment

In Middle and Upper School, we monitor progress through a range of school-based and externally benchmarked assessments.



### Grade 9 course choices

SUBJECT	COURSE	OPTIONS AVAILABLE
<b>English</b>	English 9, Transitional English 9 (EAL)	No
<b>Social Studies</b>	World History 1	No
<b>Mathematics</b>	Follow pathway in curriculum guide	Depends on ability/previous attainment
<b>Languages</b>	Follow pathway in curriculum guide	Depends on ability/previous attainment
<b>Science</b>	Science 9 Biology Chemistry Physics	Depends on ability/previous attainment. For Physics or Chemistry, the student must have completed Integrated Maths 1 or Algebra 1
<b>PE/Health</b>	PE/Health 9	No
<b>Elective 1</b>	Variety available	Yes
<b>Elective 2</b>	Variety available	Yes

### Grade 10 course choices

SUBJECT	COURSE	OPTIONS AVAILABLE
<b>English</b>	English 10, English 10 Advanced, Transitional English 10 (EAL)	Depends on ability/previous attainment.
<b>Social Studies</b>	World History 2, AP European History	Depends on ability/previous attainment.
<b>Mathematics</b>	Follow pathway in curriculum guide	Depends on ability/previous attainment.
<b>Languages</b>	Follow pathway in curriculum guide	Depends on ability/previous attainment.
<b>Science</b>	Biology Chemistry Physics	Depends on ability/previous attainment. For Physics or Chemistry, the student must have completed Integrated Maths 1 or Algebra 1
<b>PE/Health</b>	PE/Health 9	No
<b>Electives</b>	The number of electives will depend on other course choices (e.g two sciences)	Yes

## HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMME AGES 16-18

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### **Premier academic programmes**

The International Baccalaureate is a globally recognised academic programme for students aged 16–18. It encourages both personal and academic achievement, challenging students to excel in their studies and in their personal lives.

Developed independently of national standards, the IB incorporates best practice drawn from research and a global community of more than 4,000 top-performing schools. It encourages students of all ages to think critically, challenge assumptions and adopt a global perspective.

Our other premier academic programme is the College Board's Advanced Placement Programme (AP). This is designed to help motivated students pursue university-level studies while still in high school. The AP gives them the opportunity to dig deep into subjects that interest them, developing their skills and analytical potential in the process. This is significant, as many UK and US colleges and universities offer credit or placement based on successful AP examination results.

### **Well-respected national and international standards**

The curriculum at ACS schools is informed by established standards that provide students with clear milestones, to guide their academic development. Our standards are evidence based, to prepare students for the demands of university, career and civic life.

By identifying and prioritising significant content, these standards promote deep learning that enhances the individual student's knowledge and skills. Standards also provide a common language for parents, teachers and students to discuss education topics, and enable students to transfer to other schools – national or international – with the minimum of disruption.

## **Renowned qualifications (Grades 11 and 12, ages 16–18)**

### **The IB Diploma Programme (IBDP)**

The IBDP is an academically challenging programme that ensures students aged 16 to 18 are ready for success at university and beyond. It addresses students' intellectual, social, emotional and physical wellbeing, and has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities. IBDP students take responsibility for their own learning, developing critical and creative thinking as well as collaboration, research, self-management and communication skills.

The IBDP's broad and balanced curriculum requires students to study six subjects during their final two years of school – three at higher and three at standard level. The curriculum includes maths, science, literature, language, humanities and the arts. IBDP results are based on a combination of end-of-course examinations and externally-marked course work. In the IBDP's signature Theory of Knowledge course, students examine the nature of knowing and deepen their understanding of knowledge as a human construct. IBDP students also complete a major independent research project in the form of an Extended Essay, in which they conduct an in-depth study of one of their IBDP subjects.

The IBDP also encourages self-directed learning through its Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) element. Based on the idea of reciprocal service, CAS involves students participating in a range of activities alongside their academic studies, helping promote healthy lifestyles, original thinking and active participation in local and global communities.

Importantly, the IBDP helps students gain offers from prestigious universities around the world. Higher education institutions in more than 90 countries accept students based on their IBDP credentials, while many US public and private colleges and universities offer credit or accelerated courses of study in the light of strong IBDP results.

IBDP is a demanding and popular academic programme. It requires commitment, resilience, excellent time management and determination. In return, a growing body of evidence shows the IBDP is excellent preparation for university, ensuring students are ready for advanced study and helping them achieve results that go beyond anything they thought possible.

### **Advanced Placement (College Board)**

- AP International Diploma
- AP Capstone Diploma
- AP Seminar and Research Certificate

Students who display exceptional ability across a variety of disciplines can study for globally-recognised qualifications, designed to acknowledge and reward outstanding academic achievement with a global perspective. The AP Capstone helps students develop key academic skills that will help them in university and beyond, enabling them to become self-confident independent thinkers and problem solvers.

AP courses give students a first taste of demanding college-level work. AP students build confidence and learn the essential time management and study skills needed for university and career success. Importantly, higher education institutions value the rigour of AP courses, giving applicants a competitive advantage for admission.

### **ACS High School Diploma**

All ACS students who successfully complete the relevant studies receive an accredited High School Diploma. As part of this, students choose from an extensive range of traditional and contemporary subjects, to create stimulating programmes of study that reflect their interests. Importantly for students wishing to study in the US, the ACS High School Diploma meets the admission requirements of US colleges and universities.

Combinations of AP and IBDP courses offer advanced academic rigour in many subjects. Students can choose courses of study that specialise in particular areas of interest and ability, or meet the admission requirements of more narrowly-focused national education systems.





## THE ARTS

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The main thrust of the performing arts at ACS Cobham is student enrichment and participation. This is facilitated through our integrated classroom and after school programmes.

Our Lower School typically stages a production every year – recent shows include *Frozen* and *Madagascar* – with all students invited to participate. Drama thrives in Middle School, with recent performances including *A Midsummer-night's Dream* and *Fantastic Mr Fox*. In High School, students can join the technical theatre club, where they learn about lighting, sound and staging. We put on three productions during the academic year, with recent projects including *Shrek the Musical* and *After Juliet*. Our students attend events such as The International Schools Theatre Association (ISTA) Festivals and workshops and enjoy visits to theatre performances in London. Our students also enter and pass Trinity Speech & Drama Exams.

The music performance programme is rooted in the curriculum with event opportunities that include mini concerts, recitals, rock band concerts and music assemblies, as well as whole-school choral and instrumental shows, and an annual summer concert. Our students attend and take part in events such as the Woking Festival and Wembley Arena's Voice in a Million. Many students complete ABRSM and Trinity music exams and we are also the first International School to participate in Trinity's Arts Awards programme.

At ACS Cobham, our students are able to take full advantage of our state-of-the-art EJ Poularas Performing Arts Centre. It comprises four music classrooms, practice rooms, two drama studios, performance spaces and a 500-seat auditorium - complete with fly tower.

The visual arts at ACS builds from generalist courses that allow for student choice and exposes the students to a range of art-making practices. These experiences are used to instil artistic habits that extend beyond the classroom and help with promoting creative engagement. In addition to these classes, there are specialist courses in Textiles and Fashion, Film, Graphic Design, Creative Writing, Media and Computer Games design. As a result,

ACS Cobham graduates have found themselves in a range of Tertiary courses following High School, from Architecture, Fashion Design, Animation and Film to more traditional Fine Arts Courses in the UK, US and elsewhere.

The Trinity Arts Awards programme is an important enrichment addition to the co-curricular offering and to date Cobham students have achieved Gold, Silver and Bronze awards that have been recognised by this external organisation. There are after school clubs and lunch clubs for students to develop their artistic skills and to use the visual arts to enhance their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and accumulate IB CAS hours. Student work is exhibited physically in accessible areas around the school as well as through virtual displays shared with the wider community.

## SPORT

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Our 128-acre campus is home to some of the best sports facilities of any international school in Europe, including football and rugby fields, softball and baseball diamonds, a floodlit all-weather astro turf pitch, a 400m track and tennis courts.

We offer swimming as part of the PE curriculum from the age of 2 through to High School. In Middle School, we also offer water polo and lifesaving, as well as competitions. We run a popular swim school for students aged 3 upwards, where students can train to join our Cougar competitive swim team (Grades 2-12), who compete locally, nationally and internationally.

We have a world-class sports centre, which houses The Arena, a competition-sized basketball/volleyball show court with sprung beechwood flooring and tiered seating for 280 spectators. Our 25-metre, competition-class swimming pool has a movable floor, touchpad timing system, electronic scoreboard, time clock and a seated viewing gallery for 178 spectators.

The Dance Studio has a sprung beechwood floor, wall-to-wall mirrors, professional sound system and specialised aerobics equipment. Our fitness suite offers a range of cardiovascular and resistance machines, and a free weights area.



Our four core sports are Football, Tennis, Basketball and Swimming and these are available across the academic year to deliver more opportunities for participation.

We have further seasonal sports that include Basketball, Cross-Country, Football, Volleyball, Dance, Rugby, Baseball, Softball, Beach Volleyball, Golf, Tennis and Track and Field.

## STUDENT SERVICES

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ACS schools welcome students who need services for English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Students are challenged and supported in inclusive classrooms and specialist teaching environments, so that they can equitably access the curriculum. Personalised learning accommodations and assessment access requirements empower students to progress academically and strengthen their capabilities as life-long learners. English Additional Language Support is available for up to Grade 10, with proficiency requirements from Grade 8. ACS serves students with mild to moderate learning needs at all grade levels, both subject to admission requirements and available spaces. We are not able to support students with severe behavioural, emotional, or learning difficulties; or older students with very limited English.

## LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

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Our after-school Home Language Enrichment (HLE) programmes support students learning away from their home languages and cultures. Students attend cultural exchange and language development classes in small groups led by teachers (and sometimes parents) with native language fluency.

Classes are designed to be fun and gently instructive, inspiring a love for language and a lived experience of multilingualism. HLE promotes language development, cultural identity; it builds community and promotes international mindedness for today's highly mobile global families.

## WELLBEING

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At ACS Cobham, we believe that social and emotional development is just as important as academic achievement. We focus on the whole child, enabling us to support the development of effective learners, confident individuals, caring contributors who are ready for whatever the future has in store.

Our Early Childhood and Lower School responsive classrooms create learning environments in which every child is a valued member. The Middle School Courage Programme teaches empathy and kindness in order to prevent bullying and build a positive school climate. Our High School advisory programme helps students set goals, monitor academic progress, and take responsibility for their own learning. Students develop relationships with trusted adults who monitor their development and signpost the way to additional support for academic challenges, peer relations and crisis intervention.

Throughout the school, we embrace opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom. Our extensive programme of after-school activities supports students in pursuing their existing passions and developing new ones.

An age-appropriate programme of Relationships, Sex and Health Education helps children and young people remain happy, healthy and safe.

## MENTAL HEALTH

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As part of our overall commitment to wellbeing and mental health, qualified school counsellors support students facing social-emotional, developmental and personal challenges. Counsellors work with school support teams, Designated Safeguarding Leads and curriculum experts to offer short-term individual and group assistance and education.

In addition, ACS provides up to 6 sessions of counselling intervention assessment by British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy therapists for early identification and referral to social services or private practice for longer-term mental health support services.

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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With our state-of-the-art facilities and beautiful, well-equipped grounds, we offer our students a huge range of after-school activities starting from Pre-K. These activities can include fencing, arts and crafts, outdoor play, dance, coding and STEM, Scouts, swimming, gardening, chess club, athletics and cheerleading. During the Middle School years, we offer robotics, dance, chess club, Cub Scouts, golf, archery, fashion and textile, sustainability club, fitness, drama and yogalates. Finally, for our High School students we offer over 50 clubs including the Duke of Edinburgh Award, computer club, Model United Nations, art club, STEM club, brass ensemble, marimba club, student council, Law Society and many service learning and outreach programmes.

## SERVICE LEARNING

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We have a well-established programme of service-learning alongside multiple partnerships with local schools, charities, universities, and various industries. Working regularly with local and international partner schools through our service-learning programme, our students learn to become caring contributors and active citizens in their local and global community. This includes annual expeditions to different countries. These connections are a superb opportunity for ACS Cobham students to gain a different cultural perspective, by serving a community in a meaningful way. Students regularly take part in projects that enhance life skills through collaboration with the community, achieving educational, environmental, and ecological goals. Our students learn with humility, exploring humanity and how it varies worldwide by exploring other cultures.

## CATERING

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ACS Cobham's award-winning catering department is operated in-house, enabling us to employ and train all our own chefs. We take great pride in producing delicious, fresh and nutritious food that appeals to our international community. Our menus are always seasonal and follow the School Food Trust's nutritional guidelines. We source all our fresh ingredients from approved suppliers. Most of our daily deliveries of vegetables, fruit, dairy and meat come from local producers, so we can trace each meal from farm to fork.

## UNIFORM

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Our students do not wear a uniform. We believe in the importance of independent thinking and creativity, and encourage our students to make good choices for themselves. There is a dress code, which all ACS students are expected to follow.

## UNIVERSITY AND CAREERS COUNSELLING

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ACS university and careers counsellors work with high school students to plan and manage the application process for post-secondary studies. Through events (like career fairs), group meetings and self-service information resources, counsellors help students in Grades 9–12 develop personalised plans of study, explore opportunities, and realistically assess challenging university destinations that align with students' aptitudes and ambitions. Counsellors assist students with local and international university applications for selective and highly-selective institutions, and support students as they seek and choose among admission offers. Counsellors support students as they research university options, choose courses, develop personal statements, explore careers, navigate the selection process and prepare for standardised tests - paving the way for a smooth transition to university.

## HIGHER DESTINATIONS AND DEGREES

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Our students attend a wide range of university destinations including the following:

### United Kingdom

- ACM (The Academy of Contemporary Music)
- ArtsEd
- Bangor University
- Birkbeck, University of London
- Bournemouth University
- Buckinghamshire New University
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- Cardiff University
- City, University of London
- Durham University
- Emil Dale Academy
- Falmouth University
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- Hartpury College
- Imperial College London
- Istituto Marangoni London
- Italia Conti, London
- King's College London
- Lancaster University
- Leeds Beckett University
- Leeds Trinity University
- London Interdisiplinary School
- London Metropolitan University
- London South Bank University
- Loughborough University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Mountview
- Newcastle University
- Northeastern University London (formerly New College of the Humanities)
- Nottingham Trent University
- Oxford Brookes University
- Queen Mary University of London
- Queen's University
- Ravensbourne University
- Regent's University London
- Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- SOAS University of London
- St George's, University of London
- Staffordshire University
- Teesside University
- University College London
- University of Bath
- University of Bedfordshire
- University of Birmingham
- University of Brighton
- University of Bristol
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- University of Greenwich
- University of Hertfordshire
- University of Leeds
- University of Manchester
- University of Northampton
- University of Nottingham
- University of Reading
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University of St Andrews
- University of Stirling
- University of Surrey
- University of Surrey (Guildford School of Acting)
- University of Sussex
- University of the Arts London
- University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol
- University of Wales Trinity Saint David
- University of Warwick
- University of West London
- University of Westminster
- University of York
- Urdang (UCL)

### United States

- American University
- Boston University
- Bournemouth University
- Breda University of Applied Sciences
- California Polytechnic State U- SLO
- California State University, Northridge
- Carnegie Mellon University
- City, University of London
- Clemson University
- CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Furman University
- Indiana University Bloomington
- James Madison University
- Louisiana State University
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Nottingham Trent University
- Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City

- Pace University
- Queen's University
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- Syracuse University
- Tufts University
- UCA
- University of Alabama
- University of Arizona
- University of British Columbia
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of Chicago
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Kentucky
- University of Law
- University of Massachusetts, Boston
- University of New York (SUNY)
- University of Oregon
- University of Southern California
- University of Washington
- Virginia Commonwealth University

#### Rest of the World

- American University, Paris
- ArtsEd
- Cape Town University, South Africa
- EDHEC Business School, Paris
- Erasmus University Rotterdam
- IE University (Madrid)
- Institution Marangoni, Milan
- Kookmin University, South Korea
- Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa
- L'IESA (Institute d'Etudie Superieures des Arts)
- Maastricht University
- McGill University
- St. Louis University, Madrid
- Stellenbosh University, South Africa
- Stockholm School of Economics
- UHR
- University of Toronto
- Vrije Universiteit de Amsterdam
- Witwatersrand University, South Africa

#### Courses undertaken include:

- Aeronautical engineering
- Architecture
- Biology
- Biomedical sciences

- Civil engineering
- Computer science
- Drama
- Economics
- English
- Fashion marketing
- Film and television
- Global management and economics
- International relations
- Law
- Mathematics
- Modern languages
- Sociology

## ACADEMIC RESULTS

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We're proud to say that ACS Cobham students have a long tradition of achieving strong exam scores in both the International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement.

Many of our graduates go on to attend some of the most prestigious universities in the world, with the majority gaining places at their first-choice institution, including Russell Group and Ivy League universities.

Our latest academic results can be found on our website [www.acs-schools.com/cobham](http://www.acs-schools.com/cobham) or requested from our admissions team.

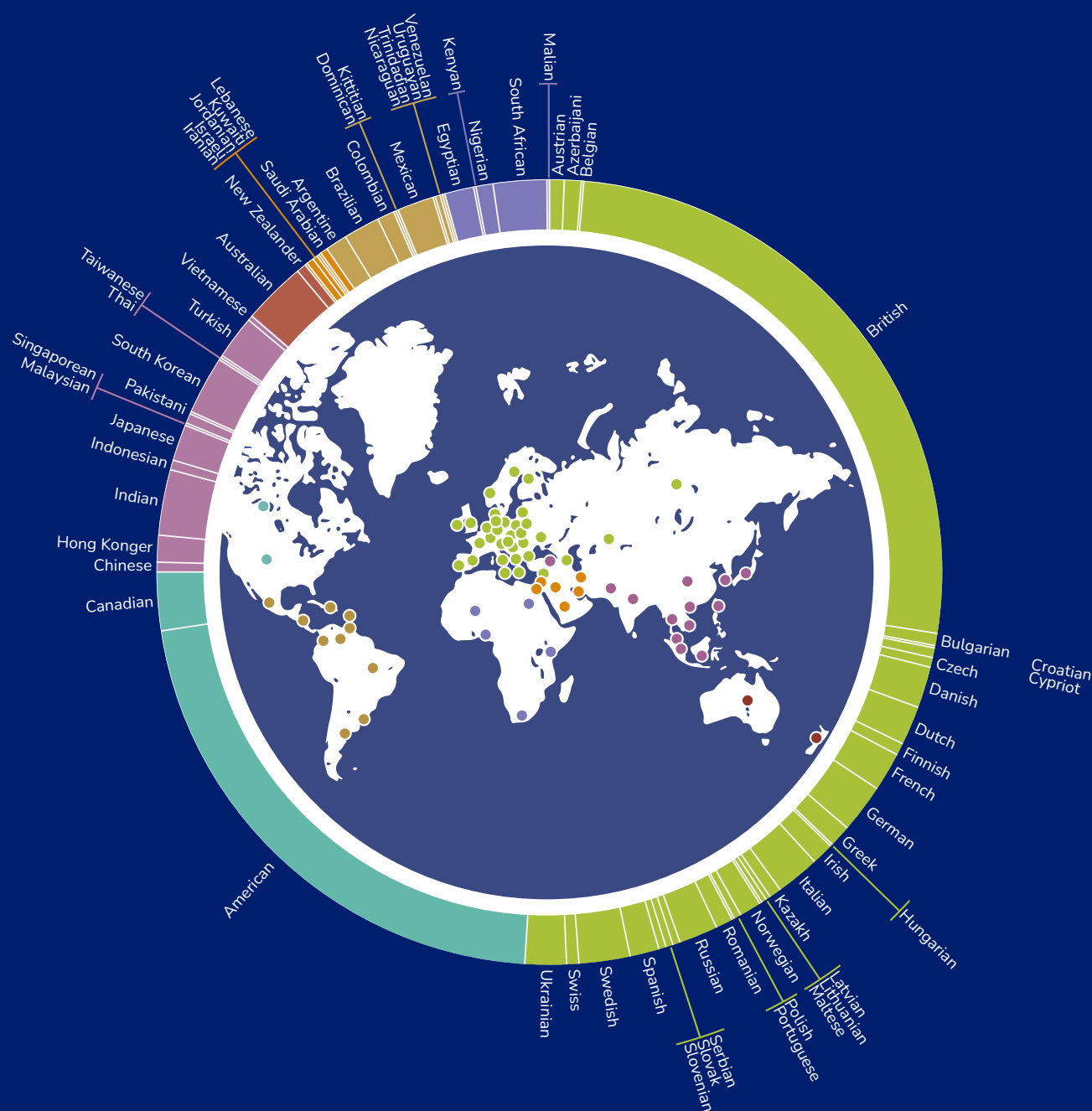
## ACCREDITATION

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ACS Cobham is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and is authorised by the International Baccalaureate to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The school holds memberships in the US College Board Advanced Placement programme, the European Council of International Schools, the Council of International Schools and the Independent Schools Association and the HMC (Headmasters & Headmistresses Conference).



# OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY









## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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### Location and transport

ACS Cobham is close to junctions 9 and 10 of the M25 (to find us, just enter our postcode KT11 1BL into your satnav). Heathrow and Gatwick airports are around 30 and 45 minutes away respectively.



### Busing service

From your door to ours – ACS Cobham operates an extensive busing service for families, to transport children safely and efficiently between home and school.

- Door-to-Door and Shuttle options
- Experienced and safe drivers
- Fees charged to recover costs only

We understand the many challenges facing both local and relocating families and the School Transport Co-ordinator will make every effort to arrange busing for your children from their first day of school (subject to availability). In order to ensure the process runs smoothly, we would appreciate your assistance by informing us of your home address as soon as possible.

### Door-to-Door service

All families living within the Zone 1–3 shaded areas on the map can apply to use our premium Door-to-Door busing service.

### Shuttle service

Shuttle bus stops are assigned each year, according to the home locations of our student population.

Example stops (subject to change):

- Cobham
- Claygate
- Oxshott
- East/West Horsley
- Esher
- Kingston
- New Malden
- Walton
- West Byfleet
- Weybridge
- Woking
- Guildford
- Putney Heath

Please contact us for the most current shuttle timetable and detailed information on **[cobhamtransport@acs-schools.com](mailto:cobhamtransport@acs-schools.com)**.

For up-to-date busing fees please refer to our website **[www.acs-schools.com/cobham/admissions/fees](http://www.acs-schools.com/cobham/admissions/fees)** or email us on **[cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com](mailto:cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com)**.

### Open mornings and individual visits

You can book a place through our website, email our admissions team on **[cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com](mailto:cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com)** or call us on **+44(0) 1932 869744** to arrange an individual tour.







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