



ACS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
COBHAM



ACS COBHAM
WELCOME GUIDE

1 | OUTLINE OF CONTENTS & IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Important Contact Details

EMERGENCY (POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE)	999
Urgent Medical Enquiry	111
To report crime or other police concerns that do not require an emergency response	101
ACS Cobham International School Heywood, Portsmouth Road, Cobham KT11 1BL	01932 867251
www.acs-schools.com/cobham	

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A Welcome from Robert Crowther, Head of School

Dear Families,
Welcome to ACS Cobham International School. It is my great pleasure to introduce you to a community where diversity is celebrated, academic excellence is nurtured, and every student is encouraged to thrive.

At ACS Cobham, we believe education is about more than preparing for a specific career – it's about equipping young people with the confidence, curiosity, and compassion they need to navigate an ever-changing world. Our broad and balanced curriculum is designed to inspire students to think critically, act responsibly, and lead with integrity.



We take great pride in fostering independent minds and a genuine love of learning. Every student is valued here, and we work hard to ensure that each individual feels a strong sense of belonging from the moment they arrive. Our students' growth extends well beyond the classroom – with rich co-curricular opportunities that help build character, resilience, and global perspective.

One of our greatest strengths is our international community. The relationships our students form, the perspectives they gain, and the values they share prepare them not only for success, but to make a meaningful impact on the world around them. Our alumni consistently tell us how their time at ACS gave them the edge – both personally and professionally – as they've ventured out into the world.

I invite you to experience the spirit of ACS Cobham for yourself. Whether you are a new family joining us or a long-standing member of our community, know that you are part of something special. Our parents, staff, and students are here to support one another, and we are committed to ensuring your journey with us is a positive and enriching one.

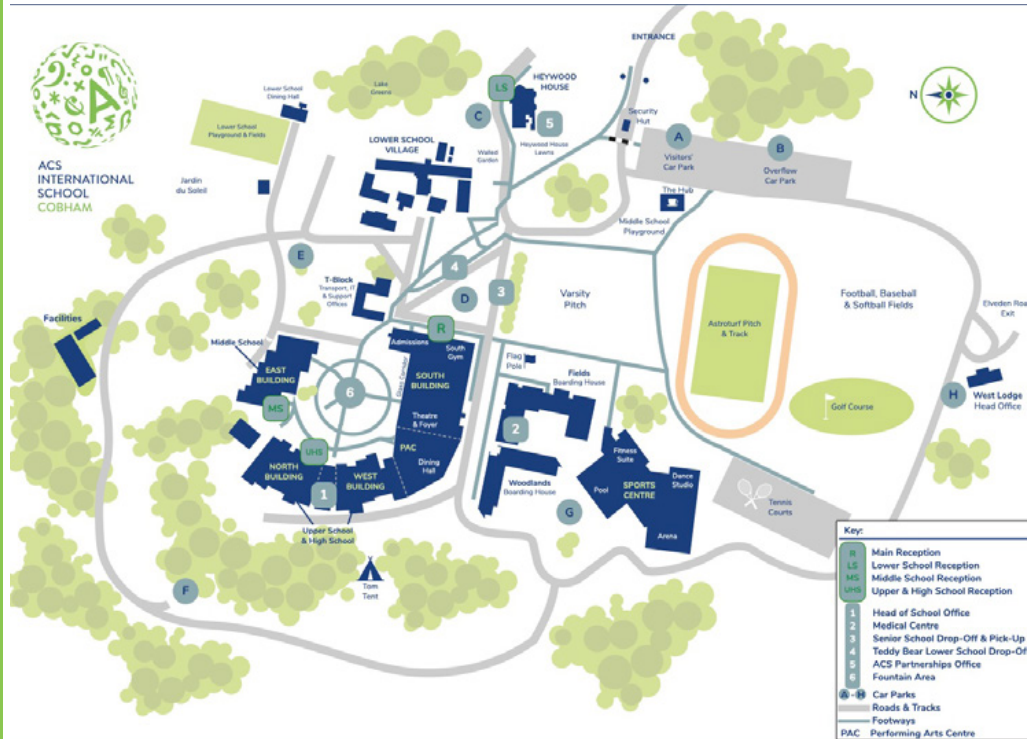
Thank you for choosing ACS Cobham. I look forward to welcoming you in person and hope your time with us will be filled with growth, connection, and lasting memories.

Warm regards,
Robert Crowther, Head of School,
ACS Cobham International School

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2 | ABOUT THE GUIDE AND LINKS TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL





Full detailed onboarding information regarding your child and the school can be found at this link [Onboarding](#)

Important ACS Cobham Contacts

Main Switchboard
(Monday-Friday)

01932 867251

Head of School
Robert Crowther

rcrowther@acs-schools.com

Head of School's PA
Amy Bates

abates@acs-schools.com

Key staff list: [Key Staff and Their Contact Details](#)

Welcome to Your New Community

We're delighted to welcome you to ACS Cobham and to the UK. This guide is designed to support you and your family as you settle into life here, whether you're relocating from overseas or moving locally. Inside, you'll find practical information to help ease your transition – from navigating our education system and understanding daily life in Britain, to discovering the local area around our school, including shops, services, and leisure activities. You'll also find a brief introduction to ACS Cobham itself, school values, and community spirit. Our aim is to help you feel informed, confident, and connected from day one – because at ACS Cobham, you're not just joining a school, you're becoming part of a vibrant international community.



ST GEORGE'S HILL
LAWN TENNIS CLUB



Discover an oasis of sport, health and wellbeing
in the heart of Surrey.

Our outstanding facilities and exquisite 16-acre lakeside setting have set our Club apart for over 100 years, bringing people together through a vibrant and inclusive Club community.

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 - 20m indoor pool, reformer Pilates, spa and wellbeing facilities
 - Professional coaches, physios and beauty therapists
- Brasserie-style dining, casual dining and lakeside terrace
 - Junior sports programmes and holiday camps



FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER
01932 268978 | www.stghltc.co.uk | membership@stghltc.co.uk

3 | FOR NEW ARRIVALS INTO THE UK & FIRST DAYS AT SCHOOL

What to do first . . . for newcomers to the UK

1. Find your closest hospital with an A&E (Accident & Emergency/Emergency Room) by entering your postcode at: [Find nearest emergency hospital](#)
2. Register with your local GP (General Practitioner). Find your nearest NHS physicians at [Find a GP](#)
3. Get a UK mobile phone number.
4. Schedule appointments for telephone, internet, gas, electricity and water services, as well as getting a TV Licence.
5. Purchase car insurance and get information about driving in the [UK Driving in GB with non-GB licence](#). For insurance there are comparison websites, such as: [Compare the Market](#) / [Confused Go Compare](#) / [Money Saving Expert](#)

What to do first . . . for parents

1. ACCESS THE ONLINE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Once you have enrolled and paid your fees, the Admissions Office will send you a link to our onboarding website. You will also receive access to our education system, PowerSchool, where you will complete all the required forms. Through PowerSchool, you can view grade reports, track academic progress, and access important information about ACS. In addition, you will be given access to Schoology, our online communications platform, through your school division.

2. PURCHASE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Each school division (Lower, Middle, Upper and High School) will provide a list of supplies within the onboarding website provided.

3. PURCHASE PE (PHYSICAL EDUCATION) UNIFORM AND KIT

Each school division (Lower School, Middle School, Upper and High School) will provide this information in the onboarding website provided above.

4. ACTIVATE SCHOOL LUNCH ACCOUNT

After your child is enrolled, you should receive a Parent Pay account activation email from finance@acs-schools.com. Follow the instructions on the email to set up the account and add credit to your child's catering account. If you have any queries or do not receive your account activation email, please contact finance@acs-schools.com

5. CHECK THE ACS COBHAM CAMPUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS ON SCHOOLGY

Transportation

WHAT TYPES OF BUS TRANSPORTATION ARE THERE?

ACS Cobham operates a student door-to-door and shuttle service, which picks up your child/children from either outside your house or a dedicated shuttle stop in the morning and drops off again after leaving the school at 3:45pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 2:45pm on Wednesdays. The door to door service is available for all students from Pre-K upwards. The shuttle services, which pick up from various Pick Up Points (PUPS) in the morning and drop off after school for students from Grade 1 and above.

LATE BUS: HOW, WHERE, WHEN, ROUTE, AND DOES IT COST MONEY?

The Late Bus Service is a bookable service that drops students off at various drop-off points. These buses will depart ACS at 5:45pm every school day and normally finish at the end of May. This service is offered to all students from Grade 1 upwards. Further information can be found [here](#).

HOW DOES DROP-OFF BY PARENTS WORK?

The drop-off line is strictly designed to let children out of your car and move on. If you need time to organise yourself, you should park in car park B by the entrance to the school.

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR PARKING ON THE ROAD INTO SCHOOL?

There is strictly NO parking on the road leading into the school and ACS Cobham; it needs to be kept free for emergency vehicles at all times.

WHY IS THERE ALWAYS SUCH A TRAFFIC LINE IN THE MORNING?

There are still many parents who like to drop their children off in the morning and traffic exiting the school is often slow. The Portsmouth Road is busy in the mornings and evenings, so it takes time for cars to exit the school. The school administration is constantly looking for ways to alleviate the situation but needs to cooperate with Elmbridge Council on the matter.

ACS COBHAM BUSING ROUTE

The green shading, on the following page's map, shows the area the bus service covers.

Health and Safety/Security on Campus

WHAT ARE THE AFTER-SCHOOL RULES ON CAMPUS?

Lower School and Middle School students are NOT allowed to remain on campus unsupervised. The Extended Day Club or the Library offer supervised areas after school. Please contact the secretaries in each division for opening hours.

WHY CAN'T MY CHILD GO ON HIS OWN TO THE SPORTS CENTRE TO WATCH HIS FRIENDS PLAY SPORTS?

School policies and procedures do not allow Lower and Middle School students to remain on campus unsupervised. If parents are able to supervise younger students, they are welcome to attend the games.

WHY IS THE PEDESTRIAN GATE ALWAYS OPEN IF THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECURE CAMPUS?

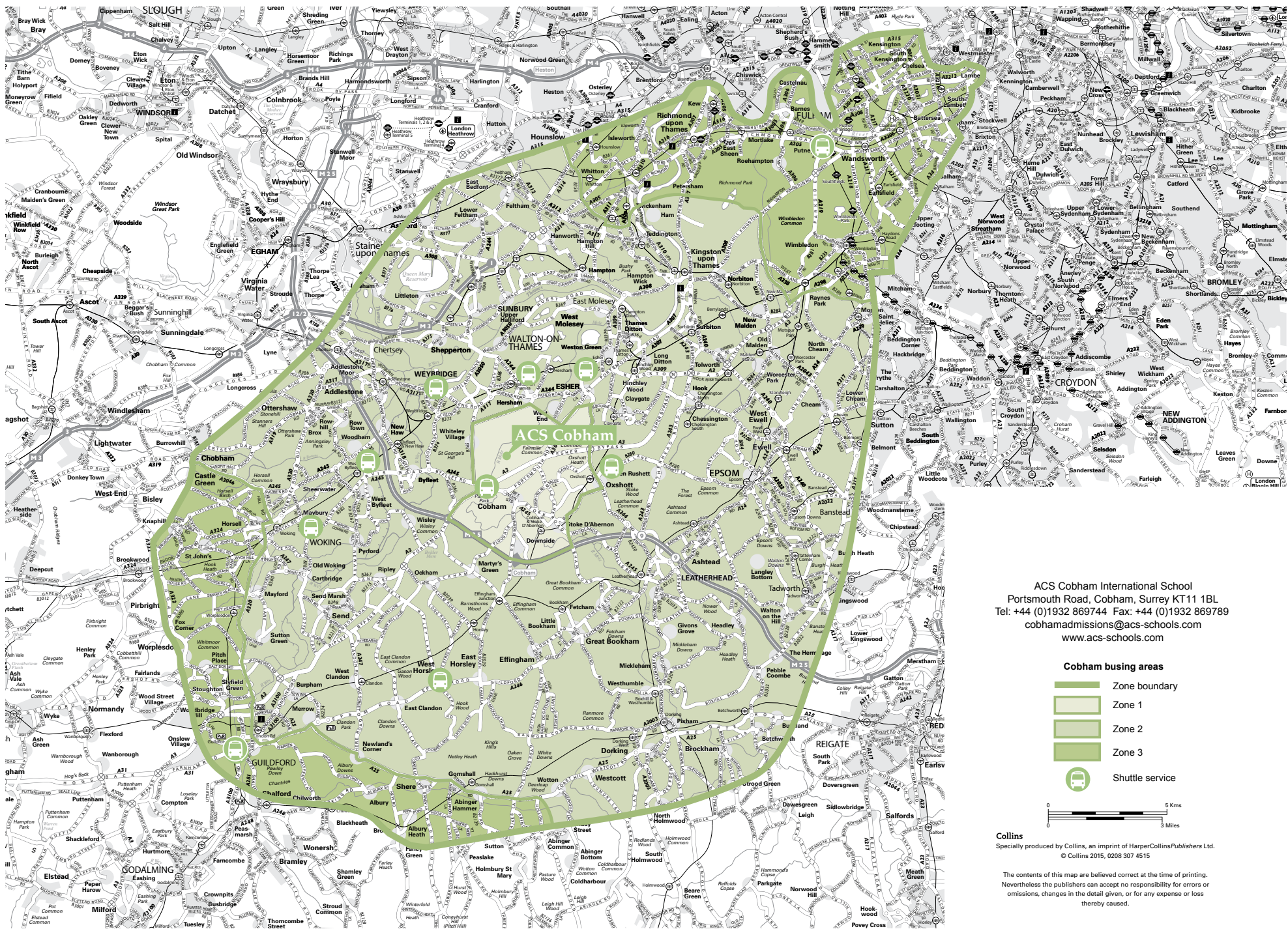
Every effort is made to make the school a safe place without making it a prison. No student is allowed to leave campus during school hours without a permission slip. Staff at the Security Hut (by the car barrier) collect those slips from students exiting campus.

CAN I TAKE MY CHILDREN TO THE LOWER SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PLAYGROUNDS AFTER SCHOOL?

No this is not permitted.






WHERE IS THE NURSE?

The nurses' office is located on the ground floor of the Fields Boarding House, Fields. It can be found by entering through the rear side of the building. Please park and drive responsibly on the school campus.



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 cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com
 www.acs-schools.com

Cobham busing areas

-  Zone boundary
-  Zone 1
-  Zone 2
-  Zone 3
-  Shuttle service



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The contents of this map are believed correct at the time of printing. Nevertheless the publishers can accept no responsibility for errors or omissions, changes in the detail given, or for any expense or loss thereby caused.

After-School Activities

AFTER SCHOOL: WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

Lower, Middle, Upper and High School each have their own offering of After School Clubs and Activities and it is best to consult each division's information on Schoology for details. In addition, the Divisional Libraries are open after school – please contact the librarians in each division for opening hours. Homework Clubs may be offered (check with each division). There are also seasonal sports offerings for Lower, Middle and High School for which training takes place after school.

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS?

Check Schoology or contact the Sports Centre Reception Desk for offerings outside of the School Athletics Programme.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT THE 'HOME LANGUAGE ENRICHMENT (HLE) PROGRAMME'?

The HLE programme is offered via the Country Representatives as a free language enrichment programme for native speakers or students who have become reasonably fluent in the language of a country their parents have been posted to. It is also available to internationally adopted children who have been studying the language of their birth. Contact the HLE coordinator (cobhamlecoordinator@acs-schools.com) for detailed information.

General School Information

DO THE STUDENTS HAVE A DRESS CODE?

There is no specific dress code at ACS, but guidelines for appropriate clothing are published in the various divisional handbooks.

HOW CAN MY CHILD ATTEND A FLAG-RAISING?

Depending on the division, your child will be escorted to the various flag-raising or will need to hand in a permission slip to the divisional secretary.

CLASS LISTS: HOW DO I GET A CLASS LIST?

The class lists for High School and Middle School are posted during Orientation, which takes place a couple of days before the beginning of the new school year. In Early Childhood and Lower School, homeroom coordinators/parents will distribute to parents. During the school year, it is best to contact your divisional secretary or Grade Level Liaison for information.

HOME ROOM COORDINATOR: WHO IS MINE?

This is only relevant for Middle and Lower School, where students are organised by Home Rooms. Contact your divisional secretary or Grade Level Liaison for information.

CONFERENCES: HOW DO I SIGN UP AND WHICH DAY AM I ON?

There is a new online sign-up system in place now for all divisions. This allows you to pick the teacher and time slot you would like to secure online. Your divisional secretary will send you a note to advise when booking opens.

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY CHILDREN DURING PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES?

Please check with your child's school division for guidance on the usual procedure, as sometimes students are expected or required to attend and other times they may not.

WHAT IS THE MAP TEST? WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE SCORES?

MAP stands for 'Measures of Academic Progress' and is a standardised test available in Reading, Language Use, Mathematics and Science. It provides a continuous roadmap as to where each student is performing relative to curriculum or other standards and is used as an internal assessment tool to help educators develop targeted instructional strategies. The test is dynamically built, based on the achievement level of every student and is untimed; results are given immediately. Because the data can be looked at historically and is consistent from season to season, growth can be measured and could be used as a placement tool in Middle School and High School.

WHAT ARE IB, AP, NHS AND SAT?

These are various terms used in the High School for either: a diploma, degree, test or society.

The IB is an acronym for the International Baccalaureate, the AP for US Advanced Placement Courses, the NHS is the National Honour Society and SAT stands for 'Standard Aptitude Test' which is a Test required by most US universities.

HOW DO I COMPLAIN IF I SEE INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR BY STUDENTS ON CAMPUS?

It is best to contact your Grade Level Liaison – they will raise the issue with the Divisional Head and make sure you receive feedback.

IS THERE A SUPPLY LIST FOR HIGH SCHOOL?

Not really; each course will have its own requirements and students are expected to provide the appropriate material.

WHERE CAN I GET SCHOOL SUPPLIES (OFF CAMPUS)?

Each village tends to have a school-supplies store and most supermarkets have a decent section. In Cobham, Farrants shop is well-stocked for school supplies. WH Smith is a large stationery chain found in most bigger towns, and you can also order on Amazon.

ACS COBHAM DICTIONARY

Word	Explanation
Academic Dean	Responsible for academic advising and scheduling of High School students.
Academic Principal	Directs the planning, delivery and ongoing improvement of curriculum, assessment and instructional practices within the school.
Activity camps	Fun day camps for children led by staff during summer holidays on campus.
Alumni	Students who have previously attended ACS.
Advanced Placement (AP)	One year courses taught from Grades 10-12.
Artist-in-Residence	Programme bringing artists and other professionals to ACS to work with students, parents or teachers.
Assembly, Lower School	Grade-level assemblies are performances or academic activities presented by the students, which parents may be invited to attend.
Assembly, Middle School /High School	Grade-level or whole school division meetings for sharing information or presenting awards, which parents may be invited to attend.

American Women of Surrey (AWS)	External club that welcomes and assists newcomers to the UK; everyone with a child attending ACS can join. Many ACS parents are members. AWS organises events, excursions, toddlers groups, etc.
Bank Holiday	No school; banks, post offices and some local shops will be closed.
Black Gates	Near the lawn next to Heywood House; an after-school pick-up point for parents.
Block Schedule	Double lessons (70-80 minutes each) in Middle School and High School.
Boy Scouts	Programme for boys aged 11-18.
Brownies	Programme for girls from Kindergarten to Grade 3.
Buddy	Current ACS student who is paired with a new student to help them settle in at school.
Bringing Up Grades (BUG)	Quarterly recognition for Middle School students who bring up their grades by at least 10%.
Cafeteria	Dining hall for students and staff.
Campus	All of the school's grounds (fenced in). It is a closed campus with 24-hour security.
Campus Calendar	The main calendar with all activities, events and meetings for the school year.
Career Day	For High School students, once a year professionals with different occupations are invited to meet with students and tell them about their careers. Students must wear field trip dress for the day.

Creative Active Service (CAS)	As part of the IB Diploma, students must complete a programme of minimum 180 hours total over Grades 11 and 12 in sports, charity work, etc.
Chaperone	An adult (staff, parent) supervising field trips, parties, dances, etc.
Coffee Morning	An informational meeting with refreshments for parents.
College Workshop	High School informational meetings for parents and students regarding preparation for university.
Concession Stand	Snack bar in Sports Centre Café where light refreshments and snacks are sold during sports events by parent volunteers.
Core Subjects/Classes	The academic subjects in each division, usually Maths, L.A, Social Studies, Language; different from 'Specials' or 'Extras'.
Cougar	School mascot; the 'cougar' name and logo is used especially by sports teams.
Counsellor	One in each division (Lower, Middle, Upper and High School) to provide primarily social and emotional support for students, as well as advice for parents when needed. In High School there are also 'college counsellors' who provide guidance for students with the university application process.
Country Rep	A parent representing his/her country as a member of the CRG.
Country Representative Group (CRG)	Group formed by parents representing most countries of origin of ACS students; part of PSO and helps support new arrivals.
Credit	In High School a course that meets daily during the school year is worth

	one credit towards High School graduation requirements
Cub Scout	Boy scouts from Grades 1-5.
Disaster Relief Fund (DRF)	School-wide charity committee with student, staff and parent members. Organises fundraising and immediate support to international aid organisations when disasters occur around the world. Informs and educates ACS community as part of our role as global citizens to help those in need.
Division/Divisional	There are four divisions in the school: Early Childhood, Lower, Middle and High School. Each has a divisional office.
Dress Code	Each division in the school provides guidance for how students are expected to dress at school.
Early Childhood (EC)	Within the Lower School, including Flopsy Bunnies, Scrambler, Pre-K and Kindergarten
English as an Additional Language (EAL)	Extra English language support for students with limited English ability.
End of Year Staff Appreciation	Parents sponsor an event with refreshments to show appreciation for school staff, organised by PSO.
European Language Day	Day-long event for Middle School students organised by the World Language teachers.
Field Trip	Students travel to museums, theatre, etc. Usually by bus.
Field Trip Dress	Middle School and High School students are required to dress appropriately for field trips off-campus and some special events on-campus, such as Career Day.

Flopsy Bunnies	In Early Childhood, youngest students in school are from 2 years old.
Fountain Area	Open round area in middle of Lower School, Middle School and High School with fountain in the centre.
Freshman	A Grade 9 student.
Grade Advisors	In High School each student is assigned to an advisory group with a grade advisor (teacher) who usually stays with the same students from Grade 9-12.
Head of School/Headmaster	The ACS Cobham staff member responsible for all four school divisions (Early Childhood, Lower School, Middle School, High School).
Heywood House	The original white manor house on the Heywood estate, now used by Lower School division.
High School	Grades 11-12.
Home Language Enrichment (HLE)	Lessons for students with a native language other than English.
Homeroom (HR)	The class that students meet with each morning for announcements and attendance.
Homeroom/HR coordinator (room parent)	One or two parents from each HR; organises HR coffee meeting, parent involvement and communication from the HR teacher and school to the parents in the HR. The PSO liaison for each grade level chooses the HR coordinator.
Homeroom/HR Teacher	The teacher responsible for a homeroom of students that meet on a daily/weekly schedule.
HR Advisor	In Middle School the HR teachers also serve as advisors to the students in their homerooms.

In-Service Day	No school for students; training sessions for staff.
Interactive Learning Centre (ILC)	Meeting room located on lower ground floor between Middle and High Schools (under Marble Hall).
Interim report	Middle School quarterly report on each student's progress.
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Two-year diploma programme given as an option for students in Grades 11 and 12.
International Youth Sports (IYS)	Parent-run sports club outside school, mainly on the weekend. For children in Pre-K to Grade 8, it offers soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, flag football, etc. during three seasons.
Junior	A Grade 11 student.
Junior Varsity (JV)	High School student sports teams, sometimes might include Middle School students on the teams.
K	Kindergarten, 5-6 year old students.
Language Arts (LA)	English language and literature class in Middle School.
Learning Support (formerly Resource)	Individual/small group learning support provided for students needing extra help with literacy, maths or English language.
Liaison	PSO parent representative of a school division or parent group, such Grade 9 liaison or CRG liaison. Acts as a 'link' between PSO, parents and school.
Locker	Lower School students each have their own unlocked cupboard for personal belongings. Middle School and High School students each have a locker in the hallway and are given a key to keep belongings safe.

Lower School	Including Early Childhood – Flopsy Bunnies, Scramblers, Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grades 1-4
Lower School Village	The ‘village’ of white buildings located between Heywood House and T-block.
Main Parking Lot	Main car park/Car Park A by main school entrance, next to security hut.
MAP	Measures of Academic Progress, an online assessment taken by all students across all campuses of ACS from Grades 2-10 twice a year (in fall and spring).
Medical Centre (Nurses)	Medical support centre for all students on campus staffed with nurses; on ground floor of the Fields Boarding House.
Middle School	Grades 5-8.
Nurse (Medical Centre)	See ‘Medical Centre’.
OFSTED (Office for Standard in Education)	The inspectorate for children and learners in England; contributes to the provision of better education through inspections and regulations.
Old Gym	Gym next to Admissions office.
Open House	Informational evenings for parents held by each division (Lower School, Middle School, High School) at start of each school year.
Orientation Day	Important informational day(s) right before school starts in August; class lists are posted, students meet, get schedules and find classrooms.
Performing Arts Centre (PAC)	Houses our theatre, music rooms, Middle and High School drama studios and music practice rooms, as well as high school world language classrooms.

Pod	Hallway area shared by all HR classes in a Lower School grade.
Policies	School policies are on the ACS website and the ACS Intranet.
Pre-K	Pre-Kindergarten, 4-5 year old students.
Principal	Head of Early Childhood, Lower School, Middle School or High School.
Prom	Formal High School dance, held in spring for students in Grades 11 and 12.
PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test)	Test taken by all High School Grade 10 and 11 students in October.
Parent School Organisation (PSO)	All parents and staff at ACS Cobham are automatically members of this group. The PSO Board leads the PSO.
PSO Board	The elected leadership of the PSO who organise activities and events to support students, parents and staff as well as communicate with the school staff about parent ideas and concerns.
Recess	Free play time for students before/ after lunch. May also mean school holiday break.
Red Slip	Middle School students receive red slips for behavioural issues such as repeated tardiness, violations of school rules or disrespect to others.
Report Card	Quarterly school reports for each student’s progress.
Resource (now Learning Support)	Individual/small group learning support provided for students needing extra help with literacy, maths or English language.

Room Parent/Coordinator	See 'Homeroom Coordinator'.
Rugby field/pitch	The large grass playing field next to old gym parking lot and in front of the dorm.
SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)	US test taken for university/college admissions by grade 11 and 12 students; may be taken more than once.
School Colours	Green and navy blue.
Scramblers	In Early Childhood, 3 year old students.
Security Hut	The small hut at main school entrance with 24-hour security staff.
Security Hut Parking Lot	See 'Main Parking Lot'.
Senior	A Grade 12 student.
Sophomore	A Grade 10 student.
Specials/Special Area Classes	Other than core subject classes; specialist teacher classes in art, music, computers, etc.
Special Purpose Committee	A committee/person who coordinates a single school event such as Career Day, PFTP, etc; part of the PSO.
Spirit Club	PSO parent volunteer support group for all school sports teams.
Student Study Team/Student High Support Team (SST)	In Lower School, Middle School and School the SST groups meet regularly to review and decide on actions to support students' individual academic, social or emotional needs.
Student Council	Students elected by their peers in Middle School and High School to form a council that organises parties, dances and charity events. A teacher advises each council.

Summer picnics	Picnics for new and returning families during July and August that are organised by the PSO Welcome Team.
Summer reading list	In Middle School, students are required to read one book over the summer and are given a suggested reading list. In High School, it is a compulsory course requirement that students read relevant books and complete assigned tasks.
T-block	The white building forming a 'U' next to Admissions.
Track	The running track with grass in the middle at the end of the rugby field and near the tennis courts. Parents can run/walk on it, as long as they don't disturb the students; sometimes PE classes use it.
Trunk-or-Treat	PSO-sponsored Halloween fun event for the whole family. Kids 'trick-or-treat' from 'trunk' (car boot) to 'trunk' in school parking lot.
Try-outs, Sports/Drama	Scheduled right after school on designated days before seasonal sports teams begin or dramatic performance rehearsals. Students demonstrate their skills to earn a place on team/performance.
Varsity (V)	Our highest-level competing sports team.
Welcome Coffee	Informational social event for new parents; one in August and one in January sponsored by the PSO; a great opportunity to meet other parents.
Welcome Team	PSO parent volunteer group whose main purpose is to ease the transition of new families starting at the school.

Yearbook

End-of-year books produced by Lower, Middle, Upper and High School with photos of all students and their activities during the school year. Each student receives a book and are encouraged to have other students sign or write encouraging messages in their own.

4 | LIFE IN THE UK



Below is some information, in alphabetical order, with links that may be useful.

Adult education

Check with your council for local options or you can try:

[Surrey County Council](#)

Adult Education Classes.

[The National Careers Service](#)

Government site set up for advice on careers and courses.

[The Open University](#)

Flexible learning options for a huge range of further learning courses remotely and part-time.

American to British Translation

[US to UK](#)

Area councils

The local District Council Office is equivalent in the US to a 'Town Hall,' and takes care of community services such as rubbish and recycling, building permission, parking permits and schools. [Find my local council](#)

Banking

- Opening a bank account in the UK is very thorough, so takes time to process. Items requested may include; a picture ID, proof of residence (at least one utility bill or other document with your UK address), six months' worth of prior bank statements.
- If your bank card is lost or stolen, a new card is posted to you, which can take 3-5 working days.

Popular British banks include:

[Barclays](#)

[Citibank](#)

[Halifax](#)

[HSBC](#)

[Lloyds](#)

[NatWest](#)

[Santander](#)

[Metro Bank](#)

[First Direct](#)

Citizens Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free information and advice. Visit their website for answers to your questions or to find your local office: [Citizens advice](#)

Conversion Tables

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

UK	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
USA	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
EUR	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52

MEN'S SHIRTS

UK/ USA	14	14.5	15	15.5	16	16.5	17	17.5	18
EUR	36	37	38	39	41	42	43	44	46

WOMEN'S SHOES

UK	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
USA	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5
EUR	35	35.5	36	37	37.5	38
UK	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	
USA	8.5	9	9.5	10	10.5	
EUR	39	40	41	42	43	

CHILDREN'S SHOES

UK	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3
US	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4
EUR	23	24	25	27	28	29	31	32	33	34	35

Please note that these charts are only guidelines and can vary depending on brand and source.

WEIGHT AND MEASUREMENT

Length

UK/USA	1 inch	1 foot	1 yard	1 mile	.333 in.	39.37 in.	3.28 ft.	.62 mile
Metric	2.5 cm	30 cm	0.9 cm	1.6 km	1 cm	1 m	1 m	1 km

To convert: Multiply by

Inches to millimetres	25.4
Feet to metres	0.3048
Yards to metres	0.9144
Miles to kilometres	1.6093

Weight	American	British
One cup	8 oz.	10 oz.
One pint	16 oz.	20 oz.
One tablespoon	½ oz.	1 oz.

Weight	US (Standard UK)	Imperial	Metric
Flour	¼ cup	1 oz.	25g
	½ cup	2 oz.	50g
	¾ cup	3 oz.	75g
	1 cup	4 oz.	100g
Icing sugar/cocoa/cornflour	1 cup	4½ oz.	120g
Butter/Sugar (castor, granulated or brown, firmly packed)	2 Tbsp.	1 oz.	25g
	¼ cup	2 oz.	50g
	½ cup	4 oz.	100g
	¾ cup	6 oz.	175g
	1 cup		225g
Liquids/Cream/Yogurt	¼ cup	2 fl. oz.	50 ml
	½ cup	4 fl. oz.	100 ml
	¾ cup	6 fl. oz.	185 ml
	1 cup	8 fl. oz.	250 ml
	1 pint (2 cups)	16 fl. oz.	475 ml

Weight	US (Standard UK)	Imperial	Metric
Grated Cheese/Chopped Nuts	1 cup	4 oz.	100 g
Yeast	1 cake	½ oz. fresh	15 g

TEMPERATURE

Fahrenheit	32	41	50	59	68	77	86	95	104	140
Celsius	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	60

Boiling point of water =	100° Celsius,	212° Fahrenheit
Freezing point of water =	0° Celsius,	32° Fahrenheit

To Convert:

Celsius to Fahrenheit:	multiply by 9, divide by 5 and add 32 Fahrenheit
Fahrenheit to Celsius:	subtract 32, multiply by 5 and divide by 9

Cooking Temperatures	Celsius	Fahrenheit
Gas mark 1	140	275-300
Gas mark 2	150	300
Gas mark 3	160	325
Gas mark 4	180	350
Gas mark 5	190	375
Gas mark 6	200	400
Gas mark 7	220	425
Gas mark 8	230	450
Gas mark 9	260	500

All temperatures are the approximate equivalent.

BODY TEMPERATURE

Normal body temperature is 98.6 Fahrenheit, which equals 37 Celsius.

Embassies in the UK

[Full list of embassy contacts](#)

Expat Organisations

Here's a selection of popular clubs and associations in the London area. Most accept any nationality and have a range of social events, great for meeting new friends.

[AMERICAN WOMEN OF SURREY](#)

Primarily American members, but now welcoming international members from around the globe. The group welcomes and assists new families to the area and supports philanthropic projects both locally and overseas. This is an extremely active group with over 30 clubs and activities.

[AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF BERKSHIRE AND SURREY](#)

The AWBS International Women's Club is a not-for-profit, non-partisan club that provides a welcome to individuals living in England from many nationalities. Their purpose is to welcome and assist all newcomers and their families through the relocation process, to promote friendship and interaction among members and to further their philanthropic activities.

[AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF LONDON](#)

The American Women's Club of London (AWC) is a non-profit and volunteer-run organisation dedicated to providing a welcoming environment for American women (and non-citizens with close ties to the US) residing in the UK. The AWC is non-partisan and does not endorse any political or religious group or position.

[AUSTRIAN CLUB LONDON](#)

Established in 1984 to maintain and upkeep the "Austrian Spirit" amongst Austrian expatriates in London and UK nationals with a strong bond to Austria. They offer events, networking, and outings for all to enjoy and learn the Austrian way.

[BRITISH-GERMAN ASSOCIATION](#)

Membership is open to anyone who enjoys German culture and is appreciative of a strong British-German relationship. Members can enjoy London-based social gatherings, cultural events, guest speakers, and more..

[CANADIAN WOMEN'S CLUB](#)

The club welcomes permanent and temporary Canadian expats or those with a Canadian connection. Enjoy a wide variety of events and activities, participate in charitable projects, and best of all, meet other Canadians.

[CHILTERN AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB \(CAWC\)](#)

Welcoming all nationalities, this group primarily meet in Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield and their primary objective is to welcome and assist newcomers and their families in England along with philanthropic work.

[ST. JOHN'S WOOD WOMEN'S CLUB](#)

Welcoming all nationalities, SJWWC is an activities-based social and civic non-profit organisation, dedicated to enhancing the "London Experience" for members and their families. Most members live in the northern section of London.

[THE THAMES VALLEY AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB](#)

TVAWC welcomes international families living in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, London and Surrey with most activities in Windsor, Maidenhead and Reading.

[Further associations here](#)

Family Days Out

There are many resources to find things to do with your children, such as: [Trip Advisor](#) or [Day Out With The Kids](#).

THEME PARKS & LEISURE CENTRES

Chessington World of Adventures
Thorpe Park
Legoland

Coral Reef (Waterslides and fun water activities)
 Big Apple Woking (Bowling)
 Jake's Indoor Play World
 Guildford Spectrum (Ice Skating, Bowling, Swimming)
 Bracknell Ski Slope & Ice Rink

CASTLES & MUSEUMS

Hever Castle (Hever)
 Leeds Castle (Kent near Maidstone)
 Dover Castle (Dover, Kent)
 Hampton Court Palace (Richmond)
 The Museum of Army Flying (Stockbridge near Salisbury)
 Warwick Castle (Warwickshire)
 Brooklands Transportation Museum (Weybridge)
 Windsor Castle (Windsor)
 The Lightbox Art Gallery and Museum (Woking)

ANIMALS & NATURE

Look Out Discovery Centre (Bracknell)
 Go Ape (Bracknell)
 Savill Gardens/Virginia Water Park
 Bocketts Farm Park (Fetcham near Leatherhead)
 Kew Gardens (Richmond)
 Odds Farm (High Wycombe)
 Hobbledown (Epsom)

WEEKEND TRIP IDEAS

Accessible by car, rail, Eurostar, Eurotunnel, and/or ferry:
 Bath
 Brighton, Portsmouth, West Wittering, other beaches
 Cambridge, Cotswolds, Devon, Cornwall
 English Heritage Properties (various locations)
 Isle of Wight
 National Trust Properties (various locations)

New Forest & Beaulieu, Oxford, Stonehenge, Salisbury, Avebury,
 Stratford-upon-Avon, York
 Scotland & Wales
 Belgium: Brugge, Brussels. France: Calais, Paris

PASSES/SAVINGS

If you want to visit historic buildings, beautiful scenery or the best theme parks in the UK, membership passes may offer you the best value. Here are some options:

NATIONAL TRUST

Annual, family and lifetime memberships available giving entry to a huge range of historic buildings and scenic landscapes covering the whole of the UK.

ENGLISH HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP

Offering annual, lifetime or short passes if you have visitors, sites include castles, historic houses and even battlefields.

HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES PASS

This annual pass offers 6 Royal Palaces and exclusive events at these properties.

LEGOLAND ANNUAL PASS

Annual pass or lifetime options just for Legoland, without the cost of a Merlin Pass.

MERLIN ANNUAL PASS

Annual pass to 14 of the UK's top attractions including Thorpe Park, Legoland, the London Eye and London Aquarium.

Healthcare

FOR ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 999 (POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE)
 FOR MEDICAL ADVICE (NON-EMERGENCY) DIAL 111

NHS WEBSITE

One of the first things to know is how healthcare works in the UK. The National Health Service (NHS) is the UK's publicly funded healthcare system,

offering most services free at the point of use, including doctor visits, hospital treatment, and emergency care.

To access NHS services, you need to register with a General Practitioner (GP) near your home. GPs are your first point of contact for non-emergency health concerns. Once you have a home address, you can find and register with a GP through the NHS: [Find a GP](#). You will need to take proof of address and ID when registering with your GP.

For non-urgent medical help, dial 111 or visit [111 online](#). In emergencies, call 999 or go to the nearest hospital A&E (Accident & Emergency) department/Emergency Room [Find nearest A&E hospital](#)

You can learn more and access services at www.nhs.uk, including how to find dentists, order prescriptions, and check eligibility for free care.

PRIVATE HEALTHCARE

Private healthcare is also available and widely used by people who want faster access and more choice of specialists.

Private healthcare in the UK includes:

- Private hospitals and clinics offering consultations, diagnostics, and surgery
- Private health insurance, which can cover some or all of the costs
- Self-pay options, allowing you to pay directly for treatment without insurance

Many private providers offer fast appointments and access to top consultants. Some employers also include private health insurance as part of their benefits package. You may require a referral via your NHS GP to access private services using your insurance.

Private healthcare doesn't replace the NHS – it's a complement. You can use both depending on your needs and circumstances.

HOSPITALS

[Find your nearest hospital](#). Smaller hospitals do not have an A&E department.

PEDIATRICIANS

In the UK, most children see the GP for all routine visits and illnesses. Pediatricians are considered specialists, so your GP will make a referral to a consultant, if required.

DOCTORS

Go to [Find a GP](#) to search by postcode for local surgery/doctor listings. Your GP surgery is allocated based on your home address.

[Find a private GP](#)

DENTISTS & ORTHODONTISTS

[Find an NHS or private dentist](#)

NHS Dentistry is free if, when the treatment starts, the patient is:

- under age 18
- a full-time student under age 19
- a woman who is pregnant or has had a baby in the last 12 months

OPTICIANS

[Find an optician](#)

PHARMACIES/CHEMISTS

[Find a pharmacy](#)

Pharmacy chains on most high streets:

BOOTS PHARMACY

Boots is a chain of stores that sells a wide range of medicines, health and beauty products, suncare, baby products and cosmetics. They also provide services such as travel vaccinations, flu jabs, opticians and repeat prescriptions.

LLOYDS PHARMACY

Lloyds provide a similar range of goods and services to Boots.

TRAVEL CLINICS

Some immunisations are available at your local GP surgery, so check with them first.

Private travel clinics for immunisations

London clinics with branches across London

[London Travel Clinic](#)

[MASTA Travel Clinic](#)

Most private GPs will also offer travel services – [Find a private GP](#)

Household donations

Most town High Streets have charity shops that will take used donations of clothing, shoes, books, games and housewares. To find charity shops in your area: [Find a local charity shop](#)

Larger items and small electrical items can be taken to your local council operated recycling and refuse centre. [Find information on your local council website](#) or use this handy website for guidance on what can be recycled and where: [Recycle Now](#)

Language schools

Many of the Adult Education Centres offer language classes for adults. The local public libraries will also have information about language classes. Berlitz offer online and in person courses for many languages [Berlitz language courses](#).

Legal issues

CHILDREN AND THE LAW

- **Driving**
Young drivers must be 17 years old. Make sure you have car insurance even for learner drivers.
- **Alcohol**
Please see the [government guidance](#) regarding alcohol consumption: [Alcohol and young people](#). It is against the law to drink alcohol under the age of 18. However, at age 16, your child, when accompanied by an adult, can buy or be bought beer, wine, or cider to drink with a meal, but only in a restaurant or pub with an eating area.

NSPCC

The charity National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has excellent information on leaving children home alone, understanding the law on this and children's safety. The NSPCC operates the Child Protection Hotline which offers counselling and advice.

Libraries

[Find your local library](#)

To obtain a library card and borrow books for free, visit the library with ID. Once you have your library card, you can borrow from any of your county libraries. The library is also a great source for finding information on your local area; courses, volunteer opportunities, etc. Some libraries offer storytimes/ crafts for young children.

Places of worship

[Find a church](#)

Post Offices

[Find a post office](#)

Useful for government documents, postage, foreign exchange, bill payment, etc

Post & Package Delivery Services

Post & Package Delivery Services – [Royal Mail](#), [Mail Boxes Etc](#) (for UK and international) [InPost](#) (for UK packages).

SETTING UP A HOME IN THE UK

FINDING A HOME

There is no multiple listing service in the UK as there is in some other countries, so when you are looking for a home to rent or buy, you will have to contact the local estate agents for availability and pricing. There are websites that list available properties from multiple estate agents:

[Zoopla](#)

[RightMove](#)

[Home.co.uk](#)

[Onthemarket](#)

[PrimeLocation](#)

Estate/letting agents work for the landlord or property owner. Propertymark are a professional body that ensures agents listed with them meet high standards. Check their website for listings of local estate agents for buying or renting property: [Find an estate agent](#).

SOTHEBY'S REALTY, OUR WELCOME GUIDE SPONSOR, ARE ABLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR PROPERTY SEARCH IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

United Kingdom Sotheby's International Realty is a leading luxury real estate agency specialising in exceptional properties across Prime Central London, the Home Counties and the Country, including the Cotswolds, Oxfordshire and surrounding regions. With a heritage rooted in the Sotheby's auction house, they offer an unparalleled global network, marketing reach and commitment to excellence.

Their Country team understands the unique lifestyle needs of families relocating for top-tier schooling and a refined rural way of life. Whether you're searching for a historic manor house, equestrian estate or a peaceful weekend retreat, they provide discreet, tailored advice and access to some of the UK's finest homes.

They regularly assist both local and international families who value education, privacy and heritage. With offices in London and across the UK, UK Sotheby's International Realty is the trusted name for buyers and sellers seeking luxury, legacy and lifestyle.

Explore more at: www.sothebysrealty.co.uk



PLUMBING AND HEATING

Landlords are responsible for making sure that gas fittings and flues are maintained in good order, and gas appliances that they own in their residential premises, and flues, are checked for safety every 12 months. They must also keep a record of the safety checks for at least two years and issue it to existing tenants and any new tenants before they move in. Be sure to have your boilers checked annually by a Gas Safe registered heating engineer. You can search for a registered engineer in your area: [Find or check a gas engineer](#)

Tipping/gratuity

Some guidelines are:

- Restaurants: It is customary to leave 10–15% for good service. Many places will add the gratuity automatically to the bill. Read the fine print in the menu or on your bill when you get it. (You are not required to pay this and can even ask that it be removed). You aren't expected to tip in a pub when you are ordering and paying for your drinks at the bar. If you get exceptional service from your barman you can leave the equivalent cost of a half pint.
- Hairdressers: Not required, but if you wish to, you can either add on a few pounds or opt for 10% of the services rendered.
- Post Delivery Person, Rubbish Collector: It is not the custom to tip even at Christmas time.
- Taxi Drivers: Typically 10% of the fare. If you happen to head over to France, a 15% tip is usually included in your bill at a restaurant. In Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland you can add 5% to your bill total, but rarely up to 10%.

Housing/Utilities

AREA COUNCILS

In the UK, the local District Council Office is equivalent to the Town Hall, and takes care of community services such as rubbish and recycling, building permission, parking permits and schools. The Council is a good source of information for local children's clubs and playgroups. You can find your local council by entering your postcode or street and town at: [Find my local council](#)

COUNCIL TAX

Your local government levies council tax against your residence for public services. Even if you are renting from a private landlord, you are responsible for paying this tax. More information can be found here: [Council tax information](#)

ELECTRICITY

Voltage & Frequency: The UK uses a 230V, 50Hz electrical system, which is standard across Europe but may differ from other regions like North America (120V, 60Hz). Plug adapters are available for equipment with special 110/240 (dual-voltage) capabilities. An adapter DOES NOT change the voltage.

Therefore, DO NOT use an adapter on any appliances with a motor without also using a transformer.

Plug Type: British power outlets use Type G plugs, which have three rectangular prongs; travelers will need appropriate adapters if coming from countries with different plug types.

Fused Plugs for Safety: All UK plugs are required to have built-in fuses (usually 3A or 13A) to protect appliances and wiring from electrical faults or overloads, adding an extra layer of safety compared to some other countries.

INSURANCE COMPANIES

To find competitive car, household, health and travel insurance, try a comparison site such as:

[Compare the Market](#)

[Confused.com](#)

[Go Compare](#)

[Money Saving Expert](#)

The largest car insurance companies include Admiral, Aviva, Direct Line, Hastings and LV

Newsagents

Newsagents are located on the high streets in most towns. If you want to have home delivery of a newspaper, check with your local newsagent to see if you can get on the delivery list.

PETS

[Bringing a pet to Great Britain](#)

See this Government website for comprehensive information to bring your dog or cat to the UK, which in some cases can include quarantine. It also includes information applying to pets leaving and returning to the UK, for example, if you want to take your dog with you on holiday to France.

Pet insurance

To find competitive pet insurance, try a comparison site such as:

[Compare the Market](#)

[Confused.com](#)

[Go Compare](#)

[Money Saving Expert](#)

Largest pet insurance companies include: Petgeivity, ManyPets, PetPlan, LV Every paw and The Kennel Club

Dog insurance is recommended in the UK as bills for infections and injuries can run quite high.

Dog Boarding/Sitting

Talk to your vet about reputable local dog boarding and sitting services they recommend. Local providers in the Cobham area include:

[Bruce's Doggy Day Care](#) (grooming and training)

[Royvon](#) (doggy hotels and training)

Removal companies

For moving your household items, contact the British Association of Removers for local companies who are members.

[Find a moving company](#)

RUBBISH/RECYCLING COLLECTION – HOUSEHOLD WASTE

[Rubbish/recycling collection](#)

Enter your postcode for local council information for your area.

Travel insurance

To find competitive travel insurance, try a comparison site such as:

[Compare the Market](#)

[Confused.com](#)

[Go Compare](#)

[Money Saving Expert](#)

Even if you have private health insurance, travel insurance in the UK is important. If you miss a flight because of illness, you will have to forfeit your entire holiday if you do not have travel insurance. It is often more competitive to buy an annual policy through your insurance company than to buy it through the holiday provider each time you travel.

Transport

DRIVING

- To learn British driving skills, purchase the Highway Code (details all the rules and regulations of driving in the UK) in a bookstore or pay to download it via [Highway Code](#).
- Purchase an A-to-Z Street Directory of your area at a local bookstore or newsagent.
- Beware of the traffic cameras! There are lots of speeding cameras installed, violations are recorded on your licence and you may receive a fine. If you get too many points, you could lose your licence.
- It is against the law to use your mobile phone whilst driving. It can result in penalty points and a fine. [Check Phone usage in car](#).
- GPS/Navigation Systems are very helpful when driving in the UK. If your car doesn't come equipped with one, you may want to consider buying a portable device or a mobile phone app such as [Waze](#)
- London Congestion & [ULEZ](#) zones are active in London. For full details and to check if your vehicle is chargeable go to: [Congestion Charge](#)
- To drive your own car in the UK, you will need the following:
 - Valid [driving licence](#)
 - Automobile insurance – see insurance on previous page
 - [Vehicle registration](#)
- MOT The purpose of the MOT is to ensure that your car complies with key roadworthiness and environmental requirements. Once a car is three years old, it must have an MOT every year. Many garages do MOT testing which takes about an hour; look for one with an MOT sign. See [MOT information](#)
- Vehicle tax – all cars in the UK must have vehicle tax. See [Vehicle Tax](#).

TRAFFIC INFORMATION

[National Highways](#) is a good resource for roadworks and traffic information.

5 | LOCAL TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR ACS PARENTS



Cafes

COBHAM & OXSHOTT

While specific small bakeries in or near Cobham and Oxshott are less documented, nearby areas offer noteworthy options:

1. [THE FRENCH TARTE](#) – Located in Surbiton, this boutique bakery offers exquisite baked goods, including classic jam-filled creations and innovative flavors like pistachio, almond, and cardamom.
2. [GAIL'S BAKERY ESHER & COBHAM](#) – Both situated on the town High Street, Gail's offers freshly baked sourdough, pastries, and cakes alongside specialty coffee. The inviting, light-filled space is perfect for enjoying your morning coffee or a slice of cake.
3. [FEGO CAFE COBHAM & ESHER](#) – A contemporary eatery offering a diverse menu.

WIMBLEDON

4. [THE CAVAN BAKERY](#) – With a rich history dating back to 1929, The Cavan Bakery has branches in South West London, including Wimbledon Park, Hinchley Wood and Walton on Thames. It is renowned for its specialist sourdough bread and traditional baking methods.
5. [MAISON ST. CASSIEN](#) – A café and deli offering Mediterranean-inspired cuisine and specialty foods.

RICHMOND

6. [SWISS BREAD BAKERY & CAFÉ](#) – Found at 175 Ashburnham Road, Ham, this authentic Swiss bakery offers 16 different organic breads and fresh pastries & cakes made using traditional methods.

Restaurants

COBHAM

1. [THE IVY COBHAM GARDEN](#) – A stylish spot offering modern British cuisine in a beautiful garden setting.
2. [THE BLACK SWAN, OCKHAM](#) – A charming gastropub serving seasonal British dishes.
3. [THE OAK ROOM AT WOODLANDS PARK HOTEL](#) – An elegant restaurant offering fine dining experiences. The Oak Room
4. [THE CRICKETERS, DOWNSIDE](#) – Traditional British pub with seasonal menu and Sunday Roasts.

ESHER

5. [THE GOOD EARTH](#) – A renowned Chinese restaurant known for its refined dishes.
6. [CÔTE BRASSERIE, ESHER](#) – A French bistro offering classic dishes in a relaxed setting.
7. [THE WHEATSHEAF](#) – A traditional pub serving hearty British fare.

OXSHOTT

8. [THE VICTORIA, OXSHOTT](#) – An award-winning modern British gastropub on Oxshott High Street.

WIMBLEDON

9. [THE IVY CAFÉ, WIMBLEDON](#) – A chic café-style restaurant serving all-day dining options.
10. [CÔTE BRASSERIE, WIMBLEDON](#) – A French restaurant offering classic dishes with a modern twist.

RICHMOND

11. [SCOTT'S, RICHMOND](#) – A seafood restaurant known for its elegant ambiance and fresh dishes.
12. [GAUCHO, RICHMOND](#) – An Argentine steakhouse offering premium cuts and riverside views.
13. [PETERSHAM NURSERIES CAFÉ](#) – A unique dining experience set within a greenhouse, serving seasonal dishes.

Family days out

COBHAM & OXSHOTT

1. [PAINSHILL PARK \(COBHAM\)](#)
An 18th-century landscape garden featuring a crystal grotto, gothic tower, serpentine lake, and scenic walking trails. Ideal for nature walks and picnics.
2. [SHETLAND PONY CLUB \(COBHAM\)](#)
Offers pony rides and experiences tailored for children aged 3–10, providing a gentle introduction to horse riding.
3. [BOCKETTS FARM PARK \(FETCHAM, NEAR COBHAM\)](#)
A working family farm where kids can meet animals, enjoy tractor rides, indoor play barns, and outdoor adventure trails.

ESHER

4. [CLAREMONT LANDSCAPE GARDEN](#)
A historic National Trust garden with expansive lawns, a lake, and play areas, perfect for family outings and picnics.
5. [DAYTONA SANDOWN PARK](#)
Offers go-karting experiences suitable for children aged 6 and above, providing an adrenaline-filled activity for young racers.
6. [JUMP IN TRAMPOLINE PARK \(ESHER\)](#)
An indoor trampoline park featuring various jumping activities, foam pits, and dodgeball courts, catering to all age groups.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

7. [CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES RESORT](#)
A theme park combining thrilling rides, a zoo, and a SEA LIFE centre, offering a full day of entertainment for families.
8. [GO APE CHESSINGTON](#)
An outdoor adventure park with treetop rope courses and zip lines, suitable for children aged 4 and above.

WIMBLEDON

9. [DEEN CITY FARM](#)
An urban farm offering hands-on experiences with animals, a riding school, and educational activities for children.
10. [WIMBLEDON PARK](#)
Features a large playground, paddling pool, and open spaces for picnics and games, making it a favourite among local families.

RICHMOND

11. [MARBLE HILL PARK](#)
A scenic riverside park with an adventure playground, open lawns, and walking paths, ideal for family outings.
12. [RICHMOND PARK](#)
One of London's largest royal parks, home to free-roaming deer, cycling paths, and playgrounds, offering a natural retreat for families.

Shops

COBHAM

1. [THE COBHAM BOOKSHOP](#)
A beloved independent bookstore offering a wide range of titles and personalized recommendations.
2. [EVIE LOVES TOAST](#)
A boutique featuring stylish clothing, accessories, and homeware with a modern flair. There's a children's store just around the corner too.
3. [SUZANNE BOUTIQUE](#)
Offers a curated selection of women's fashion, blending classic and contemporary styles.
4. [NUMBER SIX BOUTIQUE](#)
An independent boutique providing unique fashion edits from around the world.

ESHER

5. [NO. 4 BOUTIQUE](#)
A luxury fashion destination offering designer collections and personal styling services.
6. [AGE UK SURREY VINTAGE STORE](#)
A charming emporium of vintage clothing, accessories, and homewares supporting a good cause.
7. [GARSONS, ESHER](#)
A family-run farm shop and garden centre offering fresh produce, gifts, home essentials plus a great cafe, with pick-your-own when in season.

OXSHOTT

8. [SURREY HILLS DELICATESSEN](#)
A gourmet deli on the High Street showcasing fine foods, cheeses, and charcuterie from local and international producers, also providing catering.

WIMBLEDON

9. [WIMBLEDON BOOKS](#)
An independent bookshop catering to literary enthusiasts with a diverse selection of titles.
10. [CAROLINE RANDELL](#)
A boutique specializing in luxury lingerie and nightwear, offering personalized fittings.

11. [PHOENIX STYLE](#)

A designer resale boutique offering high-end fashion and accessories.

RICHMOND

12. [THE OPEN BOOK](#)

A volunteer-run bookshop offering a wide range of second-hand books in a cozy setting.

13. [DANIELI CHOCOLATES](#)

An artisan chocolatier creating handmade chocolates and gelato with Italian flair.

14. [PAVED COURT & BREWER'S LANE BOUTIQUES](#)

Charming alleys lined with independent shops, including fashion boutiques, gift shops, and artisan stores.

Leisure Facilities

COBHAM & OXSHOTT

1. [OXSHOTT VILLAGE SPORTS CLUB](#)

Offers tennis courts, squash courts, a gym, and junior sports programs in a friendly environment.

2. [OXSHOTT HEATH AND WOODS](#)

A 200-acre area of woods and heathland, ideal for family walks and nature exploration.

3. [PRINCE'S COVERTS](#)

An 864-acre managed woodland offering walking trails and opportunities for wildlife spotting.

ESHER

4. [THE OAKWOOD](#)

Offers dry ski slopes, a climbing wall, fitness classes, high ropes and a café with panoramic views. Also offer kids birthday parties and holiday camps.

5. [GARSONS ESHER](#)

A family-run farm shop and garden centre with seasonal pick-your-own fields and a children's play area.

WIMBLEDON

6. [WIMBLEDON LEISURE CENTRE & SPA](#)

Provides a swimming pool, gym, fitness classes, and a spa, catering to all family members.

7. [WIMBLEDON PARK](#)

Features a large playground, paddling pool, lake with boating facilities, and open spaces for picnics.

8. [DEEN CITY FARM](#)

An urban farm offering hands-on experiences with animals, a riding school, and educational activities for children.

RICHMOND

9. [POOLS ON THE PARK](#)

A leisure facility featuring indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a gym, sauna, and steam room.

11. [RICHMOND PARK](#)

One of London's largest royal parks, home to free-roaming deer, cycling paths, and playgrounds.

12. [OLD DEER PARK SPORTS GROUNDS](#)

Private members club offering facilities for rugby, cricket, and tennis, along with open spaces for family activities.

6 | GENERAL LONDON THINGS TO DO

With London on your doorstep, here's some suggested things to do.

Shopping

Department stores: Selfridges, Harrods, Liberty London, John Lewis (Oxford Street).

Markets: Borough Market, Brick Lane, Spitalfields, Covent Garden, Camden, Carnaby Street

Bookstores are everywhere: Waterstones, WH Smiths, Foyles

Malls: Westfield Stratford and Shepherd's Bush, Bentall Centre Kingston

Clothing/sports stores: H&M, Zara, Next, Primark, TKMaxx, JD Sports, Sports

Direct Electrical/hardware stores: Currys, Argos, Robert Dyas, John Lewis

Homeware and furnishings: IKEA, Dunelm, Homesense, B&M

Museums & Galleries

Tate Britain and Tate Modern, National Portrait Gallery, British Museum, Natural History Museum, V&A, the Science Museum (these are all free for general admission, special exhibitions usually incur a fee).

Attractions

London Eye, London Aquarium, London Transport Museum, Hampton Court, Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, The Globe Theatre, Madame Tussauds, Tower of London.

Parks/Open Spaces

Hyde Park, St. James' Park (right near Buckingham Palace), Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (East London/right near Westfield Stratford shopping centre where the 2012 summer Olympics were held), Surrey Hills/Box Hill, RHS Wisley, Kew Gardens, Savill Garden, Richmond Park, Virginia Water Lake. The South Bank offers lovely views and walks along the River Thames.

[National Trust](#) and [English Heritage](#) venues offer a mix of outdoor spaces, walks and historical sites, ruins and houses. Annual membership to these is very reasonable.

Theatres

Why not go to see a Pantomime at Christmas – they are great fun. See all the big shows in the West End such as The Lion King, Matilda, Wicked, Six, The Phantom of the Opera, Back to the Future, Hamilton, and a Shakespeare production can always be found playing somewhere.

Concerts/Gigs

Search for your favourite artist/band or look at the venues to see who is playing: O2, Wembley Arena, Brixton Academy, Hammersmith Apollo.

Further Information

TIME OUT

Great for recommendations of places to eat, shows, concerts and things to do.

VISIT LONDON

The official London visitor guide with great information and tips for anyone visiting London, with ticket booking available.

7 | PSO INFORMATION



WHAT IS THE PSO?

The PSO team is made up of parent volunteers who collaborate closely with the school to support various initiatives throughout the school year. These include building community, transition support, parent-school communication, country group and grade level parent connections, school events and more. We are built on our three pillars of – Connect, Contribute and Celebrate. And our driving force is our neutral network of parent volunteers in the community – the Grade and Country representatives, the event teams, Divisional Liaisons, and Board members. We welcome every parent to consider volunteering their time for one of the several PSO roles, big or small, and be an integral part of their child's school community. We look forward to meeting you in person at one of the many welcome events in the first few weeks of school. In the meantime, please feel free to connect via the New Families' Support WhatsApp group. Or for any questions, please reach out to IT@psocobham.org

WHAT IS A CRG?

The CRG stands for Country Representative Group and consists of Country Representatives for around 40 different nationalities. They support a variety of international events, flag-raising and our Native Language Programme.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LIAISON AND CRG?

Most liaisons represent a grade level or division. The Country Representatives represent her/his native country within the CRG and the CRG Liaison is part of the PSO Board. All liaisons are Board positions.

LIAISONS: WHO ARE MINE?

There are Liaisons for various functions: The grade level/divisional Liaisons are the parent representatives for each grade in the Middle and High School and in the Lower School and Early Childhood, the entire Division. They meet regularly with the divisional heads and organise grade level/divisional events. You can find their names and contact details on the PSO section of the website. You are encouraged to get in touch with them if you have any questions.

8 | READING LIST



Recommended books

FOR CHILDREN

Picture books

[We're Moving House](#)

[The Colour Monster Goes to School](#)

AGES 7-11

[Coming to England: An Inspiring True Story Celebrating the Windrush Generation](#)

[Back to School, Mallory](#)

LATE TEENS/UNIVERSITY

[Girl Gone London: An American's Guide to Surviving Life in the UK](#)

[Misunderstood: The Impact of Growing Up Overseas in the 21st Century](#)

FOR PARENTS

Supporting a move

[Britain – Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture](#)

[Moving On: Activity Books and Guide to Support Children Relocating to a New Country](#)

[Thriving Abroad: The definitive guide to professional and personal relocation success](#)

Memoir-style

[The Anglo Files – A Field Guide to the English](#)

[Notes from a Small Island](#)

[Watching the English](#)

THIRD CULTURE KIDS

[Third Culture Kids: The Experience of Growing Up Among Worlds](#)

[Raising Up a Generation of Healthy Third Culture Kids: A Practical Guide to Preventive Care](#)



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