



Abbotsholme

Overseas Agents

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. Do overseas pupils have to do hikes and camps?

A. Yes, all pupils have to do hikes and camps. Outdoor education is an important part of the schools ethos. OEd challenges pupils and by doing so gives pupils confidence and courage to try new things, an important part of the Abbotsholme educational experience as well as part of our behavioural charter.

Q. Can fifteen year old boys and girls doing Pre-A Level courses be accommodated in the Cabins?

A. No, we do not allow this. The cabins are reserved for Sixth Form pupils to give them a taste of independence before moving onto university. For UK pupils this is usually for two years only and are pupils are generally 16 and over when they enter the cabins. Thus it is only fair the same rules apply to overseas pupils.

Q. Can overseas pupils arrive at school for the beginning of term, and depart from school for the end of term when they like?

A. No. We have term dates that all pupils have to stick to. This ensure that pupils do not miss out on work that they would have to catch up on, school social activities at the end of term, and integration activities at the beginning of terms. We do not want pupils to miss out on anything to do with an Abbotsholme education and thus hinder their chances of being as successful as they can be.

Q. What if a cheaper flight is available 2 days before the end of term or 3 days into the new term?

A. Still no. Pupils can stay on the Friday night at school and then leave for a flight on the Saturday, or go to a guardian if a flight is on the Sunday after half term finishes. When they return, pupils can return a day early at the earliest or go to a guardian before arriving at the school on the relevant day.

Q. When do pupils have to get up in the morning?

A. Pupils get up at 7am in the morning during the weekdays and later on the weekends.

Q. How many lessons do pupils have per day?

A. Pupils have 10 lessons per day, each lesson being 35 minutes long with a 5 minute break in between.

Q. When does the school day start and finish?

A. The school day begins at 8.20am with registration, and the first lesson is 8.30am. The day finishes at 5.00pm. After this boarding pupils go back to their houses and homework commences at 5.30pm.

Q. What should pupils bring with them in their luggage?

A. Pupils should bring toiletries, two towels, personal clothes for evenings and weekends as well as a duvet cover if they like to make their area more 'homely'.

Q. What is the food like?

A. The food is amazing at Abbotsholme. Every morning there is a choice of cereals, a cooked breakfast and toast; at lunch there is a wide range of choices from salads and soups, to sandwiches and from two or three hot choices. Supper is the same. All the food is made in the kitchens and is good, wholesome locally-sourced produce. Meals can include curries, stir-fries, lasagnes, pizzas, fish and chips all served with potatoes and vegetables, and to follow, warming puddings, fruit or yoghurts.

Q. Are there other students from my own country?

A. We generally have a few students from China, Germany, Russia, the UAE, and Spain. We have just started recruiting pupils from Italy, the Baltic States and France. Please do ask Mrs Archer for more information on specific pupils in your year group.

Q. What is boarding like?

A. Boarding is like being part of a family at Abbotsholme. With lots of activities in the boarding houses and outside including go-karting events for boys and girls, midnight swims for boys and spa nights for girls – Abbotsholme is a great place to board. Just read the testimonials from our overseas pupils on the International Students page – <http://www.abbotsholme.co.uk/International-Students>

Q. Will I be sharing a room with other people?

A. All Year 11 pupils and below share a room with one other person, younger years with two or three pupils. Sixth Form pupils in the cabins share with one other; whilst pupils in Cedarholme have their own rooms. Overseas pupils will not share a room with another pupil from their country since this does not encourage the speaking of English.

Q. What activities are on at the weekend?

A. There are lots of things going on at the weekends from shopping trips to theatre trips and from Outdoor Education trips to visiting football stadiums or shows. Abbotsholme prides itself in ensuring our pupils have endless opportunities during the week and at weekends.