



Boarding at Wycombe Abbey



Welcome from the Headmistress

The values of mutual respect, encouragement and trust underpin everything we do at Wycombe Abbey, and at the heart of the School is our total commitment to pastoral care through boarding. In this happy and close-knit community everyone is known as an individual, friendships are nurtured and girls enjoy each others' company, all within the wonderful surroundings of our magnificent parkland.

Wycombe Abbey is exceptional: it operates as a modern full boarding school for 660 girls and we are committed to the development of each and every one. Not only is the school a distinctive place for girls to learn and grow in themselves, it is also a living, interconnected community. Through the bond of shared exciting experiences in a homely and nurturing environment, the girls soon begin to make friends for life.

Our approach to boarding in the 21st century is modern and holistic. We offer every girl a relevant and rounded experience within a flexible system which provides a plethora of different options and activities. The happiness and fulfilment of all our pupils is of the utmost importance to us.

Our House structure is designed to help new boarders settle in quickly. At 11+, girls begin their journey in Junior House – a wonderfully welcoming home-away-from-home. In their second year, and for 13+ entrants, girls move into one of nine Senior Houses where they stay in mixed-aged dorms looked after by House Mothers – who nurture and integrate each girl into the House. The Housemistress remains the main point of contact for parents and, supported by a dedicated pastoral team, she is responsible for helping every girl to develop.

The School's rich co-curricular opportunities allow every girl to develop her passions and explore new possibilities. We offer a

full and bespoke programme seven days a week, morning, afternoon and evening, in a culture which inspires and empowers girls to achieve their best. These experiences, in turn, help to build the skills, discipline and character that will support her future life.

With weekly sports fixtures, and regular theatre productions and concerts, there are also numerous opportunities for parents to participate in boarding life. We actively encourage families to spend time together after these activities have taken place. Parents are always welcome to join us for Sunday Chapel services or for coffee in our café, The Courtyard, as well as lectures, receptions and House dinners which are organised for the whole School community.

Boarding is at the heart of life at Wycombe Abbey, a place where girls can grow up in an exceptional living and learning environment. Your daughter's time at Wycombe Abbey will be marked by the highest standards of care, empathy and inspirational teaching; in short, she will flourish.

Jo Duncan MA (St Andrews), PGCE (Cantab)
Headmistress



Weekend Activities

Weekends offer a busy programme of events and trips, enabling the girls to switch off and have some fun. Academic lessons take place until midday on Saturday, followed by sports fixtures, art workshops, dance productions or musical performances, whilst our activity programme runs alongside.

Activities can be both on-site or external and are mostly free. Whether it is a spa session in House, a trip to Thorpe Park, silent disco dance nights or themed cookery sessions; there are options designed for girls of all ages to keep them entertained and enthused.

Socials take place most Saturday evenings with partner boys' schools which involve formal dinners, bowling trips and discos. A highlight for the Upper VI is teaming up with Eton College

for weekly Scottish Reeling during the Autumn Term, culminating in a black tie Burns' Night ball.

Most girls sign up for the activities on offer, which involve many of the staff living on site as weekends are an important part of school life for us all. Regular events are scheduled for families to join in too, so parents quickly become part of the Wycombe Abbey community should they wish to be involved.

Going Home

In the Autumn Term three weekends are allocated as 'Closed Weekends' where special whole-school events take place; for example, an on-site fun fair, a commemorative picnic and a live outdoor rock concert. During these weekends, the first and last and following Long Leave (half term), girls stay in school. In the Spring and Summer Terms the first and last weekends are 'Closed'.

Short Leaves are essentially long weekends, running from a Friday afternoon until Sunday evening or Saturday lunchtime until Monday evening. Long Leave takes place in the middle of each term and is seven to ten days in length. All girls return to their parents or guardians during these breaks.

Throughout the rest of the term there are Open Weekends where girls can go home after Saturday lessons and sports fixtures (or other extra-curricular commitments) and return on Sunday in time for Evensong.

WEEKENDS IN THE AUTUMN TERM:	
1 ST WEEKEND	CLOSED WEEKEND
2 ND WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
3 RD WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
4 TH WEEKEND	SHORT LEAVE
5 TH WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
6 TH WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
7 TH WEEKEND	LONG LEAVE
8 TH WEEKEND	LONG LEAVE
9 TH WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
10 TH WEEKEND	CLOSED WEEKEND
11 TH WEEKEND	SHORT LEAVE
12 TH WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
13 TH WEEKEND	SHORT LEAVE
14 TH WEEKEND	CLOSED WEEKEND

WEEKENDS IN THE SPRING TERM:	
1 ST WEEKEND	CLOSED WEEKEND
2 ND WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
3 RD WEEKEND	SHORT LEAVE
4 TH WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
5 TH WEEKEND	LONG LEAVE
6 TH WEEKEND	LONG LEAVE
7 TH WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
8 TH WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
9 TH WEEKEND	SHORT LEAVE
10 TH WEEKEND	CLOSED WEEKEND

WEEKENDS IN THE SUMMER TERM:	
1 ST WEEKEND	CLOSED WEEKEND
2 ND WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
3 RD WEEKEND	SHORT LEAVE
4 TH WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
5 TH WEEKEND	OPEN WEEKEND
6 TH WEEKEND	LONG LEAVE
7 TH WEEKEND	LONG LEAVE
8 TH WEEKEND	CLOSED WEEKEND
9 TH WEEKEND	SHORT LEAVE
10 TH WEEKEND	CLOSED WEEKEND





A word from our Boarders

Paris, U111 – Junior House

The best part of living at Wycombe Abbey is being able to see your friends every day, from when you wake up in the morning to saying good night at bedtime. Junior House is a second family to me, everyone is supportive and takes care of each other whilst we learn important life skills in our first year. I've grown my independence and confidence this year. If you need anything the house staff are brilliant, whether it is prep, friendships or even just making your bed, the house staff are there to help you figure it all out.

In your free time, there are lots of extra activities you can do; I do ballet, guitar, violin, piano, lacrosse and netball. On weekends,

the house schedules lots of activities such as shopping, going to the cinema and bowling, but you can also go home most weekends if you'd like to. It is normal to miss your family, but you have many fun things to help you and they can come to watch you in sports matches on a Saturday.

The older girls are really helpful and friendly and support in your move to your senior house. I am moving into the same house as my older sister; I can't wait to join Rubens!

All the houses are unique, and everyone loves their house. The best part of Junior House is knowing that we will all get to live together again when we go into Clarence.

Pia, LVI – Butler

Boarding has fostered my independence and resilience, and at Wycombe Abbey there are many support systems to help you during your time as a boarding student. Your housemistress constantly communicates with and supports you, the house staff and your teachers ensure that you can perform to your potential, and all help you feel happy both in and out of the academic environment.

Living at school gives you the flexibility and extra time to get involved with the host of activities that are on offer each week.

On weekends, there is a lot of freedom to go home and see family or friends, but the activities, which include funfairs and spa days, never disappoint. A feature unique to Wycombe Abbey is the mixed aged dorms. These dorms allow you to build relationships with girls outside of your year group, providing the opportunity for older girls to act as role models, giving advice and help to the younger girls when needed. The boarding houses at Wycombe Abbey are a very special part of the community, your house feels like another 'home'.

Charlotte, UVI – Clarence

Living at school has enabled me to form strong friendships across all year groups, partaking in such a caring community. The house staff have been essential in creating a happy and supportive boarding environment, and I continue to stay in contact with my matrons from Airlie, having now moved to Clarence. Clarence bridges the gap between school and university, and living here has made the University application process and A-Levels more manageable as your teachers available are any time throughout the day.

On weekends, I choose to stay at school as I find I am more productive and can cherish the time I do spend at home more.

There is always lots on offer from funfairs to roller discos, and I particularly enjoy getting my nails done at the spa days.

As a boarder it is important to be open to making new friends and relish the opportunities school offers, from house quizzes and school plays, to rock concerts and lacrosse matches – there is something for everyone! Boarding at Wycombe Abbey encapsulates the overriding values of the school: to get involved, to encourage one another, to have mutual respect, and to be in an environment that allows you to excel in all you do.



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