



Boarding at Wycombe Abbey



A world leader in girls' boarding education and a place where academic excellence, empathy and integrity thrive.

It will come as no surprise to you that I count myself to be one of the passionate advocates of English boarding school education. Quite simply, it is the best in the world. It is in its own league. It has no rivals. Here at Wycombe Abbey boarding is the beating heart of our community. It enables our girls to develop and excel academically, socially and personally. It is the engine which has enabled Wycombe Abbey to be what it is today: a world class school.

Our approach to boarding in the 21st Century is modern and holistic. We offer every girl a relevant and rounded experience within a flexible and family-friendly system. The happiness and fulfilment of all our pupils and their families is of the utmost importance to us, which is why our open boarding system gives girls flexible weekend opportunities.

At the same time, we offer a full and bespoke programme seven days a week, morning, afternoon and evening in a culture which stimulates, inspires and empowers girls to achieve their best academically and socially. A wealth of co-curricular opportunities and activities are on offer throughout the week, enabling each and every girl to carve out a unique learning path according to her interests. 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.

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 flourish. Through the bond of shared exciting experiences in a homely and nurturing environment, the girls soon begin to make friends for life.

I hope this summary reveals what is a unique, innovative and outstanding offer in our exceptional community. You can be confident that at Wycombe Abbey we will do all in our power to provide our pupils with an experience which will serve them well for the rest of their lives beyond school and into today's highly competitive global environment.

Rhiannon J Wilkinson MA (Oxon) MEd
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's 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 partnered 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 and 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 at 7.30pm.

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



Laila, U111 Junior House



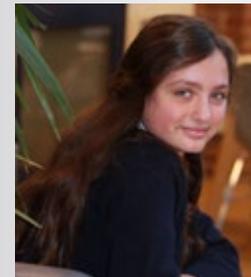
Boarding allows you to get involved in anything that's on offer at School so you immediately feel very involved in school life.

I enjoy my time at home of course but I chose to switch to boarding this term so that I didn't miss out on any of the fun and could make the most of everything that goes on here.

Junior House staff take good care of you if you are ever missing home and help you to get used to being more independent and living with your friends.

At the weekends I always take part in the activities. I sign up each week with my friends. We can choose to do something relaxing or energetic depending on what we feel like.

Annabel, LIV Rubens



Every day is like a sleepover with your best friends at school! Boarding is making me more independent which helps with day to day decisions and challenges.

The mixed age dorms have meant that I am getting to know girls in my House I wouldn't necessarily have known otherwise. I often look up to the older girls in my dorm to help me in situations that I find hard to navigate.

There is a lot of flexibility about going home which is great. If we want to stay in, we can and

there is always loads happening both in House and Whole School activities. There's never any room to be bored!

At boarding school there is so much more time and you don't have to worry about getting home before the traffic or juggling different activities in different places.

Junior House gets you used to boarding school life so that by the time you reach your Senior House you are ready to take on more responsibility.

Izzy, UV Shelburne



Living at school enables you to form strong relationships with your teachers and girls across the year groups, a big advantage compared to a day school.

There is always someone to talk to if you have any worries. The Housemistress's door is always open, and you know that the older girls in the House have probably had the same concerns as you may have so can re-assure you surprisingly quickly!

Now, as the oldest girl in my dorm, I realise how much I have learnt from the years above me because of the mixed age dorms. Each term we change rooms so you quickly get to know everyone in the House.

As you get older your increased independence means that you can enjoy the school grounds and go into High Wycombe town more regularly with friends.

Celina-Anne, UVI Clarence



Living at school means that I can easily access many resources whether it's a library, café or swimming pool! It is an environment where everyone works hard, both with and for each other.

Socials are always exciting. We get to know boys at partner schools both through dinners or parties as well as more structured lectures and conferences so there are plenty of opportunities for socialising. Our three rock bands perform with Eton College and Harrow School, creating some fantastic gigs.

Time spent with family at weekends and in the holidays is so much more precious than I think it would be if I had gone to a local school. I feel very close to my parents and we always have things to

catch up on when I go home.

In VI Form, the dynamics of your lessons change, as does your relationship with your teachers. Regarding university applications, we are given access to a wealth of information and the VI form tutors provide an insight into life beyond School, which can at times seem daunting.

The largest appeal of VI form has got to be Clarence, often likened to University living. The biggest challenge has been learning how to cook but I have just about mastered this! I have now got used to having more freedom over my timetable and getting my work, life balance right, I love it and feel as though I can think more independently.



Wycombe Abbey, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP11 1PE
+44 (0)1494 897008 registrar@wycombeabbey.com wycombeabbey.com
Registered charity number: 310638