



FOUNDED
1779

Ackworth School

HMC, Quaker, Co-educational Boarding & Day School for Pupils aged 2½ to 18 Years





true learning requires space

Welcome to Ackworth School

Contribute. Learn. Be happy.

Ackworth has always been a co-educational, boarding and day school. For over 230 years, we have maintained a passion for teaching and learning. We are proud of our traditions and family values, but equally proud of our innovative approach to co-education.

Ackworth is a dynamic and forward-thinking school. We strive to develop resilient individuals who not only think creatively, but also act ethically and with responsibility. We encourage our students to express themselves with confidence, to embody the Quaker value of speaking respectfully to others, but also in a way that is true to themselves and their beliefs.

Located in a beautiful rural setting in Yorkshire, we offer broad educational opportunities from nursery age to sixth form, for day pupils and boarders.

Some of these opportunities are:

- proven academic performance
- a safe and supportive atmosphere
- the strength of quiet reflection
- excellent sport, music, drama, visual arts and
- recreational facilities



Please come and visit us. I look forward to welcoming you to Ackworth.

Anton Maree



space to grow

Your child can benefit from the continuity of our School from age 2½ right up to when he or she leaves at age 18. It is this kind of continuity that provides pupils with a secure platform from which to be adventurous.

At Coram House we guide younger pupils through the first small steps of starting Nursery to exploring the world around them and becoming ready for more in-depth specialist learning as they progress through the junior years. For older pupils, Ackworth is a wonderful environment for enabling early academic interests and other talents to flourish, from Year 7 through to the GCSE years, then on to Sixth Form and plans for university and the rest of their life. Virtually all of our Sixth Form pupils continue their studies at university.

The physical environment is an important part of learning here. Ackworth's beautiful grounds easily accommodate the needs of our pupils, and we believe they play a key role in our School's unique learning experience. In our extensive gardens, your child can find space for contemplation and moments of calm as well as space to exercise and enjoy the company of friends.

At whatever age they join us, your son or daughter will find a warm welcome and a place to make friends and feel comfortable so that they can enjoy each successive stage of their education. As they advance through School, they will encounter just the right amount of novelty and stimulation to provide them with vitally important 'rites of passage' whilst always remaining part of the same essential Ackworth community.



*Small steps. Big strides.
Learn for life.*





Make friends. Find peace.

space for reflection

Would you like your child to make friends with a philosophy that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives?
A way of thinking that helps them to like themselves, to find contentment and to engage their unique personality and strengths in order to make a useful contribution to the world?



Ackworth School was founded in 1779 by John Fothergill on behalf of The Religious Society of Friends, otherwise known as Quakers. The School Committee - or Board of Governors - is still accountable to this body. When your child becomes a pupil here, they make friends with the Quaker philosophy as well as with their classmates.

Quakers are well known for their tolerance, their emphasis on peace, and their honesty and simplicity. Rooted in Christianity, the cornerstone of the Quaker faith is quite simple: Quakers believe that there is 'that of God' in everyone.

Today, Ackworth pupils of all faiths benefit from an educational philosophy that springs from the Quaker ethos and its emphasis on quiet reflection. Everyone has something to offer. Everyone has their own unique gifts. The majority of our pupils are from non-Quaker families and around ten per cent come from other countries - the international flavour of our School, especially in the Sixth Form, is another of Ackworth's distinctive features.

From an early age, periods of reflective silence form part of each day, for example during Morning Meeting, before meals and with 'quiet time' within Circle Time and Form time. Your child can find significant reassurance in the calm, friendly atmosphere created by the Quaker emphasis on honesty and mutual respect.



space to create

When you blow this and this and then this, in that order, you create music and play in your first Coram House concert. Try the recorder and this instrument and that one too, just for good measure. Join your first rock band or orchestral group. If you practise, you can create the kind of music that inspires everyone who hears it in the Music Centre or the Meeting House. Coram House pupils can enjoy free instrumental tuition for a term and we give senior Ackworth pupils the opportunity to try different instruments during their first year.



You're about to go on the Fothergill Theatre stage. You have butterflies in your tummy but they're good butterflies. A few years and a few innovative drama productions later and you're discovering that being someone else has the amazing effect of making you feel more like yourself than you were before.

It's fun making things. You like to squidge the play-dough in Nursery and your mum puts your paintings up on the fridge at home. You can cook, create moving monsters and battery-powered toys, design mosaic tiles and copy Anglo-Saxon jewellery. You can design your own slippers, a clock, a lamp or an animated film on the computer.



You can direct a play, hold an audience in the palm of your hand, draw precise technical plans, create a mood with the theatre lights or your camera, sculpt a unique piece of art, make mouths water. Yes, you can.

From the moment they arrive in the Junior School and all through their secondary education we give children the creative freedom to express and discover themselves in a diverse range of creative art forms. Self-esteem is a wonderful by-product of creative activity and we encourage all of our pupils – not only those with obvious talents – to try their hand at Design, Art, Music, Textiles, Home Economics and Drama, both inside and outside the classroom.



Express yourself.

space for adventure

The days at Ackworth are filled with activity and friendship. Beyond the classroom, your son or daughter has more opportunity to taste and explore positive new experiences than they can imagine – though we like to encourage them to try!

Ackworth School has a strong boarding ethos which means that a full academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular programme is offered daily. From morning to evening there is much on offer, whether your child is a day pupil or a full boarder.

As well as the creative arts and sport, pupils can develop life-long skills such as leadership and team work through adventurous residential visits, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, sports teams, debating, public speaking, PeaceJam and our student councils, to mention only a few.



Throughout the week pupils can choose from over 70 lunchtime and after-school activities. These cover a diverse range of disciplines from junior school rock band, Eco-schools and gardening club to dance, gymnastics, aerobics, silver-smithing, drama, art, textiles, DT, ICT, model railway club, cyber club, indoor climbing, swing band, ensembles, choirs, orchestra, cookery and many more.

Each year we make new additions to the programme in response to the needs of our students.

As a boarding school, a full activity programme also takes place at weekends. Our senior day pupils are always welcome to take part in these weekend activities, which include sports, the creative arts, trips and visits, talks and workshops.



A photograph of two young girls in a forest. They are surrounded by a large pile of sticks and branches, which they appear to be using to build a structure. The girl on the left is wearing a grey t-shirt with a colorful sequined design and blue leggings. The girl on the right is wearing a yellow top, a light blue jacket, and light blue pants. They are both holding large logs. The background is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

*Explore.
Challenge yourself.
Share.*



Compete. Be fit. Together.

space to be healthy

We all want our children to grow up healthy. That's easier said than done in our contemporary – and highly sedentary – society. At Ackworth, competitive sport is also about being healthy. One of the most valuable things your son or daughter will gain from their time here is the lifetime habit of regular exercise.

Learning how to be healthy begins right from Nursery, with discussion about healthy snack options and exercise. Pupils take part in a range of outdoor activities and our extended day enables our pupils to enjoy all kinds of sports.



For both junior and senior school pupils, sport is embedded in the curriculum at all levels with specialist swimming, PE and games lessons. Pupils can take part in an incredible variety of extra-curricular activities. These include soccer, hockey, netball, badminton, volleyball, basketball, rounders, cricket, tennis, fencing, cross-country, gymnastics, tae kwon do and swimming.

At each stage of their development, a full programme of fixtures against other schools, plus a large number of Inter-House competitions, provides our pupils with the opportunity to develop their individual sporting talents and enjoy playing as part of a team - we also encourage competition at local, county and national levels. The emphasis is on 'having a go' and our House tournaments, in particular, allow children who may not naturally excel in sport to feel confident in physical competition.



All of our pupils benefit from our excellent sporting facilities. These include a sports hall, squash courts, a multi-gym, gymnasium and dance hall, a huge variety of indoor and outdoor courts and pitches, and a 30-metre swimming pool. And, of course, our School is set in beautiful grounds which give students the space to unwind, socialise and simply relax.

space to play

Coram House Early Years. Age 2½ – 5.

Coram House Nursery and Reception pupils learn, quite naturally, as they play. It's the best way - and it's fun!

When we're not out and about in the stunning natural surroundings of the school grounds, we're encountering new ideas in our colourful classrooms which are decorated to create a warm, nurturing environment for girls and boys.

Children thrive - emotionally and academically - when they feel loved and cared for, and that's why we go to great lengths to create a happy, family environment. Through our Quaker ethos we actively embrace the Early Years Foundation Stage Principles and focus on each individual child's personal, social, physical and emotional development, their knowledge and understanding of the world, their skills in language, literacy and numeracy and their ability to reason, communicate and solve problems.

Coram House shares the main School site and is very much part of the whole school family. With the expansive and beautiful wooded grounds of the School available to us, we make sure that pupils enjoy outdoor learning and



challenge, as well as time in the classroom. Your son or daughter can enjoy the thrill of hunting for 'dinosaurs', investigating animal tracks and following Hansel's trail into the 'deep dark woods' as well as planting sunflower seeds, making cakes for the birds and rolling down the hill in their waterproofs!

As your child moves through the Early Years Foundation Stage they also benefit from our specialist facilities and lessons in music, PE and swimming. Parents can choose to extend the school day by taking advantage of our before and after-school childcare sessions at no extra cost.

During these formative years we monitor your child's progress and are continually identifying the next steps for their learning and development. Our entire focus is on enabling your son or daughter to fulfil their true potential.



Learn from each other.



space to understand

Coram House Junior School. Age 5 – 11.

Horizons begin to expand for your child as they experience the exploratory learning of our Junior School.

From Year 1 through to Year 6 our pupils enjoy a breadth of education that stretches beyond the National Curriculum, expanding their ideas and enriching their experiences. We provide a thorough grounding in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science, whilst making sure that pupils have the opportunity to develop their ICT skills throughout the entire curriculum as well as during separate ICT lessons. Time is also given to the study of French, German and Spanish; this helps to develop the pupil's ear for Modern Foreign Languages.

This is the stage at which your child will really benefit from the individual attention provided in our small classes. Their own unique potential and capacity for learning emerge and we will encourage them by setting high standards, introducing the concept of academic rigour and personal fulfilment, and celebrating their individual achievements.



'Forest School' and other outdoor activities take full advantage of our expansive grounds, helping to reinforce classroom learning and to develop skills of independence. Under the guidance of a qualified Forest School practitioner, pupils take part in activities such as den building and lighting their own camp fire. They discover the excitement of handling real tools and their confidence and self-esteem soar as they take on these 'real' practical tasks for themselves.

Your child is always on our radar. We will accommodate their particular learning style in order to give them the best opportunity to succeed. We tailor the curriculum to each child's individual and changing needs. Our teaching is underpinned by continuous informal assessment and we implement intervention programmes for those children who need extra support or challenge. Supervised homework is available for those pupils who wish to take full advantage of our extended day opportunities.

Expand. Explore. Become.





Study. Consider. Be productive.

space to learn

Ackworth Senior School. Age 11 - 16.

You want your son or daughter to feel inspired, to wake up eager to learn and ready to encounter all that the world has to offer them. In our Senior School they will experience the energy of our expert teachers who introduce them to new ideas with the kind of infectious enthusiasm that demands in-depth study and rigorous application. This enthusiasm characterises the academic life at Ackworth.



Pupils here are encouraged to be the best they can be. While our high flyers go on to study at Oxford or Cambridge or one of the other top universities, others achieve more modest results. We celebrate whatever represents an achievement for the individual, so that each pupil can experience the rewards of quiet commitment and hard work.

Our pupils study a broad and balanced curriculum. This is based on, but not constrained by, the National Curriculum. In their first three years, Senior School students can study 17 different subjects, allowing them to discover new interests and academic strengths. As they enter the GCSE years, we help them to choose the subjects best attuned to their interests and abilities. Each Ackworth student typically sits 9 - 10 GCSEs. Collectively, they achieve a pass rate which is substantially above the national average, and which also includes an impressive number of A*, A and B grades.

We are extremely well resourced. Our pupils enjoy the advantages of spacious, well-equipped Science laboratories, outstanding Art, Music and Drama facilities and a first-class Library. The Sports facilities are excellent and specialist ICT and Design and Technology facilities

are all well established. Our high standards build on the concept of academic rigour and personal achievement.



space to become yourself

Ackworth Sixth Form. Age 16 – 18.

They grow up fast. Before you know it, it's time for your son or daughter to move into the Sixth Form.



Things are different here in the Sixth Form. The young man or woman you now struggle to call your 'child' – though they always will be – is rapidly approaching adulthood. It's our job to help them experience the responsibilities and self-fulfilment which that entails.

As they become accustomed to A Level study, guidance is on hand to make the most of study periods. Students must take responsibility for how they structure their time, and acquire self-discipline in order to study effectively and balance the demands of their academic, social and domestic lives. It's a discipline to which they will return throughout their adult life.

Class sizes are smaller now and there is space for more discussion and informality than is the case for younger pupils. Sixth Formers frequently say that what they like best about Ackworth is the positive interaction they have with their teachers. Mature conversation is all part of becoming an adult and our Form Tutors, House Staff and subject teachers respond sensitively to this aspect of your son or daughter's development.

Students usually share a study room with another Sixth Former and there are common areas for socialising outside school hours. Of course, they also enjoy the same facilities as the rest of the School, including Ackworth's library. Our students set an example within our community, and with this comes responsibility. Younger children look up to them. How they manage this new relationship with their fellow pupils is all part of learning to lead, encourage and be sensitive to others.



The Sixth Form at Ackworth helps students to achieve the very best A Level grades they can. It also teaches them to handle transition, manage relationships and prepare for their next big move – university and life beyond school.



*Learn. Lead.
Assume responsibility.*



*Relax. We're here,
if you need us.*

space to Care

Starting a new school, or even a new stage within the same school, can be daunting. We encourage new friendships and do everything we can to make sure your child settles in quickly and happily.

Fortunate children have caring parents. At Ackworth, our pastoral care is celebrated as one of our strengths, with strong relationships fostered with pupils and parents right from the Nursery years. All of our pupils have a Form Tutor dedicated to their academic progress, pastoral welfare and enjoyment of school activities. Your child has the reassurance of knowing there is someone on site to guide them and bridge the gap between home and school. In Senior School, pupils in years 1 - 5 have two Form Tutors. As they move up to the Sixth Form, they have a Personal Tutor who mentors them throughout their remaining two years with us.

Coram Senior Management and our Senior Year Tutors are key figures, maintaining regular dialogue between pupils, parents and teachers. They make sure that each pupil's education and welfare is as it should be and that all parties are working together with the same purpose in



mind. Keeping you well informed is vital and that includes your child's formal reports and assessments as well as less formal communications about day-to-day school life and your child's ongoing well-being.

Just as our staff care for our pupils, we encourage our pupils to care for those around them. This can be something as simple as giving their time in support of Charity Committee collections, or sharing their lunch table with younger pupils. Each year we support the local



community. For example, our junior pupils visit local residential homes sharing harvest produce and our Sixth Form students organise Charity Week, during which we raise large sums of money for two charities chosen by our pupils.

space for life

Boarding at Ackworth.

When you consider boarding as an option, you want your son or daughter to have a secure, comfortable environment so that they feel confident enough to explore new ideas and make new friendships. British and overseas students alike flourish in Ackworth School's boarding environment, where they enjoy an integrated education and social life, with the opportunity to share a room with someone from another cultural background.

Boarding pupils explore new horizons outside the classroom too, with relaxed day trips to places of cultural interest, a full programme of after-school and weekend activities for British and international students alike, and access to the School's extensive sports, music, art and technology facilities as well as our spacious grounds.

Our boarding community has the support of a full team of experienced resident staff, along with our on-site Health Centre. They enjoy modern study bedrooms, some with en-suite facilities.

The flexibility of occasional boarding is a popular option with busy parents. Our pupils like it too! They have all the benefits of an overnight stay – activities, socialising with friends, and a quiet homework environment – while you go away on business or holiday safe in the knowledge that your son or daughter is being well looked after.



*New horizons.
Confidence.
Success.*





Prepare. Look forward. Embrace your future.

space for tomorrow

Your son or daughter begins thinking about what kind of career path they may wish to follow when they enter our Senior School. It's an important part of their education and, as they move up through the year groups, our structured guidance focuses on their individual strengths and encourages them to consider a wide range of options.

Careers advice is a collective responsibility at Ackworth. As well as our qualified careers advisors, our Form Tutors, subject teachers, librarian, Head of Sixth Form and Head each take steps to help your child prepare to move on and feel confident in the choices they make.

The vast majority of our students go on to study at their first choice university and enjoy productive careers. And what's even better – they come back to see us!



Former pupils routinely return to talk to us about their working life and to support their old school. The Ackworth Old Scholars' Association helps them to keep in touch with us and with each other. It's a flourishing organisation which arranges all kinds of regional events and gatherings, reuniting the Ackworth 'family' and enabling its members to enjoy good friends and familiar company.

Would you like to join us?

For details of our admissions process,
please contact us by email at:
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Ackworth School



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