



# Prospectus

## 2023/24

Rated “**Excellent**” in all areas

February 2023 Report



Ackworth School  
NON SIBI SED OMNIBUS

1779



# Welcome

## from the Head

It begins with your first step in Ackworth School. The unmistakable feeling that emanates from the walls, the spark you see in children's eyes that tells you that you're somewhere unique. Somewhere special.

Ackworth School is over 240 years old, brimming with history and stories. Yet, we are also 240 years young: full of vigour and optimism, much like the children who live and study here. We are proud of our traditions and family values, but equally proud of our innovative approach to co-education, given we are the oldest co-educational boarding school in the country.

At Ackworth, 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 respecting others, but also in a way that is true to themselves and their beliefs.

I encourage you to learn more about Ackworth School, speak to our pupils and staff, and find out for yourself how bright your child's future at Ackworth could be.

**Anton Maree**  
Head







## What makes Ackworth School different?

Set in the beautiful heart of Yorkshire, within easy reach of major UK cities and transport routes, Ackworth School is a place for:

### Growth

Ackworth is an all-through school for children, aged two-and-a-half to nineteen years. This stability throughout their educational journey gives pupils outstanding continuity and the opportunity to forge lifelong friendships, creating an environment for increased academic focus and confidence.

### Achievement

With an emphasis on individual goal-setting and encouragement, the learning journey your child will experience at Ackworth School enables them to realise outstanding results, often beyond expectation. Ackworth's pupils leave the school equipped to lead a fulfilled and responsible adult life.

### Support

Ackworth School invests equal time in supporting your child's growth and emotional development, as in their academic development. We believe that happiness and fulfilment are an integral part of your child's educational progression.

### Peace

Quaker values of Peace, Equality, Sustainability, Simplicity and Truth are inherent in everything we do. Whilst most staff and pupils are from non-Quaker families, these relevant principals set the foundations for a life based on mutual respect and trust, and a belief that every member of the community has equal value.

# Once visited, never forgotten

Ackworth School is a welcoming, all-through day and boarding school creating exceptional academic results.

Parents describe the wonderful feeling they get on their first visit to Ackworth School as 'when you know, you know'.

Pupils describe the diverse, co-educational school community as their second family, with many joining in the Nursery, studying right through to Sixth Form, and staying in touch via our Old Scholars alumni network.



# A brief history

Founded as a Quaker school in a beautiful, rural setting in 1779, Ackworth's purpose was to educate Quaker children 'not in affluence.' For over 240 years, we have proudly maintained this passion for exceptional teaching and learning that is non-selective and without prejudice.

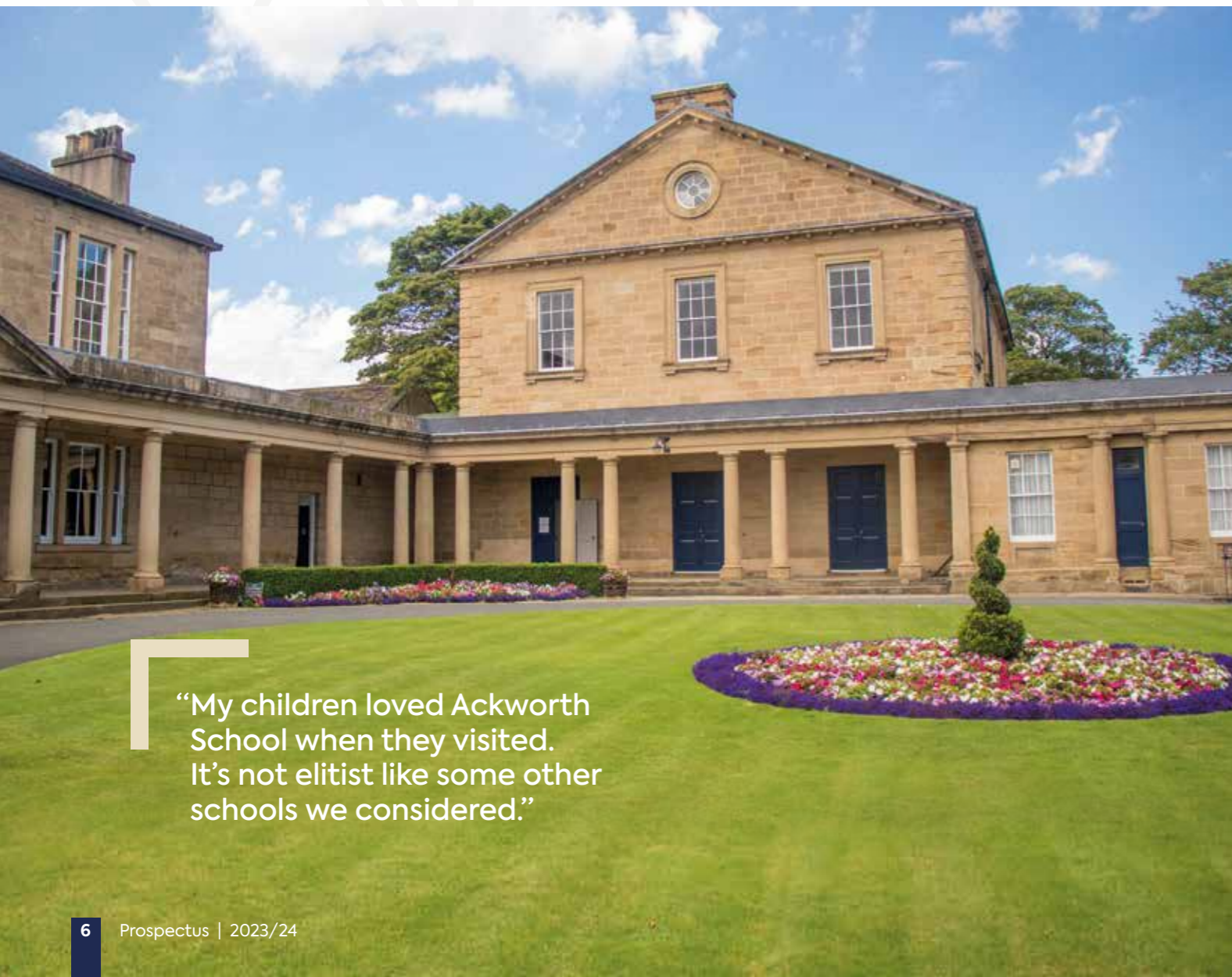
## The benefits of being a Quaker school.

Quaker values underpin how Ackworth School operates every day, with an emphasis on acceptance and quiet reflection.

'Non sibi sed omnibus' meaning 'not for oneself but each for the good of all' lies at the heart of school life, alongside the Quaker testimonies of 'STEPS': simplicity, truth, equality, peace and sustainability.

An inherent respect for others and honesty at all times, creates a calm, friendly school atmosphere which is supportive and reassuring for young people. Students are encouraged to think creatively, act ethically and with responsibility.

Today, the majority of pupils are from non-Quaker families and about 10% come from other countries.



“My children loved Ackworth School when they visited. It's not elitist like some other schools we considered.”

## Ackworth in numbers



**14**  
average class size



**50** acre campus,  
**200** acre site

**500**  
pupils



Nationalities



clubs and societies

**1**  
olympian



**21%**  
international senior pupils



**1** Nobel Prize winner



**1** boarding house



**20** sports

**85**  
boarders



**5,000**  
strong Old Scholar network



**3** sport academies



# Nursery

Children 2½ to 4 years old

Ackworth School Nursery is set within our modern, purpose-built Junior School, Coram House. It is a warm, safe, loving and stimulating environment, promoting all areas of your child's development. The Nursery features large play and learning spaces, both indoors and outside, with access to varied active learning opportunities within the school grounds, including our Forest School.

Nursery education is led by a professional, friendly team of Early Years specialists with an open-door approach and excellent relationships with parents. Educational activities are planned with an emphasis on fun, enjoyment and challenge; and our children adopt a positive attitude towards learning, which creates a solid foundation for their future education.

**Choose between full days or morning/afternoon sessions, with optional wraparound care from 8.00 am – 6.00 pm.**



# Coram House

Children 4 to 11 years old

Ackworth's Junior School – Coram House – provides a supportive, gradual introduction to school life and structured learning. Teaching is pitched according to your child's needs and supported by outstanding levels of care and regular communication with parents.

Our experienced teaching team fosters enthusiasm and initiative, nurturing your child's emerging personality and talents,

building self-esteem, resilience and confidence along the way. Our happy, inquisitive children are taught in mixed ability classes and can recognise and understand their individual targets.

Coram House pupils benefit from a breadth of educational opportunities beyond the National Curriculum. All children gain a solid foundation in principal subjects, including English, Mathematics and Science, with the chance to broaden their learning to other interests, including a choice of languages, including French, Spanish, Japanese and Mandarin. We are passionate about extending learning outside the classroom, with children regularly encouraged to explore, discover, build and play in our onsite Forest School setting and the wider facilities the school has to offer. In Forest

School, our specialist teachers guide pupils to learn skills such as

- Problem solving and teamwork tasks
- Fire lighting and cooking over a live fire
- Learning the use of tools such as a sheath knife and bow saw
- Den building
- Erecting tents
- Knot tying
- Arts & crafts
- Literacy and numeracy

**Coram House offers wrap-around care from 8:00am to 6:00pm each day at no extra cost to our families.**



# Senior School

**Children 11 to 16 years old**

Ackworth provides a broad Senior School curriculum, designed to give young people solid academic foundations to discover and develop their interests and talents. Our expert teachers introduce new ideas with infectious enthusiasm that inspires a genuine interest in subjects and provides the best footing for learning with understanding.

For the first three years, pupils follow a wide-ranging programme, including the arts, sciences, languages, practical subjects, technology and sport. No two children are alike and as studies pick up in pace, we will help your child to identify their strengths, embrace their differences and be supportive of their peers.

Most pupils go on to study nine subjects at GCSE. English, English Literature, Mathematics and Science are compulsory, with four additional subject options. Ackworth School is extremely well resourced with our pupils enjoying the advantages of spacious, well-equipped science laboratories, outstanding facilities for the arts, a first-class library, exceptional sports facilities and specialist ICT, design and technology suites.

Throughout their Senior School life, pupils receive positive encouragement and every student is celebrated for their individual achievements. Ackworth School has embraced digital learning and all Senior School pupils receive an Apple iPad from the school in support of their studies.

Senior School offers an extended day from 7:30am until 8:00pm each day for day pupils at no extra charge to families. Pupils taking advantage of this benefit from after school activities, daily supervised prep sessions and meals are provided.



# Sixth form

Young people 16 to 18 years old

In the Sixth Form, our exceptional teaching team believes in inspiring our young people to develop their own views, opinions and aspirations. Students are well prepared for life beyond school and given the skills to become resilient, confident, respectful individuals, ready to make a positive contribution to society. All Sixth Form students receive an Apple iPad and Apple Pencil to be their constant study companions throughout their A-Level or BTEC courses.

Starting a new school, or new stage within the same school, can be daunting. Social events in the first few weeks help to bring the new year group together. Students usually settle quickly in the smaller class sizes, where there is space for more discussion and informality than is the case for younger pupils.

Ackworth Sixth Form offers a range of academic A-Level courses and BTEC Sport, with almost all Sixth Formers choosing to apply to university to continue their education. Students are guided, with careers and university entrance in mind, towards choosing a sound platform of subjects to realise their potential. The Oxbridge Pathways Programme is designed to support pupils in their applications to their chosen universities, whether it be a Russell Group university such as Oxford or Cambridge, or any other competitive course.

Although academic achievement is our primary concern, an extensive co-curricular and super-curricular programme encourages students to explore other interests and strike a healthy work-life balance.

**“At Ackworth it’s not about being the best, it’s about being your best.”**

**Eleanor, Former Head Girl**

**“Our students leave the Sixth Form to go to some of the best universities in the country, with a sense of purpose and confidence that neither they, nor their families, ever dreamt of.”**

**Dan Jones, Head of Sixth Form**





### GCSE subjects

- English
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Double Award Science GCSE or three separate Science GCSEs: Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Art and Design (Fine Art)
- Design and Technology
- Drama and Theatre Arts
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Information Technology
- Music
- Physical Education
- Geography
- History
- Religious Studies (Christianity & Islam)
- French
- Spanish

### Sixth Form subjects

- A-Level Art & Design (Fine Art)
- A-Level Biology
- A-Level Business Studies
- A-Level Chemistry
- A-Level Computer Science
- A-Level Design & Technology
- A-Level Economics
- A-Level English Literature
- A-Level French
- A-Level Geography
- A-Level Government & Politics
- A-Level History
- A-Level Mathematics
- A-Level Further Mathematics
- A-Level Music
- CTEC Performing Arts
- A-Level Physical Education
- A-Level Physics
- A-Level Psychology
- A-Level Spanish
- BTEC Sport

## Curriculum

First-class learning is at the heart of Ackworth School life and pupils benefit from the high quality and experience of our teaching staff. The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum, based on the National Curriculum, whilst taking advantage of the flexibility we enjoy as an independent school. We encourage pupils to make curriculum choices which suit them best, with advice and guidance to help them.



## Digital learning

Ackworth School has adopted a digital-first approach to learning from Year 5 upwards and all Senior pupils are provided with an Apple iPad by the school. We have selected Microsoft Teams in support of classroom teaching and learning. Pupils can receive and submit work to tutors, send messages to their project groups, and receive year group updates. Apple TVs in classrooms enable pupils to share work and collaborate on big ideas.





# Boarding

## The benefits of boarding

Ackworth was designed to be a mixed boarding school and currently one quarter of the Senior School boards. Ackworth has a flexible approach to boarding in response to parental and student needs.

Some pupils go home for the main holidays, others go home most weekends. Some board for the whole of their time at Ackworth; others board for perhaps one or two years.

By prior arrangement, our day pupils can take advantage of the boarding provision, if at any time it suits their academic, extracurricular, or home life commitments.

Boarding helps pupils to focus on study. Time and energy are not wasted on travel and boarders have access to the school's excellent facilities late into the evening and at weekends.

Day scholars in the Sixth Form often take full advantage of boarding for study, social interaction, and to gain a degree of independence in preparation for university.

**Boarding at Ackworth School starts from age 11 (Year 7)**



# Extracurricular activities

Ackworth School has a full academic, co-curricular and extracurricular calendar, with a wide choice of clubs and societies on offer.

## Clubs and Societies

- Art Club
- Book Club
- Band
- Business Studies Support
- Chamber Choir
- Chess Club
- Choir
- Cipher Club
- Circuit Training (all ages)
- Climbing (Indoor)
- Cook Club
- Costume Club
- Classics
- Crochet Club
- Current Affairs
- Dance
- Debating Club
- Design & Build Club
- Digital Photography
- Drama Club
- DT Club
- DT Coursework Drop-In
- DT Props Club
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Economics Support
- EFL Drop In
- Electronics & Computing
- English Support Drop-In
- Ensemble
- EAL Drop In
- Esports
- European Cinema
- Fitness Centre
- Food Club (GCSE)
- Fothergill Society
- French Club
- Games & Puzzles
- Gardening Club
- GCSE Art Club
- Geography GCSE & A Level Drop-In
- Guitar Club
- Historical Lit. & Film Society (1st- 3rd Form)
- Indoor Climbing (Juniors)
- IT Club
- Journalism (4th Form upwards)
- Kayaking
- Lego
- Manga
- Maths Workshop
- Medical Society
- Mindfulness (4th Form upwards)
- Model Railway
- Music Theory
- Natural History
- Orchestra
- Park Run
- PE GCSE Drop-In
- PE GCSE Revision
- Percussion Club
- Philosophy Club (Alternate weeks for 6th Form)
- Pokémon
- Projects Abroad
- Recorder Club
- RS Revision Club (5th Form only)
- Running Club
- School Production (Drama Rehearsals)
- School Production (Music Rehearsals)
- Science Club
- Sci-Fi Film Club
- Sewing & Knitting
- Sign Language
- Spanish Club
- String Ensemble
- Target 2.0 (U6th Economists only)
- Wind Ensemble
- Yoga
- Young Consumer Competition



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

A nationally recognised award, providing opportunities for pupils to develop their resilience, sense of responsibility, teamwork and organisational skills. Our Year 10 and 11 pupils must complete volunteering, physical, skill and expedition sections to gain the bronze and silver award. For the Gold Award, completed in the Sixth Form, there is a residential section.





# Ackworth sports

Sports, physical and mental wellbeing are very important to all Ackworth pupils and are a platform for academic success. Pupils have access to a dedicated, professional-level fitness suite, indoor swimming pool, athletics field and cross-country course, tennis and squash courts, cricket pitch and multiple extra-curricular sports and wellbeing clubs.

## Sporting facilities at Ackworth School:

- Five football pitches
- Athletics field
- Indoor, heated swimming pool
- Multi-sports hall
- Fitness suite
- Five all-weather tennis courts
- Two all-weather pitches
- Numerous table tennis tables
- Cross-country running course
- Two squash courts

## Academies

Our sports academies offer the chance for talented pupils to train under world class coaches in tailor-made programmes. Pupils in the academies often go on to compete at county and even international level.

## Table tennis

Pupils compete in the premier division of the Junior British League and train in our bespoke table tennis centre. The Academy is a pre-eminent programme within the junior game and offers pupils the chance to excel under a world-class coach and to travel abroad to play in international tournaments.

## Football

Our academy provides an elite football development programme for boys and girls. The academy is run by English League Two club, Harrogate Town AFC, under the leadership of John McDermott, our UEFA A licence qualified coach. Football Academy scholarships are available for those who meet the required standard.



## Squash

Ackworth pupils have access to the highest level of squash coaching and an opportunity to play at a competitive level through our unique affiliation with the world class Pontefract Squash Club. The club has produced world-renowned players and has an established platform for the development of younger players.

**Sporting skills for life:**  
self-discipline, practice  
preparation, teamwork,  
goal-setting, success  
and failure resilience





# After Ackworth

“I feel it is a privilege to have had the education and training that started at Ackworth. Being a surgeon and researcher is how I follow the ethos *Non Sibi Sed Omnibus* – Not For Oneself But For All.”

**Professor Fiona Wood**  
Director of the Burns Service of Western Australia  
Member of the Order of Australia 2003  
Australian of The Year 2005  
Old Scholar 1970 – 1975

## Further education

As a non-selective school, it is always rewarding to see Ackworth pupils being offered places and first choices at some of the UK's most competitive institutions, including Oxford and Cambridge universities. Among these successes are many international pupils who came to Ackworth to propel them onto their chosen paths of study.

## Old Scholars Association

Ackworth's Old Scholars community is a vibrant and diverse group, connected through Ackworth School Connect, our online networking platform. Ackworth School aims to encourage a sense of community amongst Old Scholars and maintains a visible connection between the school today and former pupils.





# Supporting communities

In line with our Quaker heritage and values, a key component of teaching at Ackworth School is demonstrating to children how they can make a positive contribution to society. We support children to participate in various initiatives, but also run a number of our own outreach programmes. We want to be at the heart of our community, removing barriers and creating opportunities, with the ambition to help raise hopes and aspirations for all in Ackworth as well as further afield.

## Charity week

Charity Week is organised by members of the Sixth Form and, each year, large sums of money are raised for two charities chosen by the pupils. The Charity Week student committee must operate as a functioning charitable organisation with a variety of roles.

## Community initiatives

Various community initiatives enable Ackworth pupils to make a tangible difference in the community, to increase confidence and to gain employability and life skills.

This may be local (supporting pupils in the school's Autism Resource Unit, national (volunteering for the Wakefield Christmas Hamper appeal), or international (raising money to take part in charity projects in Ghana). These voluntary activities form an integral part of a wider education and provide invaluable experiences.

## Projects abroad

This initiative enables Ackworth Sixth Form students to participate in youth volunteering opportunities overseas. Trips are tailor-made to suit the needs of the students and the school and fit in with the chosen group, whether it is working on a care and community project in rural Africa or on a conservation programme in South America. Each trip provides an educational travel experience to develop student confidence, self-awareness and a global perspective.





A group of young children are playing in a forest. They are wearing colorful raincoats and hats. One child in the foreground is wearing a bright yellow raincoat and a striped shirt. Another child is wearing a pink hat and a pink scarf. The children are smiling and appear to be enjoying themselves. The background shows trees with green and brown leaves, suggesting an autumn setting.

# Experience the unforgettable Ackworth School feeling

Your family is very welcome to visit Ackworth School and see what makes it such a special place, either on one of our open mornings or a personal visit.

## Prospective pupil taster days

Prospective pupils can take advantage of a Taster Day in the Junior School (Coram House) or Senior School; or a 'Play Session' in the Nursery. A Taster Day allows children to 'experience' Ackworth, participate in lessons and get a real feel for the school community.

If you are considering boarding, an overnight stay in the boarding house is possible.

**To find out more about Ackworth School, or arrange a visit, please contact Admissions on 01977 233621 or email [admissions@ackworthschool.com](mailto:admissions@ackworthschool.com)**





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