

ACS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
COBHAM



READY?

An aerial photograph of a school campus. The image shows several large, modern school buildings with brown roofs and large windows. To the left, there is a red running track and a green tennis court with several courts. The campus is surrounded by lush green trees and grass. The text "THE WORLD NEEDS NEW THINKING. GET READY." is overlaid in white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

THE
WORLD
NEEDS
NEW
THINKING.
GET
READY.



BARNABY SANDOW
HEAD OF SCHOOL

HELLO, AND WELCOME TO ACS COBHAM, WHERE DIVERSITY, INNOVATION, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND GLOBAL AWARENESS COME TOGETHER TO DELIVER AN EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE.

ACS Cobham is home to 1,300 students aged 2 to 18 representing over 80 nationalities, taught by 300 expert teachers and staff members. Far more than just a school, ACS Cobham is a friendly, vibrant international community with a global outlook that guides our world-renowned curriculum. Based on international educational best practice, we offer a new kind of learning for a new kind of world citizen. Our goal is as simple as it is inspiring: to make our students ready for the challenges of tomorrow, so they thrive at every stage of their lives.

We foster critical thinking, an intrinsic love of learning and a fundamental belief in the worth of each individual. The opportunities to develop beyond the classroom provide some of the most memorable experiences that belonging to our community can bring. These elements are key to our mission of developing well-rounded, resilient individuals that can flourish on the global stage. Our team continually strive to promote the growth of the whole student – so they leave us with the skills required for a fast-changing world.

As they progress through the school our students are encouraged to tailor their studies to suit their talents and ambitions, while a range of outstanding co-curricular opportunities create a holistic educational experience. Equally important is our beautiful, leafy campus, close to central London. Our location offers students the best of both worlds – the stimulation of one of the world's great cities, combined with the charms of the English countryside.

Unique amongst our four schools, ACS Cobham offers boarding (full, weekly or flexi) as an option for students aged 12 to 18, who enjoy state-of-the-art facilities in our two boarding houses.

READY TO EXCEL AS PEOPLE, AND THRIVE ACADEMICALLY.

OUR CURRICULUM

We are a dynamic learning community that aims to inspire the best in everyone, enabling our students to fulfil their true potential. Our broad and challenging curriculum is designed to help our students excel, ensuring they are ready for the next stage of their academic career. Underpinned by the International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement courses and the US High School Diploma, our curriculum emphasises life skills as much as academic ability, with a focus on community service and leadership that ensures we nurture confident, caring individuals.

CO-CURRICULAR

We have a wide range of co-curricular activities, clubs and sports teams with exceptional on-site facilities, including a 25-metre swimming pool, an all-weather floodlit astroturf pitch, a running track, gym and dance studio. Encouraging our young people to challenge themselves helps develop skills and resilience that will benefit them inside and outside the classroom and prepare them for a future full of opportunity.





READY TO DISCOVER, QUESTION AND CHALLENGE.

INSPIRED TO LEARN

We believe that learning should be one of life's great pleasures, so our teaching is designed to inspire and instil a sense of wonder. At the heart of this approach is student-led learning, a technique proven to encourage intellectual curiosity and personal development from a young age.

We teach our students to think for themselves, work hard and make creative connections between ideas to arrive at a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the world and their place in it. Future-focused, inclusive and engaging, our teaching develops communication, social and research skills, all within the academically rigorous International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programmes.

An important part of this is our international curriculum. Its breadth and flexibility gives us the freedom to find the best fit for every student,

tailoring their course selection to reflect their aspirations and challenging them academically. We don't 'teach to the test' with a narrow focus on grades; instead we teach students to question and reach their own conclusions.

Our aim is to help students become effective learners, confident individuals and caring contributors with a genuine curiosity that inspires them to ask new questions and formulate new answers. Armed with courage to take risks, we want them to leave us ready for higher education and the rest of their lives. It is the most important and fulfilling job in the world.



As a local family we chose ACS Cobham for our son, believing it to have a more future-forward approach to education for today's children. The school really does pinpoint a child's individual talent, helping them to flourish, and the IB programme equips them for their next step in the world.

PARENT

A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION

The world is changing fast and there are new challenges and opportunities everywhere you look. Undoubtedly, life today demands a new kind of school, one that creates well-balanced individuals able to overcome life's challenges with confidence and creativity.

Our classroom learning inspires students to challenge the status quo, take intellectual risks and think independently. We also offer a wide range of opportunities for students to find and follow their individual strengths, including an impressive range of co-curricular activities, sports, clubs, field trips, charity work, student ambassador roles and volunteering.

This emphasis on developing social and emotional skills means our students grow

in ways that will help them to navigate and excel in the changing workplaces and communities of the future. To support our students we provide the best in personalised pastoral care, with a highly experienced team of counsellors available at all times.

Ensuring our students are ready for anything means we actively work with students and their families to create a holistic education that builds solid academic and personal skills. This partnering approach starts on day one of a student's time with us. Our staff, student ambassadors and counselling team know that joining a new school can feel a little unnerving, so they offer every new student the warmest of welcomes.





READY TO ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD – AND BUILD A BETTER ONE.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Our students and staff come to us from all over the world. The result is a stimulating open-minded, outward-looking culture that celebrates international diversity and harnesses different perspectives.

ACS Cobham's global outlook attracts expat and local families who want to ensure their children are ready to make a difference and contribute to society. Internationalism and our common humanity are at the heart of this philosophy. We are intensely proud of our multicultural identity and commitment to diversity and choice. We celebrate the things that make us different, not because they are fashionable but because they make the world a better, more dynamic place.

A THRIVING, WELCOMING COMMUNITY

ACS Cobham has a warm, hospitable atmosphere, with an active community of support that brings students, teachers and parents together. We actively promote global citizenship in an environment where everyone feels they belong and are valued.

Our flourishing parents' association organises events throughout the school year. Events such as our highly popular International Fair and Party for the Planet that celebrate customs, culture and food from different countries around the globe. Our Building Bridges group and orientation sessions are a friendly, fun and informal way for families to connect with each other and learn more about the school.



READY TO
MAKE FRIENDS
AND COLLABORATE.



EARLY CHILDHOOD

AGES 2-6 / FLOPSY BUNNIES TO KINDERGARTEN

In Early Childhood we want our children to be happy, have fun, feel safe and grow in confidence. Through the care and guidance of our teachers, we help children develop to become creative, independent thinkers and problem solvers. At the same time we are quietly building resilience and perseverance so they are ready to overcome future challenges.

We strongly believe children learn best in an environment that allows them to be children. Through play, children practice and consolidate the skills and attitudes they need to acquire new knowledge and make sense of the world. Our secure playground, all-weather activity field, extensive private woodlands, meadows and forest classroom offer a stimulating mix of spaces that help children develop physically, socially and emotionally.

Our small classes – run by highly qualified and experienced teachers and assistants – provide a particularly rich combination of exciting and engaging individual activities, guided lessons and group interactions. The core programme of reading, writing and numeracy is enriched with specialist sessions covering art, world languages, library skills, performing arts and PE (including swimming from Pre-K). Our beautiful woodland area is the ideal setting for our regular Forest School lessons, following the outdoor learning programme which nurtures confidence and self-esteem.





LOWER SCHOOL

AGES 6-10 / GRADES 1-4

In Lower School our young students learn through play, exploration and lessons that are stimulating and fun. Our expert staff ensure each student develops essential skills and attitudes, instilling a thirst for knowledge that will last a lifetime.

Lower School is also the stage at which many students – both local and international – join us, so we work closely with parents to welcome them into our world. It is a source of great pride and satisfaction to see young children blossom as they develop the courage and confidence needed to overcome life's challenges.

Turning to teaching, our curriculum is built on the principles of the Responsive Classroom – an evidence-based approach that focuses on the proven link between academic success and emotional well-being.

The curriculum itself features reading, writing and mathematics every day, enhanced by lessons in science, the visual arts, world languages, performing arts, library skills, PE (including swimming), people skills and IT. Our staff also includes expert learning support teachers, English as an Additional Language (EAL) specialists for our non-native English speakers and a Challenge and Enrichment Co-ordinator.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

AGES 10–14 / GRADES 5–8

In Middle School we encourage students to take an active role in their education by creating a personal learning journey that reflects their interests and abilities, encouraging them to go further and aim higher. This approach enables students to progress on their own terms and become assured, independent learners.

Pastoral care can be particularly important during the Middle School years. We prioritise well-being so that our students always feel safe, supported and empowered. Our Courage programme gives students the confidence to speak up on any issue concerning them, secure in the knowledge their voice will be heard.

Alongside our core subjects we offer a wide range of study options as part of the curriculum including drama, art, music, health and PE. We also encourage students to care about, and engage with, communities at the local, national and international level.

By helping students see the bigger picture, think critically, overcome adversity and have the courage to take risks, we create assured, versatile young adults ready to enter High School.





HIGH SCHOOL

AGES 14–18 / GRADES 9–12

High School is where our commitment to tailored education really comes into its own. Students can choose from world-recognised programmes including the International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement programmes and US High School Diploma courses. Our aim is to find what is right for each student, then deliver it to the highest possible standard. In education, as in life, one size rarely fits all.

That means working closely with individual students to create their ideal educational pathway by adding elective topics, such as film, java programming and theatre, to core subjects. From grade 9, students meet regularly with a university counsellor to guide their course selection, then in grades 11 and 12 each student is assigned a dedicated counsellor to work with them on their university applications.

To help our students through their High School years we also have a highly experienced pastoral care team available to all students in grades 9–12, while our well-being programme supports students on their journey to understand themselves and the world around them.

At ACS, we see High School as the bridge between childhood and adult life. It is a launch pad for the rest of their lives and an amazing opportunity to grow, explore and make new friends and connections. Our goal is to help students become completely life ready as confident, caring individuals with the skills they need to succeed and a strong sense of who they are.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

We offer a robust curriculum, built upon international standards, and adapted to the needs of our diverse student body.

The IB Diploma is the world's most recognised academic programme for students aged 16–18. It offers a rigorous curriculum requiring six subjects which can be selected according to a student's strengths and interests and provides students with an excellent foundation for university.

In ACS's University Admissions Officers' research conducted over the last ten years, the IB and AP programmes have been shown to significantly outperform A-Levels in developing qualities such as a global outlook, open-mindedness, self-management, coping under pressure and analytical thinking.

READY TO EXCEL.



IB

The International Baccalaureate (IB):

Fosters critical thinking and independent learning

Encourages breadth and depth of learning

Assesses more than examination techniques

Provides an international qualification



AP

The Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma and AP courses:

Offers breadth and flexibility

Allows subject specialisation

Encourages team collaboration and critical thinking

Highly recognised in the US and Canada

Whichever pathway our students choose they will benefit from the guidance of our expert teaching staff, university and personal counsellors in order to prepare them for their next step.



GABRIEL, GRADE 12

One of the things I love about ACS Cobham is the attitude of the people. Whatever's worrying me, there is always someone to talk to. The teachers really care about their students, which is brilliant.

My favourite subject is chemistry, with biology and psychology close behind. In terms of educational pathways, I chose the IB because I plan to study outside the US and the variety means I'm always challenged. Career-wise, I'm interested in getting into medicine and make a positive difference in the world.

Being part of an international community with a global perspective is amazing. In terms of my career, being able to connect with people from different cultures is crucial.

When I leave ACS, the thing I'll miss most are my friends. They're like family. This place is special. I wouldn't have wanted to study anywhere else.



JUDE, GRADE 12

ACS has been my home for just over 14 years and it never ceases to surprise me. I have loved being part of its welcoming community; without it I would have grown up a different person.

I chose to take the AP Capstone course because it fits my learning style. Though, what is great about ACS is that I am also able to take advantage of the IB courses and have selected to study IB theatre as well.

As for the next step, I am interested in joining the Civil Service as I would like to help people and make a difference in society.





BOARDING AT ACS COBHAM

A home from home

At ACS Cobham we offer boarding as an option for students aged 12 to 18. We offer excellent transitional support, ensuring our boarders settle in and enjoy every second of their time with us. The result is a real community centred on our unparalleled student residences.

Over the years we have learned that the perfect boarding experience involves plenty of co-curricular and weekend activities, so that's exactly what we provide. As a result boarding is incredibly good fun, building independence and a strong sense of community.

In terms of leadership and support, our Head of Boarding, house parents, assistant house parents and resident tutors work as a team to support every student's academic progress and deal promptly and sympathetically with any personal issues. Our team is strengthened by resident teacher/advisors, our boarding nurse, school counsellor and student ambassadors. The boarding team even provides an all-inclusive "settling-in" weekend before school starts in August to give new joiners the best possible introduction to life at Cobham.

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My favourite part of being a boarder at ACS Cobham is that there is always someone there for you – someone to listen and help. Our house parents put a lot of effort into making you feel at home.

NIA, GRADE 12

READY TO
DREAM,
INNOVATE
AND CREATE.





PERFORMING ARTS

The performing arts help build confidence, creativity, inventiveness and mental strength in students.

As such, they are an integral part of our curriculum from Early Childhood through to High School, with additional music, theatre and drama also offered as co-curricular activities before and after school. At IB level, students have the option to take theatre and music as part of their course selection. Students experience a wide range of activities that boost their other academic endeavours.

We also run a visiting teacher programme offering private tuition in piano, percussion, strings, brass, woodwind, guitar, keyboard, theory, voice and speech and drama.

We are rightly proud of our state-of-the-art performing arts centre, with its music classrooms, music technology suite, practice rooms, drama studios, performance spaces and a 509-seat auditorium. Here students can experience every aspect of performance, both on stage and behind the scenes.

VISUAL ARTS

Developing our students' cultural and visual literacy helps them reach a deeper understanding of art and its relationship to society in a world of change and uncertainty.

Consequently we don't have a house style. Instead we celebrate individual creativity through a student-centred ethos that informs all our teaching and curriculum design. The results speak for themselves; at our regular exhibitions of student work, the imagination and ability of our young artists shines through, showing that the right encouragement can yield remarkable results.

Equally important are the soft benefits that come from studying the arts. Creative freedom helps students develop understandings and perspectives that inform their entire world-view. In particular, students learn that experimentation is an excellent way of learning, an approach that readies them for the next stage of their development.

READY TO 
IMAGINE.

“

In a world where critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration will be the key ideas in education, the Visual Arts provide an excellent context in which to explore and apply these to meaningful experiences in the classroom.



READY FOR A WORLD THAT DEMANDS ADAPTABILITY AND CURIOSITY.

STEAM

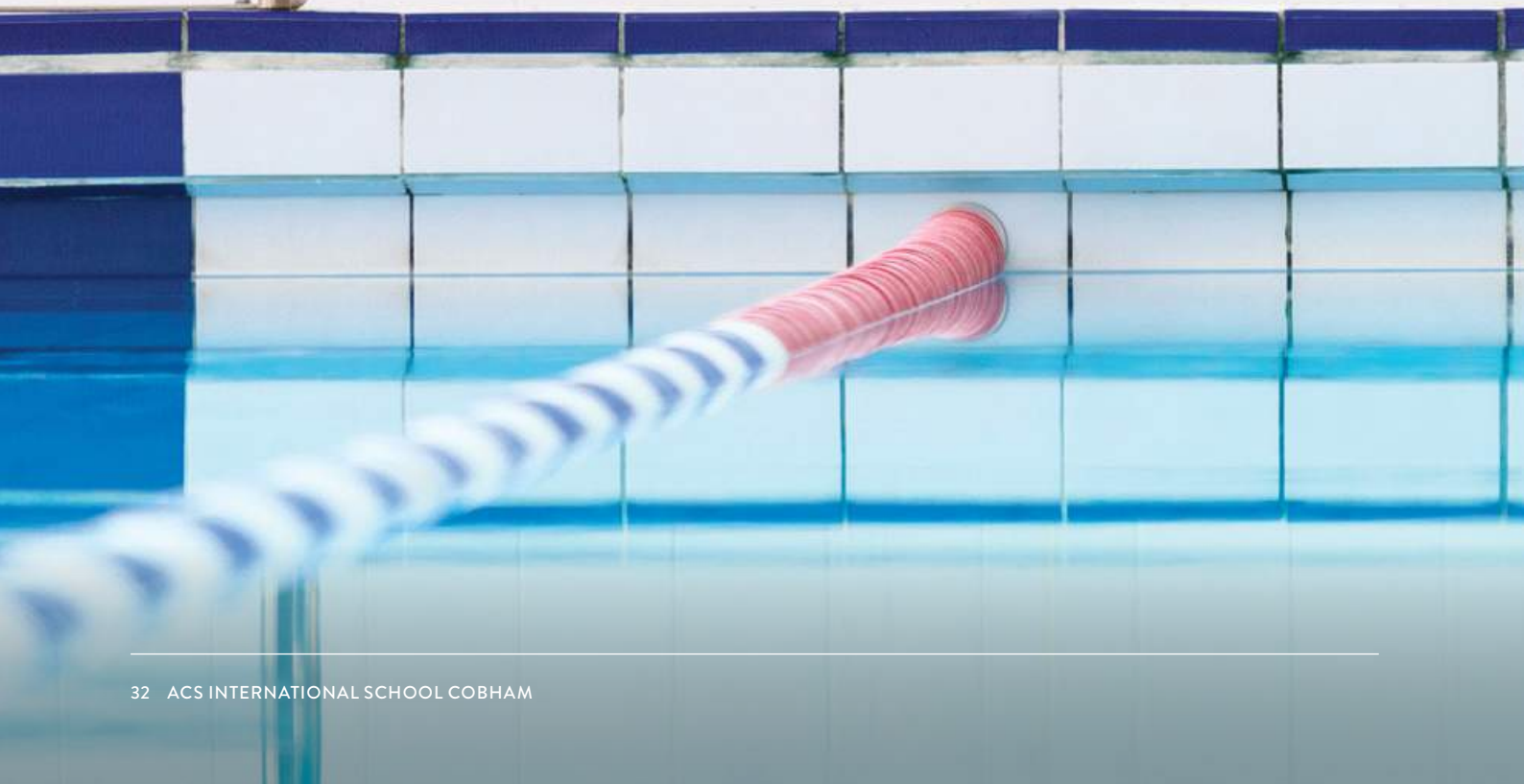
STEAM stands for “Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics”, a whole-school interdisciplinary approach that reflects the growing importance of design and technology in today’s world. At ACS Cobham we break down the barriers between different areas of the curriculum, encouraging our students to think laterally, creatively and critically. The learning is active, engaging, flexible, and able to respond to the needs of individuals. In this environment students become self-motivated learners. They understand the relevance and meaning of what they study, and relish being part of an open-minded, outward-looking community of enquiry.

Our students gain external recognition through working towards CREST awards which are based on challenging and thought-provoking real world science and technology projects.

Our Middle and High School students regularly take part in highly-regarded, international STEAM competitions such as the SATRO (Science and Technology Regional Organisation) challenge and the Land Rover Challenge designed to stimulate the students creatively. These projects foster team work and collaboration, encouraging our students to question and experiment – preparing them for the careers of the future.



GET READY
FOR A WORLD
THAT'S ALWAYS
MOVING.





SPORT AT ACS

Cobham Cougars

Our sports programme is positive and inclusive with an emphasis on enjoyment and well-being. We encourage the widest possible participation and the highest possible standards from the 75+ teams we field each year under the banner of ACS Cobham Cougars. We are delighted to say our approach works, with several ACS athletes going on to represent their country.

Sport is also an important factor in personal growth, helping students develop integrity, commitment, leadership and teamwork, so they're ready to deal with adversity.

Thanks to our outstanding facilities we offer a huge range of sports, including track and field, football, rugby, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, softball, tennis, dance and golf. We run swimming classes for children as young as 4 and offer private after-school lessons for children from the age of 2. We even run popular adult fitness classes for our community.



ACS INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL COBHAM

READY TO CONTRIBUTE.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We have a wide programme of co-curricular activities that underscore our belief that learning does not stop when lessons end. As well as our service and volunteering programme, we offer sports, drama productions, musical groups and STEAM, all of which are available to students throughout the school week. Our boarding students also benefit from a plethora of stimulating excursions and activities thanks to the proximity of both London and the countryside.

Several of our clubs are organised and run by the students themselves, helping develop their leadership skills. One of these is our Model United Nations club where we debate topics of international concern. As part of this students can attend conferences each year in The Hague and New York, where they debate the world's most pressing issues with thousands of other students. It's all part of our commitment to educating the whole student so they're ready for tomorrow.





SHREYA

Based on my experiences since graduating from ACS, I can honestly say that the IB has been incredibly useful for university preparation.

The programme encourages you to think independently, to collaborate and develop leadership skills. Additionally, the IB taught me skills like critical thinking, analysis and referencing. These skills have allowed me to feel more confident when conducting research and preparing essays for my degree assignments. Being an international school student has also given me the capacity to understand different people and perspectives, it's made me more open-minded and flexible and, of course, I've come away with a global group of friends.

Since graduating, I have been studying Medicine at the University of Edinburgh and I hope to become a doctor in the future. I believe that the skills I acquired during my time at ACS will help me in building relationships, adjusting to change, developing my strengths and overall, in becoming a well-rounded individual.

NENE



When I arrived at ACS Cobham my English level was such that I had difficulty expressing myself. However, I soon realised I was in the environment where all kinds of abilities were equally valued.

My friends and teachers respected me regardless and showed me that I was more than my ability in English. In Grade 11 I opted to take the full IB diploma and an additional two AP classes. These qualifications allowed me to learn each subject in depth and gain admissions to universities in both the UK and the US.

ACS gave me many opportunities that I would not have considered otherwise including going to Namibia. This experience inspired me to develop my career aspiration of building self-sufficient communities around the world. To achieve this, I have been studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Cambridge and I have recently secured a role in management consultancy in Tokyo. I am excited for this next stage where I hope to learn how to apply my speciality to a real-life context.



LIFE AFTER ACS

We want every student to outgrow us and leave ACS Cobham feeling ready to take the next step in their lives, secure in the knowledge of who they are and what they do best.

Not surprisingly, the majority of our students go on to university. Our university and college counsellors provide a wide range of expert support tailored to the individual student. From researching options to succeeding in selection. This attention to detail and in-depth guidance, based on many decades' university counselling and admissions experience, significantly improves their chances of securing a place at their chosen college or university.

The result is that students leave us with world-class qualifications that enable them to thrive at university in the UK, the USA and the rest of the world. Just as importantly, they leave ACS Cobham with a real understanding and respect for the world around them, a thirst for learning and confidence in their own abilities. It is an unbeatable combination.



JOINING THE ACS FAMILY

Whether you are making an international move or simply changing schools locally, we are here to help. We do everything we can to ensure a smooth introduction to the ACS Cobham family - with our student ambassadors, buddy families, country representatives, welcome committees and social events for new students and their families.

If you like what you have read in this brochure we invite you to either visit our campus for a one-to-one tour or come along to one of our Open Days. To find out more just call our admissions office on **+44(0) 1932 869744** or email our admissions team on **cobhamadmissions@acs-schools.com**. To apply online for school places please visit **www.acs-schools.com/apply-now**.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

A young male athlete is captured in a starting crouch on a red running track. He is wearing a green sleeveless jersey with blue accents and dark blue shorts with "VIPER 10" printed on the left leg. He is also wearing red and blue athletic shoes. His hands are flat on the track, and he has a focused, intense expression. The background shows a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building under a cloudy sky.

READY?

SET.

GO!

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