



A YSGARTH SCHOOL

Q & A of most frequently asked questions:



Is Aysgarth a big school?

With 130 boys (aged 8 to 13 years) in the Prep School and 80 children (aged 3 to 8 years) in the coeducational Pre-Prep, we think the size of the school is absolutely perfect. Our numbers ensure we are big enough to provide a host of opportunities and small enough to give our pupils the time they deserve.

Why would you consider boarding?

Committing your son to board is in most cases harder for the parents than it is for the boys. For them, it is wonderful to be surrounded by their friends with a vast array of opportunities to do what they enjoy. They develop the ability to solve problems for themselves, they grow in confidence and they spend a lot less time being ferried around in cars!

Time is such a valuable commodity that seems to be lacking in the modern world. By removing travel and having a timetable that starts before breakfast and finishes at bedtime, all the valuable aspects of a child's development can be scheduled. Our timetable enables us to make the most of academic and co-curricular provisions, we have increased time dedicated to drama, swimming, reasoning and independent study. Providing 'Time and Opportunity'.



How often do parents of full boarders see their sons?

Exeats (weekends out) come around about every 3 weeks. The exeat starts at lunchtime on Friday and finishes at 6pm on Monday. We have an additional optional weekend when full boarders can go home and we do have longer holidays than a state school, which is a fantastic bonus when booking a family holiday!

Parents are encouraged to watch sports fixtures which are twice a week, they are welcome to attend Chapel services on a Sunday and come to every play and concert.



Do you have day boys?

All children in the Pre-Prep join us every day and we welcome day boys into the Prep School too. Typically about 10% of our boys are day pupils and they are able to join in almost everything including some Sunday activities. Aysgarth School is situated in Newton-le-Willows, Bedale at the gateway of Wensleydale in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Just 10 mins off from the A1, the School is conveniently accessible daily from places such as Catterick Garrison, Ripon and Northallerton

Is Aysgarth just for academically focused boys?

No. Aysgarth is best suited to a child that is prepared to make the most of their talents and opportunities; think of others, and contribute to the school and the wider community. However, we are incredibly proud of the results we achieve; we can attribute them in part to the fact the children are happy, the fantastic teaching staff, the small class sizes and the holistic approach to skills development.



Is there an entrance exam?

No. Our non-selective and personal approach to the application process means that we spend considerable time with the family in the lead-up to receiving the application. We encourage families to start the process of applying as soon as possible as there are limited spaces in some years but we pride ourselves on being able to find a place for the right child.



Do you need to buy a laptop?

No, each boy is provided with a Chromebook for classwork and homework when required.

Are boys allowed phones in School?

Not really. Phones must be handed in on arrival and they are only allowed to be used without a SIM card or Wi-fi on school trips or at the weekend as a gaming device. Our boys have the advantage of growing up in an environment where there are very limited outside influences; the School dictates the ethos they live in and not the 'outside world' which increasingly comes into schools through mobile devices. We believe that being part of a rather insular and safe community contributes massively to positive well-being and extends the magical years of childhood.



Is Aysgarth just for Sporty boys?

No. For boys who do not particularly enjoy the competitive sporting environment and maybe would like less rugby, football and cricket off their weekly schedule, we offer a sports development programme which hosts a wide range of sports: golf, badminton, swimming, climbing, and sailing to name a few.

However, if you would like to hear about our Opportunities for Scholarships for Sports, please complete the form and we will send you more information and a record of the recent sporting successes.



What drama and music provision do you have?

The School takes great pride in their music and performing arts opportunities. We have our own Chapel and have a reputation for our choral singing, something that can be traced back to its foundation in 1877. The Senior Choir comprises auditioned Year 7's and 8's. Whilst the lower-year choirs have their own repertoire and concerts. The boys have recorded a number of CDs over the years and have performed both locally and overseas. We have a wide array of instrument tuition and many boys learn an instrument.

In Years 4, 5 and 6 all boys are involved in a year-group production. In Years 7 and 8, they have the opportunity to audition for a variety of roles in the annual Senior Production, on stage and behind the scenes. We also offer LAMDA qualifications. 29 boys recently sat the LAMDA qualification from Grade 3 to Grade 5; 21 were awarded a distinction.

Where next?

Many of the most selective senior schools have assessments in which boys sit at the school in question close to their 10th birthday. If successful in these highly competitive assessments, a boy can be awarded a conditional offer, subject to passing the entry exam, Common Entrance at 13. However, we also send boys to schools the length and breadth of the country. We are not a feeder school, we signpost and support families to choose the right school for their sons.

Please complete our [Enquiry form](#) or email admissions@aysgarthschool.co.uk if you have your question is not answered above.