

Bootham School

Ages 11 – 18

WE ARE ALL ABOUT GETTING THE VERY BEST FOR OUR STUDENTS INTELLECTUALLY, PERSONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Bootham is an extraordinary school in ways you can only fully understand when you are here.

Staff and pupils are straightforward and unpretentious, and everyone connected with Bootham quickly feels at home here.

As a school, we get the balance right in nurturing our young people while also challenging and stretching them.

We offer increasing independence and freedom of choice to our young people as they develop, while still ensuring they are taking advantage of the array of opportunities that you can read about here.

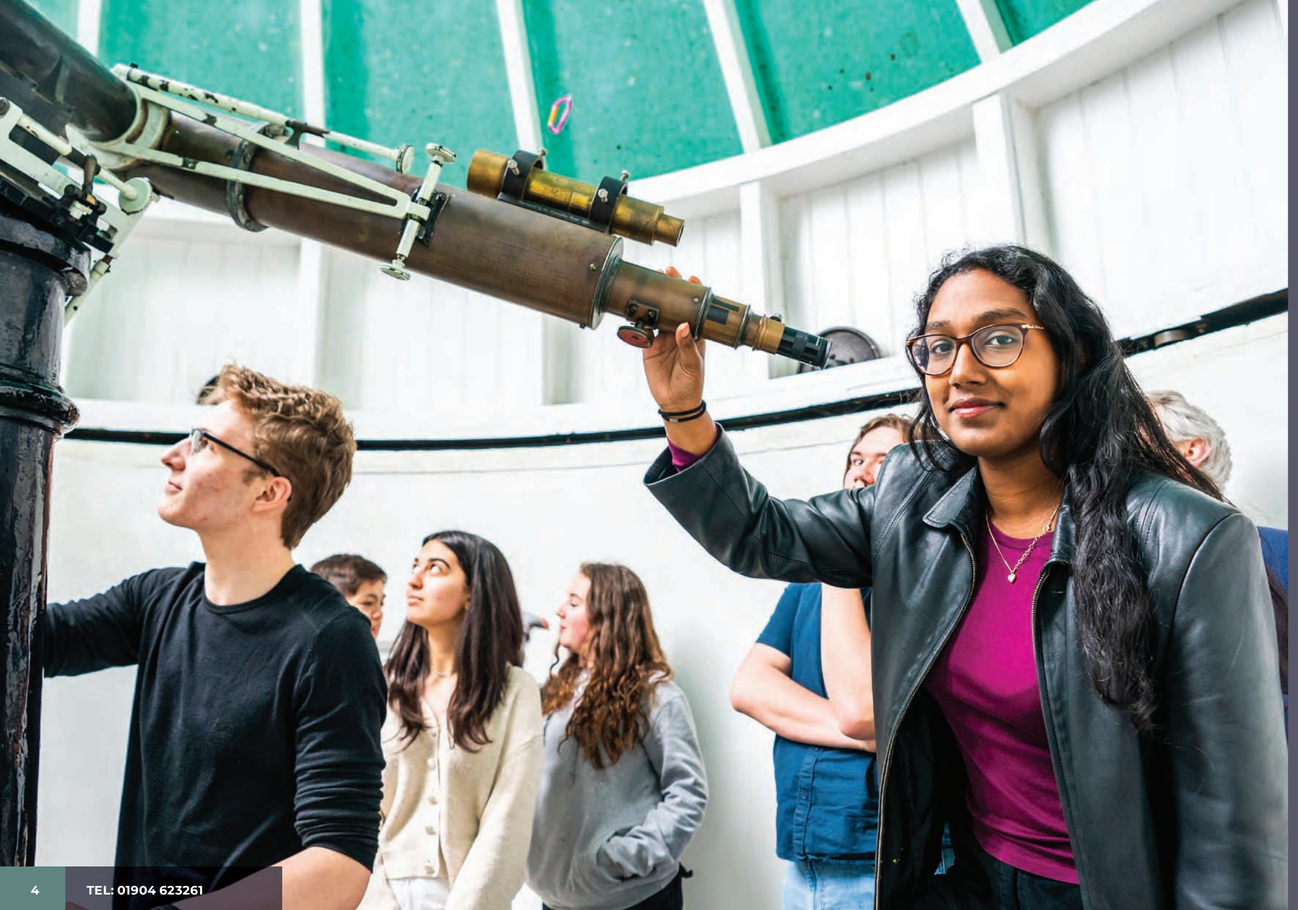
We prepare our young people to go out into the world and 'let their lives speak' – to thrive in their ongoing studies, their careers and their relationships and to be a positive influence in the community.



Families from all faiths appreciate the Quaker ethos that infuses all we do here, as it has for the past two hundred years.

This school is unique, and I hope this prospectus will go some way to explaining that. But if at all possible, you need to visit us to explore what Bootham has to offer and to see what makes it such a special place.

Dr Deneal Smith,
Headmaster



A DIFFERENT SCHOOL

There are very few schools like Bootham.

Consciously building its purpose, its daily life and its strategy on time-honoured but never more relevant Quaker principles, it is not afraid to talk, act and live differently from other schools.

The result is a community where individuality, self-discovery and kindness shape and take their rightful place alongside learning, ambition and academic success; where the quality - and qualities - of the young people it produces are valued at least equally with their academic achievement; and where the development of 'good' young people is central to our definition of 'successful' young people.



> **“What we like so much about Bootham is the Quaker ethos of looking at the good in everyone and treating everyone kindly – this is a lovely thing to instil in your children and was one of the things that sold the School to us.”**
> - Current Parent

A QUAKER SCHOOL

Quaker principles provide a wonderful foundation for a truly modern education.

Quakers have no creed, and thus Bootham is not in the business of telling young people what to believe or who to become. Instead, we give them space to search for and find truth for themselves, and encourage them to examine their place in the world, especially in making that world better for all.

It is, perhaps, the most fundamental tenet of the Quaker world view, that there is something of the divine in every individual -‘that of God’ to quote one of Quakerism’s founders, George Fox. This promotes an unusually optimistic, tolerant and caring approach to all members of our community. In turn, such an approach provides a wonderful basis for the development of an education which is committed to bringing out the very best in each individual.

Quaker ideals underpin so much of the way that Bootham does business, from the way we sit together in Morning Meeting and how we use silence there, to the patience all individuals are shown as they travel the sometimes bumpy road that develops knowledge, character and skills. In doing so, we always look outwards to the wider world, to challenge our youngsters to play their positive part in it, now and throughout their lives.

Interestingly, very few of our pupils are from Quaker families, but many leave with a commitment to the values and practices of the Quaker way.



> **“The ethos is entirely non-doctrinal. It makes the School highly attractive to anyone who would like their child to benefit from a moral outlook, free from rigid dogma, and to engage positively with the world around them.”**
> - Former Parent



AN ACADEMIC SCHOOL

Despite its core commitment to a wider understanding of the purpose of education, Bootham does not believe that academic progress and success are unimportant... very far from it.

The following of a broad curriculum; the acquisition of a depth and breadth of knowledge; the development of intellectual skills and creativity; success in public qualifications: all this provides the focus of most of what we do, day-to-day. Our track record of success at A Level and GCSE speaks for itself.

We choose to define our broad curriculum as 'anything in school from which a student can learn and grow': in other words, this comprises the academic programme, all activities outside the classroom and everything we do to encourage and support personal development.

Each child is challenged intellectually and all needs are supported, whether that help means for particular learning needs or being stretched by greater academic challenge, sometimes both!



“Other schools make you behave, Bootham makes you want to behave.”
- Current Student

A CARING SCHOOL

Bootham believes that placing the welfare, well-being and personal development of its students as its top priority, creates the optimum conditions for them to be able to achieve their best academically.

Actively encouraging the habits that promote good mental and physical health, tackling difficult issues head on, and being honest about the harder aspects of school life are all central to our mission. Simply by putting a premium on as many staff as possible, knowing as many children as possible, we try to signal that, however important grades are, people matter more.

Expert visiting speakers help us explore issues of the day for young people and their parents, and our Health Centre provides expert support.



“A calm, purposeful and well resourced school with a strong heart and family feel.”
- The Good Schools Guide

A TRUE COMMUNITY

At Bootham, we believe that planting our students in the fertile soil of a thriving community is the best way for each of them to grow as individuals.

Our community stands apart from other schools, in the way it values each member as equal to all others, whatever their age or role. This is reflected in the ways in which we address each other, in the quality of our relationships and in the fact that all members of the School, adult and child alike, are held to the same high expectations.

These values of co-operation and community also grow from our Quaker traditions. In turn, they prepare our students for the modern world of work, where skills of collaboration and a commitment to shared values are increasingly prized. The School’s motto, translated as ‘we are members of a great body’, underlines the inherent importance of this principle.

There are many opportunities for parents and families to engage with the School and explore what the School is about.



AN ACTIVE SCHOOL

In keeping with our conviction that activities outside the classroom are part of our curriculum because they provide valuable opportunities for growth and learning, we offer an almost bewilderingly varied programme. It is designed to suit very many existing interests and to encourage new ones. All students take part in an hour-long period of activities after school and many other opportunities are offered on a variety of other occasions in both term and holiday time.

Boarders have their own evening and weekend provision.

Sport, music, drama, outdoor education, astronomy, community service and global citizenship are all particularly popular, along with opportunities for academic extension and even some rather unique pastimes.

The Bootham Challenge Award, which recognises contribution to a wide range of activities, is prized by students and their parents.



“ She really loves it – she likes the breadth of subjects and all the different activities. She likes the freedom they are given to take part in activities or to go to the art classroom at lunch time to indulge in what she enjoys.” - Current Parent



> **“They are very global in their thinking and keen to encourage and educate children to be able to make a positive contribution to society – it’s not just about grades but what you can do with those grades. The School demonstrates this by itself making positive contributions, supporting charities and inviting in speakers – it practices what it preaches.”** - Current Parent

AN OUTWARD LOOKING SCHOOL

It is in Quaker DNA to be engaged with local communities and with the world more widely. Thus, at Bootham, it is important for us to be aware of – and involved in - the world beyond our gates and to model that engagement in our life as a school.

Many Bootham students have strong political views and commitments. We are a Peacejam School and we support a host of charity organisations and events such as Amnesty International, Crisis, local foodbanks, York Pride and UN Peace Day. We also raise money for our House charities that are nominated and voted for by the students themselves. We support all our college students in weekly, timetabled voluntary work and collaborate closely with our state school partners in the York ISSP, which is seen nationally as a model of co-operation across education sectors.

Internally, elected student representatives comprise Bootham Council which initiates change and debates potential improvements to the daily life of the School, working directly with senior academic and support staff. National elections and referendums are fully debated; Bootham’s own voting often produces results very different from the national picture.



“It is a very welcoming school, we’ve been very pleased with it. We like the Quaker ethos that encourages everyone to be inclusive. My daughter joined boarding at the School not knowing anyone but it wasn’t an issue because the School is so welcoming.” - Current Parent

A BOARDING SCHOOL

Boarding is the ultimate expression of a Bootham education.

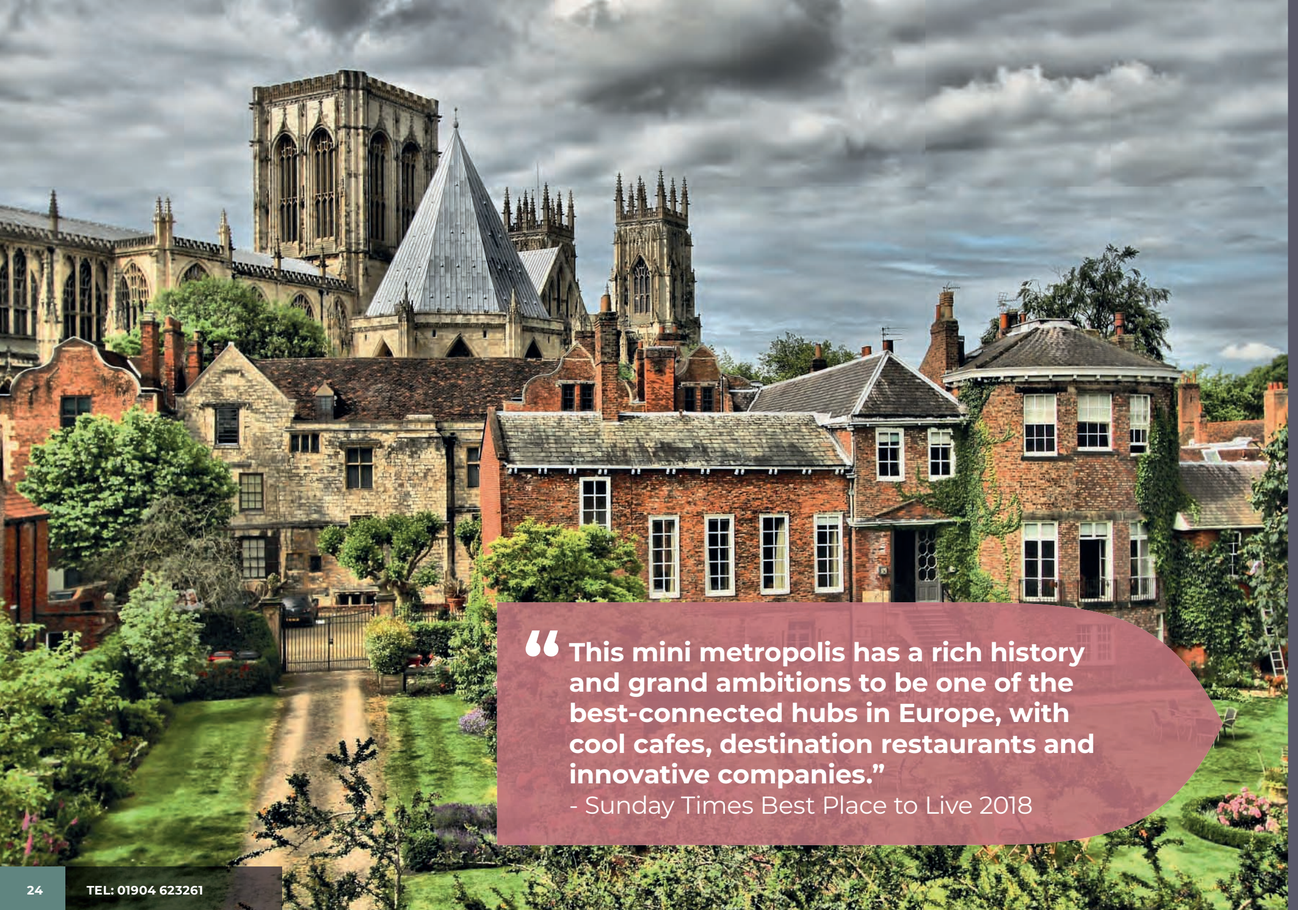
The presence and importance of our boarding community shapes the nature and structure of our school week, bringing a calmer pace of life than a day school enjoys and time for us to provide individual support. It also brings a global, cosmopolitan feel to our life here, as we are joined by students from all over the world, as well as from other parts of the UK and Yorkshire.

By creating a ‘community within a community’ and a ‘home away from home’ we provide a safe context in which students start to explore freedom within a secure environment: they can combine study, recreation and friendship.

We provide much support to those for whom English is not their mother tongue, and celebrate the variety of cultures that enrich our life.

Weekly and Flexi-Boarding are increasingly popular options for those who want to use the time taken up in daily travel much more productively.

In short, boarding is an excellent preparation for life after school, especially in the context of a school that values such a rounded approach to education.



> **“This mini metropolis has a rich history and grand ambitions to be one of the best-connected hubs in Europe, with cool cafes, destination restaurants and innovative companies.”**
> - Sunday Times Best Place to Live 2018

A YORK SCHOOL

Bootham enjoys a wonderful location, only minutes away from the centre of the medieval city of York; everyone benefits from the rich history and cultural heritage of this exceptional place. Originally the strategic stronghold of both Saxons and Romans, York has played a major role in every historical era and evidence of this can be found on almost every street corner.

Today, York is a city of science, culture and commerce as well as a city of learning, boasting two universities. In recent years it has won national and international accolades for its friendliness, its safe environment for students, its cultural life and its architecture, among other things. In 2018 The Sunday Times named it The Best Place to Live in the UK.

NEXT STEPS

We hope you have enjoyed reading our prospectus and that it will help you decide whether Bootham is the right school for your family.

If you would like to discuss your application further, please contact our admissions team on **01904 623261** or email us at **admissions@boothamschool.com**.

For information about Bootham Junior School, which offers day education for children aged two to eleven, please contact us on **01904 65502**1 or email us at **admissions@boothamschool.com.**

For a further glimpse of life at Bootham, you can follow us on social media:

Facebook facebook.com/BoothamSchool/

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