



WORKSOP COLLEGE
AND
RANBY HOUSE

Boarding at Workshop College





Welcome

Choosing a boarding school for your child is one of the biggest decisions you are likely to make. At Worksop College, we are here to guide and support you every step of the way. We understand the trust you place in us, and we take that responsibility seriously.

Our boarding community is rooted in strong values – kindness, curiosity, and integrity. It is a place where pupils are encouraged to be themselves, form lifelong friendships, and grow into independent, resilient young people. Wellbeing is central to all we do; we prioritise listening, nurturing, and supporting every child as an individual.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our community and to show you what makes Worksop College a place of warmth, growth, and opportunity.

Mr Charles Bailey
Headmaster



At Worksop College, we believe that boarding is more than just living at school; it's about creating a home away from home. Our boarding environment offers a nurturing and enriching experience that encourages pupils to explore their passions and embrace their individuality.

Each of our six boarding houses are designed to feel welcoming and supportive. With excellent facilities such as kitchens, common rooms, and dedicated study spaces, our Houses provide everything pupils need to thrive.

Above all, the heart of boarding at Worksop College lies in the care and attention each child receives. Every house has a dedicated team of staff, including Housemasters and Housemistresses, who ensure that our boarders are well-supported and cared for throughout their time with us. We look forward to welcoming you to our boarding community.

Miss Helen Lane
Head of Boarding





Why Boarding?

Modern boarding is a far cry from what it once was. Today's boarding experience is built around comfort, support and enrichment, with light, airy rooms, welcoming common spaces, and a focus on holistic development.

Families choose to board with us for many reasons. Some are seeking a consistent routine, others want to maximise academic and co-curricular opportunities, and many simply need the flexibility that fits busy family life. From age 7, children can board with us full-time, weekly or on a flexible basis, allowing every family to choose what suits them best.





“ This community is like having a second family

David, Bulgaria

Our boarding options reflect the modern world: whether it's supporting a young athlete with early starts, accommodating a late rehearsal, or reducing the time spent in traffic, we make it work for you.

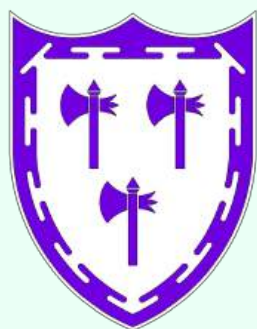
We've invested heavily in our boarding provision in recent years, receiving national attention for the quality of our accommodation. Our pupils enjoy colourful bedrooms, comfortable shared spaces, and the freedom to explore, thrive and grow in a supportive and caring environment.

Boarding here is about far more than just staying overnight – it's about finding a home-from-home.



Our Houses

Each of our boarding houses has its own identity, community and heartbeat. Three of our Houses are located within our stunning 130-year-old main school building, offering a traditional boarding experience steeped in history. The remaining houses are purpose-built, modern facilities that prioritise comfort and function. Pupils are carefully placed in the House that suits their needs and character – whether that's a quiet, cosy setting or a bustling community environment.



Gibbs

Gibbs House is a close-knit, nurturing community that empowers girls to become confident, capable and compassionate individuals. Senior girls play a vital role in guiding younger pupils, and everyone is encouraged to lead with integrity and kindness. Parents and friends are considered part of the wider Gibbs family, and their involvement is warmly encouraged. With its proud 'purple army' spirit, Gibbs House inspires every girl to hold steadfast to her purpose and make her mark in the world.



Portland

Portland House is a junior House designed to support boys and girls as they transition into Senior School. The House provides modern, comfortable spaces for study, rest and recreation - including a music room, kitchen, and the ever-popular Portland Garden complete with fire pit and BBQ area. Named after the Duke of Portland, a founding benefactor, the house is proud of its heritage while focusing firmly on preparing pupils for the exciting journey ahead.

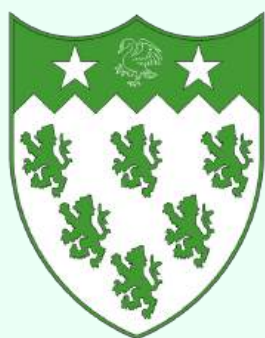


Talbot

Talbot House combines deep-rooted tradition with a modern, inclusive ethos. Pupils are encouraged to give their best in all areas of school life, whether that's through academic excellence, sporting achievement, or acts of kindness. At its heart is a caring community where everyone is supported to grow into their best self. The House takes pride in being known as the 'Friendly House', where relationships matter and every boy feels seen and supported.

Common rooms are warm, sociable spaces, complete with kitchenettes, breakout areas and multimedia facilities. Bedrooms, typically shared by 2-4 pupils, are spacious and light-filled. As pupils progress through the school, they move into smaller rooms, allowing greater privacy and focus during important exam years.

Boarders are encouraged to make their rooms their own, adding personal touches that help create a true sense of belonging.



Derry

Known for its boundless House spirit, Derry House is a warm and welcoming environment where girls build lifelong friendships and pride in their shared identity.

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Founded in 1977 and named after Provost Reverend W.R. Derry, the House celebrates its history while embracing modern values.



Pelham

Pelham House is a vibrant and supportive community that offers every boy the opportunity to thrive.

Rooted in tradition but focused on personal growth, the house nurtures individuality, confidence, and excellence. From

success on the sports field to spirited performances in the House Song Festival, Pelham boys embrace challenge and camaraderie.

Founded as one of the original four dormitories, Pelham carries a proud history, taking its name from the Duke of Newcastle – the land's benefactor.



Mason

As the oldest and most senior House at Worksop College, Mason is proud of its rich heritage and enduring traditions. At the same time, it looks forward, championing innovation, resilience and personal growth. The House is known for its strong sense of camaraderie and spirit, excelling in areas such as public speaking, sport, and creative pursuits. Named after William Henry Mason, the first Custos of the College, Mason House stands as a proud example of virtue and ambition.





Dining at Workshop College

Fresh, Seasonal, Thoughtfully Prepared

Our catering is proudly provided by Wilson Vale, a company renowned for its commitment to fresh, high-quality food.

Their approach is simple: great food starts with great ingredients.

Every dish is prepared from scratch by skilled chefs, using seasonal produce sourced from trusted local suppliers.

From hearty main meals to lighter options, everything is crafted with care, flavour, and nutrition in mind - ensuring every guest feels well-fed and well looked after.

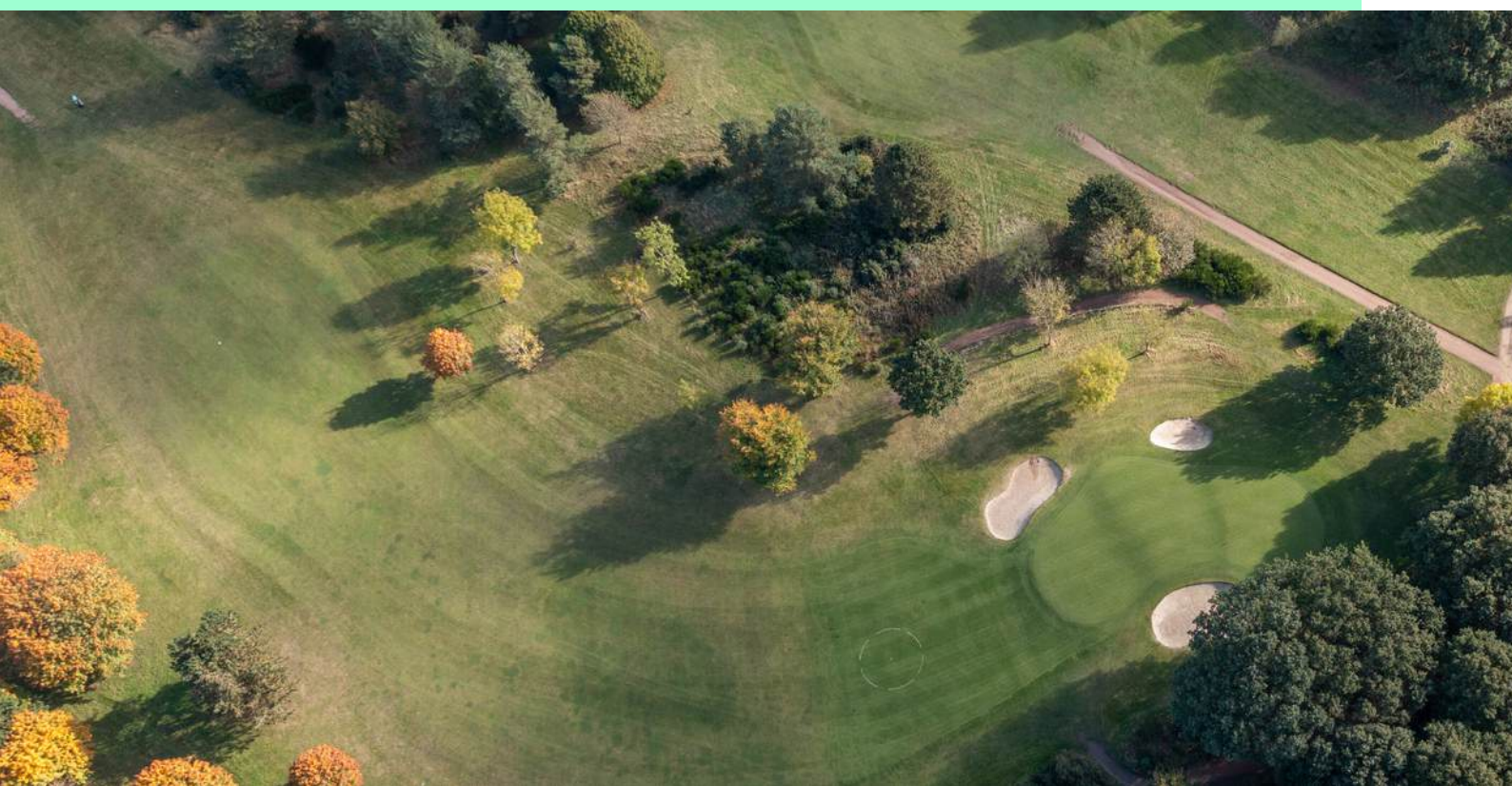
- In-house catering using locally sourced, seasonal produce
- Multiple options at every meal (meat, deli, pasta, salad bar)
- Formal Dining Hall recently refurbished for modern service
- Special diets catered for (vegetarian, halal, allergies)

Full Boarding

Full boarding is the most immersive experience we offer. Pupils stay on site throughout term time, returning home during holidays. This provides a stable, secure environment in which they can thrive.

For international families or those living further afield, full boarding offers convenience and reassurance. But it's also about opportunity – the chance to develop independence, form deep friendships, and participate fully in every aspect of school life.

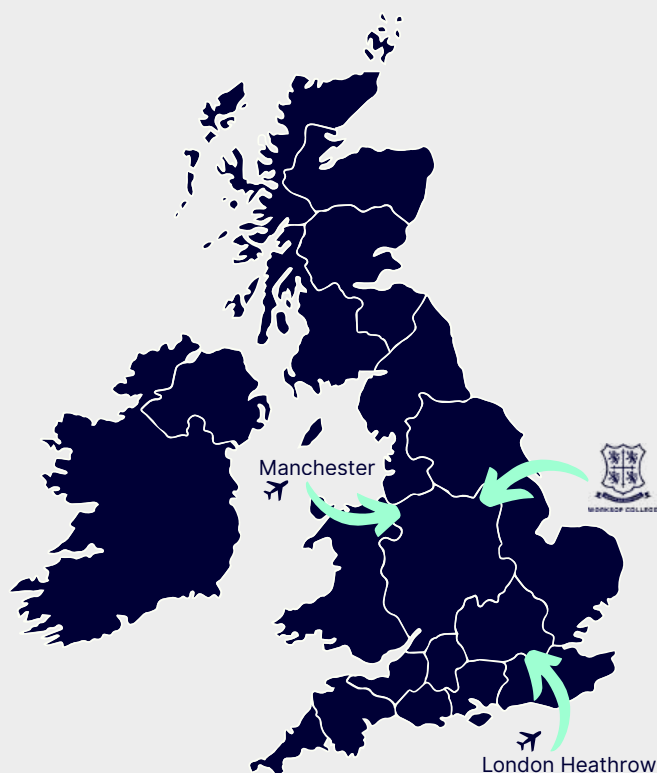
Weekends are vibrant and structured to offer a balance of rest and adventure. Every Saturday and Sunday, pupils can choose from a range of planned trips and activities – whether it's hiking in the Peak District, bowling and cinema trips, museum visits, or heading into nearby cities such as Sheffield or Lincoln for shopping and sightseeing. Cultural visits, volunteering projects and even day trips to London add variety and value to the boarding experience.





“ It’s a five minute walk from my room to the Golf Course

Philip, Germany



Closer to home, our extensive campus means that weekends can be equally fun on-site. Pupils enjoy full access to our gym, indoor swimming pool, tennis courts, sports pitches, and 18-hole golf course. Relaxed activities such as movie nights, baking competitions, themed dinners, arts and crafts, and barbecues bring boarders together and help create a close-knit community.

Sundays are designed for rest and reset, with brunch, chapel, time for study or relaxation, and light activities to ease pupils into the week ahead. Whether it’s a walk through Clumber Park or catching up with friends in the common room, weekends as a full boarder are memorable and meaningful.

Our full boarders also benefit from academic enrichment opportunities – with access to twilight study clinics, revision workshops, and teacher drop-ins. It’s a truly immersive education – one that prepares young people for life beyond school.

Weekly Boarding

Weekly boarding is a brilliant solution for families who live further afield but still want to maintain regular time together at weekends. Pupils stay with us during the week - arriving on Sunday evening or Monday morning and heading home for the weekend - enjoying all the benefits of boarding, with family time protected.

This option is particularly popular with families from inner-city areas, where daily commutes are long, school days are stretched, and access to green space can be limited. Worksop College offers a breath of fresh air - both literally and figuratively. Our 330-acre site provides the space to learn, grow and unwind, giving pupils a balance that's hard to find in urban settings.

Our extensive school transport routes across Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire also mean that weekly boarding is more accessible than ever. Pupils can travel in with ease on a Monday morning and return home on Saturdays via our safe, reliable routes - cutting down on stress for busy families and reducing time on the road.

Weekly boarders benefit from access to evening academic support, co-curricular activities, social events and House-based pastoral care throughout the week - making their time at school productive, structured and enriching.

It's an ideal model for modern family life: consistent, supportive, and flexible enough to give pupils the best of both worlds.





Flexi Boarding

Flexi-boarding allows pupils to stay at school for two or more nights a week, providing flexibility for families while offering all the benefits of the boarding experience. It's a popular choice for pupils with busy co-curricular schedules, long commutes, or a desire to enjoy more time with friends and access to evening academic support.

Whether it's an early morning sports fixture, a late rehearsal, or simply a break from the daily drive, flexi-boarding gives families the breathing space they need - while giving pupils the independence and structure they thrive on.

A key benefit of our flexi-boarding model is its alignment with our transport network, which spans four counties: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, and Yorkshire. Pupils can make use of our morning and evening transport routes, staying over on selected nights to cut out the commute entirely. For families travelling long distances each day, this flexible arrangement reduces time spent in the car, easing the school run, and creating more quality time at home.



It's also an excellent stepping stone for younger pupils who may wish to move into weekly or full boarding further down the line. With access to supervised prep, after-school clubs, twilight revision clinics, and all the social benefits of boarding life, our flexi-boarders get the best of both worlds - structure during the week, and time at home when it matters.

Environmentally, it's a more sustainable option too - minimising daily travel and contributing to a lower family carbon footprint.

Most importantly, flexi-boarding supports pupil wellbeing - offering a balance of independence, academic focus, and social enrichment in a supportive environment.



Our Location



50 minutes
from Nottingham by car



90 minutes
from London by train



45 minutes
from Sheffield by car



90 minutes
from Manchester by car



50 minutes
to the Peak District by car



40 minutes
from Lincoln by car



5 minutes
walk into Clumber Park



Looking after your child

At Worksop College, pastoral care is not an add-on - it is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that pupils thrive when they feel safe, supported, and genuinely known. Our pastoral care network is designed to provide consistent, compassionate support at every stage of a pupil's journey, from the first night in boarding to final preparations for life beyond school.

Every pupil in our boarding community is surrounded by a team of adults who are committed to their wellbeing, personal growth, and academic development.

Houseparents and their assistants live on-site and are the heartbeat of each boarding House. They're there at breakfast, after prep, during down-time - and everything in between.

House Tutors meet regularly with pupils in smaller groups and on a one-to-one basis. They keep a close eye on academic progress, monitor wellbeing, and help pupils develop personal goals - ensuring every child is seen as an individual.



The Health Care Centre

Located at the heart of the school, our Health Care Centre is a warm, welcoming space that serves pupils whenever they need a moment of care - whether that's for a minor injury, a headache, or simply a little time out from a busy day.

Staffed by a team of qualified, experienced nurses, the Health Care Centre operates 24 hours a day. Our nursing team work closely with House staff, parents, and local medical services to ensure every pupil receives prompt care.

We also have strong links with the local GP surgery, and any appointments are carefully coordinated through our team.





Wellbeing at the centre of everything

Our approach to pastoral care goes beyond traditional structures. Wellbeing is woven into every part of boarding life - from House meals to prep time, from weekend outings to moments of quiet reflection.

At the heart of this is the Willow Hub, our dedicated wellbeing centre. Here, pupils can access confidential support, emotional coaching, and specialist counselling. Whether they need help managing exam pressure, navigating friendships, or simply want someone to talk to, the Hub provides early intervention and ongoing support from trained mental health professionals.

We also offer proactive wellbeing education, including sessions on resilience, self-care, sleep, screen time, and positive relationships. These sessions are tailored to each year group and run in parallel with our wider PSHE curriculum.



A culture of openness and kindness

We work hard to create a boarding environment where pupils feel confident expressing themselves. Pupils are encouraged to check in with their House staff, support their peers, and talk openly about their feelings. This is supported by peer mentoring initiatives and leadership roles, which help older pupils develop empathy and responsibility.

Our Houses operate like families - with all the joys, challenges, and laughter that come with living in a close-knit community. Whether it's celebrating a birthday, supporting a friend through homesickness, or simply watching a film together in the common room, every moment contributes to a culture of belonging.

Pastoral care at Worksop College is about ensuring that every pupil feels valued, heard, and supported. It's about nurturing the whole person, helping each young person develop the confidence, compassion, and emotional intelligence to flourish at school and beyond.

BSA says Boarding is:

B ELONGING
in my boarding house

O RGANISED
with my time and belongings

A CHIEVING
to the best of my ability

R ESPECTING
friends and staff

D OING
new things boarding gives me time for

I NDEPENDENT
through boarding

N OTICING
when others need help

G ROWING
together with boarding friends



Boarding Life

Life as a boarder at Worksop College is vibrant, busy, and full of variety. Evenings are spent enjoying trips, games, and activities - from pizza parties and bonfires to arts, crafts, and House competitions.

On Wednesdays, our 'House Night' sees pupils take part in everything from jewellery-making to treasure hunts, while older pupils benefit from late-night prep, exam clinics, and one-to-one teacher support.

Weekends offer even more - cinema trips, theme parks, seaside excursions, and shopping outings all feature regularly on the calendar.

Right on our doorstep is the National Trust's Clumber Park, where boarders enjoy walking, running, and cycling. Our 350-acre site gives pupils the space to roam, explore, and play in beautiful surroundings.

At Worksop College, boarding is more than just accommodation - it's community, adventure, and belonging.



Contact us

Call 01909 537 100

Email admissions@wsnl.co.uk

wsnl.co.uk/boarding

Watch our
**International
Boarding video**

