



ABBOTSHOLME

AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE

Application for the post of HEAD



CONTENTS



01	Background
02	Welcome to Abbotsholme
02	Aims and Values
03	The Role
03	Candidate Profile
04	What Abbotsholme will offer the new Head
04	How to Apply
04	Selection Process



REQUIRED FOR APRIL 2020

The Directors of Abbotsholme School are seeking an outstanding candidate who will bring strong leadership and demonstrate commitment to excellence, throughout all aspects of Abbotsholme, so that it will continue its growth and development. This will require an inspirational, effective and ambitious strategic leader, who will have the energy and capacity to articulate and communicate the special character of this remarkable school and build on the excellent work done to date by the incumbent Headmaster, Mr Robert Barnes.

The School has experienced exceptional growth in pupil numbers over the past 18 months with a 25% increase in the school roll, bucking national trends. Examination results at A levels are impressive with 44% of all results at A* and A Grade and an overall pass rate of 100%. Many of the class of 2019 have taken up places at some of the best universities in the country including the University of Sheffield, Loughborough University and Harper Adams University to name a few.

Given the School's current position of strength this is an exciting opportunity for an exceptional candidate to build on the strengths of the school. He or she will work with the Advisory Board to develop the strategic vision and future direction for the School, whilst empowering all members of the School to play their active part in achieving that vision.

The Directors are looking to appoint a Head who shares the school's determination to grow a world-class School, whilst maintaining the British family values it is built upon.



BACKGROUND

Originally called 'The New School' Abbotsholme was established in 1889 by Cecil Reddie as an experiment for his progressive educational philosophies and theories. From the very beginning, the School favoured a less rigid environment and more liberal education. The original curriculum was designed to prepare boys for the public service. Abbotsholme School became coeducational in 1969. The values, education and broad curriculum offered were focussed on a Christian ethos that remains central to our vision today. The School Chapel, with its original stained glass window and numerous motifs, is a significant historic asset and has become intrinsic to the Abbotsholme story.

Abbotsholme's main building is a stunning red brick Arts & Crafts edifice, with many original features throughout. The school's location and its stunning site, with 140 acre grounds and working estate farm, provide ample opportunities for Reddie's philosophies to be tried and tested, and have allowed pupils to indulge in the wide range of outdoor activities from the early days into the 21st century.

WELCOME TO ABBOTSHOLME

The 140 acre campus offers the perfect environment to learn, achieve and enjoy a special education that focuses on academic success and character development. With superb facilities, all of the pupils from Pre-Prep through to Sixth Form, have the opportunity to participate and excel in an extensive programme of sports, outdoor education, agriculture and equine activities, as well as the creative arts, music and drama.

Abbotsholme's tradition of individuality, excellence, and community is reflected in the character and nature of the pupils; it is the foundation upon which the school was built and the heritage for its future.

Abbotsholme is more than just a school. We see learning as more than an academic pursuit; it is a 'total picture', aimed at providing a balance between a pupils intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual needs. The pupils do well academically, excel on the games field, make inspiring music, develop creativity and challenge themselves through the enormous variety of activities on offer in the beautiful campus and beyond.



THE ROLE

The Head of Abbotsholme will provide effective, dynamic and inspirational leadership to the whole School community. This is a professionally challenging and rewarding position which will set the vision and values to ensure success in the next stage of the School's development. The pursuit of high academic standards within a broad curriculum and a culture aligned to the values of the School to enable each child to flourish will be essential. The Head will be accountable to the Advisory Board and Directors and will report to the Managing Director.

The Head will be expected to:

- Establish and nurture effective relationships with the Directors, teaching and non-teaching staff, parents and pupils. The Advisory Board is comprised of the School proprietors, Directors and independent professional advisors who possess a wide and varied range of experience and are all committed to education and the further development of Abbotsholme School.
- Provide direction and evaluation of all aspects of teaching and learning;
- Possess commercial awareness and business literacy so that Abbotsholme can continue to be competitive in the changing educational market;
- Maintain and motivate a strong and dedicated team of teachers supported by a commitment to continuing professional development;
- Understand and respect the special ethos of Abbotsholme which is built on the close partnership of families and school;
- Embrace innovation matching the educational aspirations of Abbotsholme parents and their wish to see their children prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century;
- Promote and extend the reputation of the School both locally, nationally and internationally.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

The Head of Abbotsholme will be an inspirational leader who can secure the full engagement of staff, pupils and parents in the clear delivery of the school's strategic aims and direction.

The successful candidate will have the following experience, knowledge and personal qualities:

- Be an experienced Head or Deputy Head, with proven and successful experience in school leadership, preferably in an all-through setting;
- Be an outstanding educationalist with knowledge of both international and UK best educational practice, and the capacity to inspire great learning outcomes;
- Be able to combine the best of British educational aspiration with the international needs of a multi-cultural environment;
- Be able to motivate and lead staff, inspire pupils and engage with the supportive parental community;
- Be a confident and impressive communicator who will command the interest and imagination of staff, pupils and parents;
- Be an educationalist firstly and foremost but also possessing business literacy and a firm understanding of the economics that lie behind a successful school;
- Work with the Advisory Board in the mutual development and sustainability of Abbotsholme School;
- Enjoy the company of young people and be a person of kindness and absolute integrity.



WHAT ABBOTSHOLME WILL OFFER THE NEW HEAD

- A competitive package including fee remission for their children if attending the school;
- On site accommodation in a 4 bedroomed house, inclusive of utility charges;
- A supportive and skilful Advisory Board;
- A commitment to support the Head's personal professional development;
- The chance to run a highly successful and expanding school.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates wishing to apply should:

- Visit the School website www.abbotsholme.co.uk, clicking on the school community, vacancy page and download the application form and candidate brief;
- Forward a CV, covering letter and the school application form to **bfarrell@achieve-group.com** to complete the application process;
- For an informal discussion about the post you may contact either Michael Farmer (Chair of the Advisory Board) on mfarmer@achieve-group.com or Barry Farrell (Director) on bfarrell@achieve-group.com to arrange a time to speak.
- All applications will be acknowledged and then evaluated against the selection criteria;
- The letter of application should contain the names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers of three referees. Please include your current direct line manager;
- References will be obtained for all short list candidates prior to final interviews, but will only be taken once Abbotsholme has received specific consent from candidates;
- Short listed candidates will be required to bring original documentation, proof of identity and certificates with them to interview.

SELECTION PROCESS

Closing date for the receipt of applications: 18 November 2019 at 12 noon

Long list candidate interviews: 25 November 2019 in London

Short list candidate interviews: 7 December 2019 at Abbotsholme

Abbotsholme is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check is required for all successful candidates.





Manège 1	School Entrance 2	Car Park 3	Nursery 4	Chapel 5	Dining Hall 6	School Reception and Main Entrance 7	Library 8	Cedarholme and St Vincent's 9
Food Technology Department 10	Learning Skills Centre 11	Science Department 12	ICT Suite 13	Roseyard 14	Sixth Form Common Room 15	Oakholme Classrooms 16	Nursery and Prep School 17	Snell Building 18
Rockholme and OED Centre 19	Design and Technology Department 20	Orchard Boarding House 21	Sixth Form Log Cabin Village 22	The Farm 23	Equestrian Centre 24	Farm Bungalow 25	Flaxfield Boarding House 26	Swimming Pool 27
Prep School Playing Area 28	Music Department 29	Sports Hall 30	Art Department 31	Theatre 32	Pathway to Sports Fields 33	To Toboggan Hill and Reddie's Grave 34	Geography Department 35	Prep Classroom 36
		Health Centre 37	Dingle 38	Prep School Animal Pens and Allotments 39	Modern Foreign Languages 40	Synthetic Pitch 41		

ABBOTSHOLME

INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 2-18

Rocester, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire ST14 5BS
 Telephone +44(0)1889 590217 • enquiries@abbotsholme.co.uk
www.abbotsholme.co.uk

