

Adcote School for Girls

CLEAR learning to thrive
in the 21st Century





Confidence
Leadership
Engagement
Achievement
Resilience

A WARM WELCOME TO ADCOTE SCHOOL

Choosing the right school for your daughter is one of the most challenging decisions you'll make as a parent. Many of us here at Adcote are parents ourselves, so we completely understand that difficulty. Fortunately, **support** and **understanding** are at the heart of everything we offer at Adcote.

Adcote School was founded in 1907 by the pioneering Amy Gough, whose vision was to provide excellent schooling for young women. Whilst our curriculum has changed, our values have not and it is still our absolute mission to provide a **first class, progressive education** for all the girls in our care.

We believe passionately in the advantages of educating girls in a single sex environment. Our **outstanding staff** are specialists in the way girls learn. We understand the challenges that modern women will face in their futures and our unique **CLEAR** learning programme equips them with all the skills they will need in order to **thrive** and be **happy** in the 21st Century.

Our **small classes** and **warm, friendly environment** mean that we know all our girls really well so that we can anticipate and address the individual challenges they will meet in their journey from being little girls to impressive young women. Such security means that **girls flourish in our school**.

Our philosophy is that **happy children are happy learners**. Again and again, parents tell us that their daughter's confidence has soared thanks to our **secure** and **nurturing environment**, and we are proud of our reputation for achieving **excellence through care**.

At Adcote, our door is always open. Please do contact us to arrange a visit to see for yourself all that we have to offer.

Diane Browne

Mrs Diane Browne
Headmistress



OUR UNIQUE CLEAR LEARNING PROGRAMME

When parents visit us here at Adcote, we are always struck by the fact that they are united by a single wish: **they all want their daughters to be the very best they can be.**

The outcomes they want to secure for their daughters are always the same.

Universally, parents tell us they want their daughters to be **Confident**. To have faith in themselves, to speak up, to challenge and defend.

They tell us they want their daughters to be able to **Lead**. To be able to take control of a situation as an excellent team player but also to be able to lead themselves when working independently.

In this multi-screened 21st Century, parents tell us they want their daughters to be **Engaged** with the real world, not the virtual world presented to them online. They want them to be engaged with society and its challenges both locally and globally.

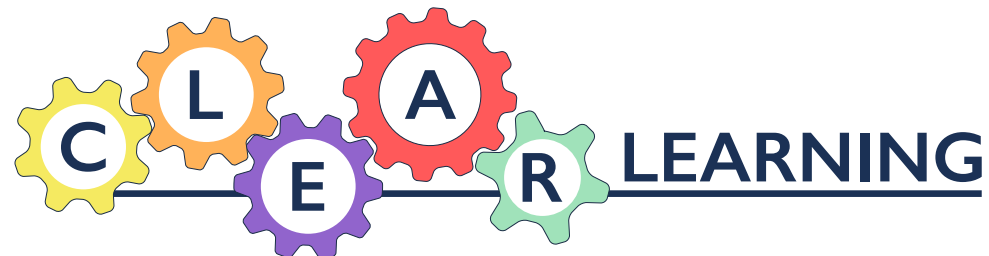
Of course, they want them to be **Achievers**. To achieve the best possible examination results they can but also to achieve in other areas and feel the **thrill of success** in competitions and performance.

Lastly, and so closely linked to success, they want their daughters to be **Resilient**, to understand that failure is a necessary part of success and know the value of lessons learned from mistakes: "**bounce, don't break**".

Fortunately, Adcote's unique CLEAR learning programme is structured to embed the key outcomes of Confidence, Leadership, Engagement, Achievement and Resilience in all our students.

All elements of our curriculum are designed to secure these core values in our students and as you read through this prospectus, you will see exactly how we achieve our aim through our lessons and our extra curricular programmes.

We are really proud of our CLEAR learning programme and hope it will impress you too. Read on to find out how your daughter would benefit from our CLEAR learning programme.



CONFIDENCE

Do you worry about your daughter's level of confidence?

We have an **unrivalled reputation** for building the right sort of confidence in young people.

Our small classes and homely setting mean that we know all our girls really well. Thus, they feel truly valued and of importance. We have an atmosphere of **mutual respect** and our approach is to develop students through **positive encouragement**, for when a girl's self-esteem is high, she will rise more readily to challenge. In this way, she will achieve far more than she often imagines, whatever her age.

Nothing quite builds confidence like feeling valued as part of a team. That you matter. Fewer students in our school means that all our girls have an opportunity to take part in whole school activities and events, whether that's being a member of a sports team, or singing in one of our many choirs or taking a part on stage or behind the scenes in our school play. We enter many competitions such as the STEM Challenge, Maths Challenge or the Bloodhound Rocket Challenge and our victories mean that our girls' self-belief soars and because everyone knows each other so well, the whole school feels **uplifted** by their wins.

For girls who need to have their confidence built in a more **personalised** way, we have more **individual programmes** to encourage them such as LAMDA, school debating classes and in-house presentations, from assemblies to EPQ in the Sixth Form.

Our tailored support, **girl-centric delivery** and attitude of **warmth** and **encouragement** mean that our girls' **self-worth is high**. Visitors to our school unfailingly comment on the personable nature of our students, including school inspectors who reported that our girls were **"articulate, polite and their behaviour is exceptionally good."**





LEADERSHIP

Would you like your daughter to be able to lead?

The world is changing for women.

As an all girls school, we feel we have a particular responsibility to supply the next generation of **women leaders** with all the skills, qualities and, importantly, the self-belief they will need so that they can truly break the glass ceiling.

Academic qualifications are central to the initial success of young women. They enable them to access the courses of their choice so that they can access the career of their choice. However, how they progress in their career is often down to far, far more than a set of certificates.

Girls will need confidence, engagement and resilience in whichever occupation they decide to follow, but it is likely that the more they are successful in their professions, the more they will need to lead. Initially, they will need to lead themselves, to be able to work independently but also to be effective members of collaborative teams. Thereafter, as they build their career, they will need to show leadership in a variety of ways, to **model good practice** and **inspire others** to follow their direction.

At Adcote, our work-related learning activities build the necessary skills to **lead effectively** and **with impact**.

For all girls, we hold our unique Challenge Days once a term. Girls enjoy the wide variety of tasks they are asked to complete and fully understand that the activities are designed to develop all aspects of the CLEAR learning programme but specifically, leadership. Our Challenge Days are all different but **learning through the outdoors** is always an important feature of them. Previous activities have included "dengineering", bushcraft, orienteering and, perhaps their favourite, dismantling a car engine. Some challenges take place indoors, such as writing and publishing a book in a day, weaving or bridge construction.

Our older girls can develop their leadership skills through our Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Combined Cadets Force and our own bespoke learning through the outdoors programme called Wayfarers.

Senior girls also lead within the school in their roles as Prefects and House Captains. School council means that students' voices of all ages are heard and girls from all sections of the school **often lead whole school initiatives** in response to ideas raised.

Younger girls experience leadership through roles of responsibility, with experience of senior leadership coming at the end of the prep school. The Head Girl and her team hold minuted meetings with a view to implementing new initiatives. All forms have captains and it is their responsibility to lead and manage their class in a variety of ways, including presentations in assemblies.

ENGAGEMENT

Do you think your daughter is not as engaged as she should be?

Girls at Adcote do not access their mobile phones during the school day and instead engage with each other and the world around them.

Adcote girls are **good-hearted**. They respect each other and their staff, and engage exceptionally well with their learning, leading to a **lively, purposeful** and **fun atmosphere** in class where **discipline issues are not a problem**. Feeling secure in class means that our girls tend to take more risks with their learning, **venturing answers more readily**, challenging themselves to reach new heights in their understanding. We promote **kindness** and **courtesy**, ensuring that girls have a full understanding that how they treat others will inform how they are treated themselves.

Adcote students have a keen awareness of the challenges faced by those less fortunate than themselves. This means that they devote a generous portion of their time to devising and implementing projects to raise money or organising events to bring comfort or entertainment to others. There are several annual fund raising activities, including the popular Race For Life event, which is enormously enjoyed by the girls, their parents and the staff and serves as a yearly reminder of the **closeness of the Adcote community**.

Our PSHE programme ensures that girls have a strong understanding of current affairs and visiting speakers give them an informed and personal account of key issues. We encourage off site trips to provide expert, first hand understanding of a topic of study. We also have a wide range of extra-curricular visits for the girls to enjoy together and our annual ski trip is always oversubscribed, as are our visits to Christmas Markets both at home and abroad.

We teach **British values** but as we educate girls from all over the world, our students have a full knowledge of **other cultures and traditions**. This global diversity offers our students a reflection of the working environment they are likely to encounter in their careers.

Engaging together with a common sense of purpose means that Adcote girls make **strong, sympathetic** and **lasting relationships** with those around them and they grow into **responsible and caring citizens**.





ACHIEVEMENT

Would you like your daughter to be successful?

All schools must show that their pupils can achieve well in the national arena of public examinations and **Adcote students excel in this area**. However, this is not because we are a hothouse. Instead, we think of ourselves as a greenhouse.

We are proud of **our non-selective status**, as we do not believe in writing children off at any stage of their education. We accept all children, assess and address their needs and through our **warm encouragement, careful monitoring** and **personalised attention**, they **thrive**. We secure results that are far in excess of the national average and girls leave us to study at some of the top universities in the UK, including Oxford and Cambridge.

However, our girls' excellence is not merely in the field of academic results and our list of accomplishments is the envy of many schools that are twice our size in number.

Here are just a few of our recent achievements:

Oswestry Music Festival – Winners

CMI Level 3 Graduates

North Shropshire Netball Champions

Shropshire Hockey Champions

MNA STEM Challenge 2018 Winners

Darwin's Challenge Aquathlon – Winners

Legally Blonde Production

Minsterley Eisteddfod Category Winner

ISA National Gymnastics Champions

ISGA Gymnastics National Winners

Shortlisted for Independent School of the Year 2018 and ISA School Award for Academic Excellence and Innovation

Salter's Festival of Chemistry Winners

ISA National Athletics Finalist

We fully believe in the benefits of **healthy competition**. In their preparation for an event in the public eye, girls learn the value of planning and all the advantages that **disciplined preparation** can bring, whether that's rehearsal, practice or, of course, revision.

Knowing the **exhilaration of winning** is a feeling that lives with a girl long after she has left school. It can stimulate in her a determination to experience the same **thrill of success** in other areas of her life and that **drive** will serve her well in her future.

RESILIENCE

Do you worry about your daughter coping when things go wrong?

Abraham Lincoln said “**The best way to predict your future is to create it.**”

We often tell our students that we will give them the recipe, we will give them the ingredients, but they must bake the cake. The **journey to success** will bring challenges and how they cope with those challenges will determine the measure of their success.

A child's education is the portal to their future. Their school days will see them transform from little girls into young women and during their time at school, they will have to navigate all the tricky challenges that the teenage years can bring. They need sympathy, understanding and knowledgeable guidance in order to preserve a healthy state of mind and develop a can-do attitude.

We understand the pressures young students face as they make their journey to adulthood. We know that the emotional and physical changes they experience in the teen years can, at the very least, be unsettling and at worst, quite frightening. We understand that they are worried about the pressures of examination performance but that these days they are also faced with the draining challenges surrounding body image and self-esteem presented by social media.

Here at Adcote, we build strategies in our students that allow them to be **strong** in the face of the trials they encounter in the modern world. Our carefully crafted curriculum means that we **build resilience** in their characters, from tackling nerves before a sports match to having the organisation and determination to learn lines before a school performance or to conquer a difficult problem as part of our Challenge programme. In this way, they **cope with adversity** and go on to **flourish**.

However, we also know that sometimes children need some extra support. We are the adults and it is our responsibility to use our experience and training to help them with specialised care and advice. That is why we have our Student Services Department. **Our staff provide** support for whatever a student's additional needs might be, whether that's help in unblocking some learning barriers, or providing extra support if English is not a student's first language.

We take mental health very seriously in our school. All our staff are **trained in mental well-being for students** and our attitude of care means that girls always have **someone to talk to** if they are worried about something, but additionally, we have an **on-site counsellor** to listen and advise students if they so wish.





PREP SCHOOL

Our Prep School provides the perfect foundation to **nurture** and **develop young girls**. Our emphasis on **courtesy** and **traditional values** means that our children are educated in a **safe** and **homely environment** where a **passion for learning is born**. Our younger students follow age appropriate activities to secure the core values of the CLEAR learning programme and their progress in the key areas of Confidence, Leadership, Engagement, Achievement and Resilience are explicitly reported in their written reports and at their parents' evenings so that parents have a clear understanding of how their daughters are developing as young people, not just how they are performing in their lessons.

Our provision is tailored to meet the needs of all girls. Our intimate size means that problems are sorted out very quickly. We believe in **family values** and our **committed** and **caring team** of professionals strive to make their classrooms a second home for the children. Visitors frequently comment that the school is a very happy place.

Students who are gifted and talented are fully stretched, heard and academically challenged in all sections of the school, but their thirst for knowledge begins in their Prep School years. Their **love of learning** and their **curiosity** are **encouraged** not squashed. Those children who need extra help will receive it in a kind and supportive manner, in an **atmosphere of care** and **respect**. From a young age, our girls are encouraged to overcome their fears and to "have a go". Our approach means that we have a **strong reputation for uncovering hidden talents**. Our long list of achievements suggests that our approach works especially in some areas, such as gymnastics, where we are national champions!

Sport is significantly important in developing character in young people and is a productive way for them to expend their energy. Unlike in some schools, playing sport is a significant aspect of our curriculum in the Prep School. Our children are often taught by our **Senior School staff** and so the level of coaching they receive is **specialised** and of **high quality**. Girls are all team players and are used to "stepping up". As a result, they experience **close relationships** and support each other through the highs and lows that a sporting arena can bring.

Our Prep School caters for girls from Year 3 to Year 8. The school is very much part of the main school so our younger students have all the advantages of seeing truly positive role models in our older girls, especially regarding our Sixth Formers where there is very much a "Big Sister" culture. Whilst being part of the main school, our Prep School very much has its own autonomy and so our girls in Year 8 experience leadership opportunities at a much earlier time than they might otherwise in other schools.





SENIOR SCHOOL

Our Senior School caters for students from Year 9 to Year 11 and takes girls through their **critical GCSE years**.

The ethos of **consideration** and **personal attention** is carried on from our Prep School into our Senior School. As we know all our students really well, we can offer **individual, tailored support** regarding their learning and provide knowledgeable advice on career choices including guidance on A level subjects.

Throughout their academic journey, we monitor our students closely, tracking their grades against their data, making sure that they are all **fulfilling their potential** and **intervening** when extra support is needed. Small classes mean that our dedicated teachers are able to address girls' needs and **friendly relationships** mean that girls are not afraid to ask for advice if they need it.

All our students in the Senior School have a **personal tutor** in addition to their form coordinator. Their personal tutor meets regularly with them to **discuss their academic progress** and to set them **targets** and advise them on what they need to do to meet their goals. Our **atmosphere of respect** means that **girls feel valued** and they **respond positively** to the feeling that **we truly care** about their **academic and personal welfare**.

Examinations can be as much a test of personality as they are of ability, so we have programmes to make sure that all our girls have the **stamina** and **determination** to do well, as well as having the crucial subject understanding they will need to access the top levels at GCSE. We advise them on personal learning strategies and revision techniques and we provide **learning clinics** for those who need extra reassurance.

Additionally, the Senior School brings new opportunities for the girls to develop their skills and become the person they want to be. Combined Cadet Force, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, LAMDA, debating and Wayfarers all ensure that girls have the confidence and **vision to succeed** as well as the **organisational skills** and **resilience** they will need to **plan for success**.

Our **exemplary pastoral care**, with **sympathetic** and **understanding specialists**, means that girls **flourish** and our strong Personal, Social and Health Education programme supports them as they make their way into adulthood. With growing maturity, we are able to make sure that they have a **broad** and **sensitive understanding** of the world they are entering once they leave the security of school. They develop a healthy sense of perspective that helps them in making crucial judgements and engenders in them a **sense of how lucky they are**. We encourage them to play a **full** and **constructive role in society** and they have a **strong sense of civic duty**. Thus, our students leave us as **well-rounded, capable** and **well-qualified young women**.

SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form at Adcote provides **the bridge between school and the outside world**, whether that's university or employment. It is a time for girls to develop their interests and challenge themselves as young adults as they approach the next important stage of their lives.

Success at A level naturally forms a central focus of students' time in the Sixth Form.

The majority of our students choose to follow three linear A Levels, taking all formal examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth. A small number of girls will take four subjects at A Level.

Our small size tutorial classes not only offer a taste of the teaching style at university but also mean that as in other areas of the school, **personal attention is high**. This becomes increasingly important as girls make their **plans for their futures**.

Almost all of our girls choose to go onto university but the application route can be tricky to navigate. However, our girls receive **individualised UCAS & Careers support**, including **Oxbridge** and **USA Universities** guidance and preparation. Our **Personal Statement workshops** are followed by **one to one advice** and support from experienced practitioners so that **applications made by students are the very strongest they can be**.

Sixth Form at Adcote brings other opportunities too.

Work-related learning is important to us here and we are proud to say that we are the only all-girls school in England to offer the Chartered Management Institute Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management to all our students in Year 12. This course has been enormously popular with our girls as it gives them a real and assessed experience of procedures and matters they will commonly face when they eventually begin their careers. Many universities have encouraged their undergraduates to pursue this course but our students arrive at university with the skills already secured.

The CMI have been very supportive of our pioneering work in this area and we are thrilled to have received two nominations for national excellence for our work.

In addition to the CMI qualification, should students choose to take three A Levels, they will also be offered the chance to complete the **Extended Project Qualification**. This offers girls the opportunity to complete studies on a topic that is of particular interest to them and again, is **popular with universities** as it can give them a valuable insight into the student's academic interest.





SIXTH FORM CONTINUED

Our extra curricular programme continues its focus on securing the values of the CLEAR learning programme and extra opportunities for **personal growth** are available just for our Sixth Form including a journalism club, Rotary Club and Gold DofE . Girls are also free to continue attending the extra curricular activities they pursued when they were in the Senior School.

As the oldest girls in the school, our Sixth Form are **leaders of the school** and they organise many House Events such as the Inter-House Music Competition, Inter-House Drama Competition, Adcote's Got Talent and the hugely popular International Food Fayre. They are admired by our younger students, who see them as **positive role models** and our Sixth Formers respond by providing **sympathetic support** to them in a range of areas, including giving examination advice.

Thus, our Sixth Formers play an important part in making our school the **warm and inclusive school** that it is. They are **valued** and **cared for**. This promotes **excellent emotional well-being** in them and this, together with their **academic excellence**, means that Adcote Graduates leave us as well educated and balanced young women who have all that they need to be **happy in their futures**.

BOARDING

Adcote is a full termly boarding school, with a **happy mixture of British girls and International students**. Our **'home from home'** boarding houses welcome girls from age eight through to eighteen and we offer full and weekly boarding in a **safe, caring, friendly and disciplined environment** in a school where **privacy and independence are respected**, and where the girls can enjoy **companionship, fun** and a **lively programme of boarding activities**.

The Head of Boarding and her team provide the **care, comfort and support** which are so important for the girls' well-being and success, **nurturing and guiding** the youngest boarder through to the maturity of the Sixth Form student. Many of the staff at Adcote have been boarders themselves so have a real understanding of boarding and can empathise with the girls.

At Adcote, Ms Jones, and her team aim to create a homely environment where girls can relax. They will find constant help and support from them and fellow boarders are invaluable in helping girls to succeed. **True friendships** and support systems are forged that often remain **strong for the rest of their lives**. We have a **strong sense of both family and traditional values** in the boarding house.

By **encouraging self-discipline** and a **sense of responsibility**, we seek to promote **self-confidence** and **assurance without arrogance**. In the Sixth Form, girls enjoy **supervised independent living**, encouraging them to **mature** and enabling them to move on at the end of Year 13 with confidence.

Dependent on availability, day girls are welcome to stay in the boarding house for occasional nights. **Casual boarding arrangements** respond to the occasional need for overnight stays, such as involvement in a school drama production, a birthday celebration, or for when parents need to be away from home for a particular reason.

We are accredited for the Forces Continuity of Education Allowance and are members of the Boarding Schools Association (BSA), Independent Schools Council (ISC), Independent Schools Association (ISA) and Girls' Schools Association (GSA).



DESTINATIONS MAP



1. University of Aberdeen
2. University of Edinburgh
3. Glasgow University
4. Durham University
5. University of Central Lancashire
6. University of Hull
7. University of Salford
8. University of Liverpool
9. The University of Manchester
10. The University of Sheffield
11. Nottingham University
12. Loughborough University
13. Aston University
14. Leicester University
15. Warwick University
16. **UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**
17. **OXFORD UNIVERSITY**
18. Cardiff University
19. University of Bath
20. University of Buckingham
21. LONDON UNIVERSITIES:
UCL
London School of Fashion
Imperial College London
London City University
King's College London
London Royal Holloway
22. University of Exeter
23. University of Southampton
24. University of Brighton

OUR PARENTS SAY:

"The advantages of attending a small school, in my opinion are massive."

"Adcote School has been life changing, not only for my daughter but also for her family."

"This is what makes the Adcote experience so special - that the girls can be who they are – that their individuality is celebrated and encouraged."

"As a parent, it has been wonderful to be part of the Adcote community, and to witness the care, commitment and passion that all the staff at Adcote bring to their profession."

"I've got my daughter back, thank you."

"My daughter comes home engaged and wanting to learn."

"A truly amazing and family environment in which my daughter has thrived beyond belief."

"She frequently describes her lessons as "fun" and is totally engaged in the learning."

"The involvement of the girls in academic target setting is excellent and I think will encourage independence and a sense of responsibility for their own learning."





OUR STUDENTS SAY:

"I have made great friends that I will have for a lifetime."

"CCF has taught me leadership skills and I have done things that I wouldn't have experienced through any other circumstances."

"Teachers at Adcote School give their time to support you."

"Practical learning helps me to understand what is being taught, when you understand a subject it stays with you."

"The range of clubs and activities available at Adcote School is amazing"

"All the girls are so friendly and welcoming, like a family."

If you want your daughter to leave school as a confident, resilient, engaged achiever who can lead herself and others, then Adcote School is the CLEAR choice for you.



WHAT TO DO NEXT

This prospectus offers just a snapshot of all that Adcote has to offer. For more information, please visit our website or, better still come and visit us so that you can experience at first hand what an extraordinary school we are.

To book a visit, simply follow the links on our webpage, or email admissions@adcoteschool.co.uk, or if you would like to talk to someone, ring Admissions on 01939 260202 who will be very happy to answer any questions you might have.



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