Haberdashers' ABRAHAM DARBY

HOW TO APPLY FOR A Y7 SPORTING APTITUDE PLACE

FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 INTAKE

PLEASE COME ALONG TO OUR OPEN EVENING ON THURSAY 1st OCTOBER FROM 18.00 TO 20.30 TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR SPORTING APTITUDE PLACES!

Information for Applicants

Haberdashers' Abraham Darby (HAD) offers at least 3.33% (6) of the places available each academic year to applicants who show an aptitude in sport.

Sport plays a pivotal role in the day to day life at Haberdashers Abraham Darby, providing students with the skills to be top class athletes as well as first class members of society. While inclusion and participation are the underlying principles of the sporting programme, our elite performance holders are assured of a nurturing competitive environment where they can truly test themselves and achieve their full potential.

As a student moves through the school, they will enjoy a range of sports throughout the year in lesson time. For extra-curricular sports we focus our efforts on three "core sports" in order to achieve National recognition – these are Rugby, Netball and Athletics. Although other elite sports performers from varying sports will be most welcomed.

The HAD Emerging Sports Talent Programme

Expectations

You will be expected to be an outstanding ambassador for the Academy and demonstrate a keenness to contribute to all sporting activities and the wider life at Haberdashers' Abraham Darby. This also includes in the classroom, as we expect all sporting scholars to strive for academic excellence as well as sporting excellence. You will be required to represent the school during the three terms as well as weekend fixtures and training. Arrangements will be made for athletes who have elite sporting commitments outside of school.

As a HAD Sports Performer you will benefit from the following:

- Goal setting and reviewing with performance coaches
- Access to Strength and Conditioning coaching
- One performance training session per week in lesson time
- Elite coaching

Criteria for Application and Assessment

- Be coachable and hard working
- Have a positive attitude to academic learning
- Strive to be the best you can be
- The ability to push yourself out of your comfort zone
- The ability to lead and work with others
- Excellent behaviour record

How to Apply

- If you would like your child to be considered under this criterion, please complete the online sporting aptitude application form which is available from our website: https://www.haberdashersabrahamdarby.co.uk/sporting-aptitude/ or request a copy from Mr Will Bennett (Director of the HAD Emerging Sports Talent Programme) at the Academy – will.bennett@taw.orguk
  Please also submit your child's latest school and a reference/s from their sporting coaches with your application (see below for further information).
- The deadline for applications to be received is **3.30pm on Friday 9th October 2026**
- Applicants with additional educational, medical needs, visual or hearing problems may be given concessions as the Haberdashers' Abraham Darby inclusion team considers to be reasonable and appropriate. Pleasure ensure that you complete the concessions box on the application form.
- Applicants will be invited to the Assessment Day at the Academy during October where they will go through a range of fitness and motor skill tests, as well as a sport specific assessment – ***this year they will be held after school on either Monday 19th October and/or Tuesday 20th October 2026***. It will not be possible to take the test on any other dates or after this date.
- The Academy will ensure that the tests for aptitude in sport are designed to test only for aptitude in sport and not for academic ability.
- Distance from the Academy is not taken into consideration for the sporting aptitude criterion – therefore we welcome applications from students who live both inside and outside the designated admissions area.
- The Academy will inform parents if their child is of the required sporting aptitude standard for one of the places on offer **by no later than Friday 23rd October** which is one week before the closing date of 31st October for secondary applications to be submitted to T&W LA so as to allow parents time to make an informed choice of preferred secondary school for their child. The Academy will also inform the LA of the names of the pupils who have gained sporting aptitude places.

Sporting Aptitude Test

The Sporting Aptitude Test consists of 3 main assessment criteria:

1. **Aptitude sports testing** - Applicants will go through a range of fitness and motor skill tests, as well as a sport specific assessment. The tests will consist of a series of different activities testing the following areas of sporting aptitude:

✓ Accuracy
✓ Agility
✓ Speed
✓ Endurance
✓ Hand/Eye Co-ordination
✓ Movement
✓ Leg Power

2. **School Report** – to show character traits.

3. **Sport Specific Reference** – in the form of video/evidence/coaches report or personally seen in competition by the Director of the Sporting Aptitude Programme.

It is expected that the applicants wishing to apply under this criterion have a long-term interest in sport/physical education and would wish to participate in the sporting life of the Academy willingly and regularly should they gain a place. Please note each place will be reviewed yearly and if students are not achieving the required standard of behaviour or sporting aptitude, benefits will be withdrawn.

Parents/carers *will not* be able to be with their child during the course of the test which will last for approximately 2 hours.

In Year Applications

Parents are welcome to apply for sporting aptitude places throughout the year – if there are places available. Please complete a sporting aptitude application form and submit with your in-year application. The assessment process is similar to above with students having to take part in aptitude sports testing and sport specific assessment, and a school report is required together with a sport specific reference (video or coaches report). Please note that places on the emerging talent programme are reviewed yearly – if students are not following academy expectations on the field and/or in the classroom, they will be removed.

Further Information

Further information can be gained from our website:

https://www.haberdashersabrahamdarby.co.uk/sporting-aptitude/

Or by contacting Mr Will Bennett either via email – will.bennett@taw.org.uk – or phoning 01952 386000.

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