Haberdashers'
ABRAHAM DARBY
Aspiration Respect Excellence

Ironbridge Rd, Madeley,
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Passionate about learning

Haberdashers' Abraham Darby,
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ARE



Joe Edgar (Principal)

If you would like to visit our school and meet the staff and pupils, I will be delighted to arrange a tour for you and your child. Please telephone the school and we will make the necessary arrangements.

Welcome

"Abraham Darby opened in September 2008 and it is both a privilege and source of great joy to be its Principal. It is important to me that all pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their ability or background. Our school will seek to raise aspirations and achievements through the highest quality academic, personal and vocational teaching and guidance. I have a simple goal, I want the young people in my school to be happy and to be able to look back on their time here with pleasure and pride.

Choosing a school is an important decision. After parents and family, a school is the second most important influence on the values of young people. That is why we work hard to make the time, young people spend here truly memorable.

With a Sixth Form which continues to grow in reputation, we are able to offer a broad variety of subjects and qualifications. Standards are rising such that increasing numbers of students are gaining university places and apprenticeships of first choice.

Growth, the willingness to adapt and embrace change, and crucially, the development of leadership potential and humanity, are goals to which we all aspire. I hope you will sense some of this energy and drive when you visit us. Do so soon. You are assured the warmest of welcomes."

Joe Edgar (Principal)



Our pupils ARE ambitious, hardworking and successful

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I want pupils to have an intellectual interest and curiosity in their studies.

I want pupils to be fully involved in a wide range of curriculum enrichment and extra curricular activities.

I want pupils to aspire to the highest values and standards of behaviour.

Joe Edgar (Principal)

Our Philosophy

We are passionate about learning in its widest sense. Our mission is ‘Success for All’

We recognise that every individual is unique and we strive to unlock their potential, with a ‘no excuses’ culture and by inspiring our pupils and our staff to be the best version of themselves.

We want our pupils to value and enjoy the opportunities and experiences available to them at Haberdashers’ Abraham Darby so that they can achieve the best possible outcomes.

We have very clear values for all members of our learning community.

“Our community, our school, this is who we ARE”

Aspiration: We have a dream or goal we are aiming for.

Respect: We listen to and learn from others. We care for one another and our community.

Excellence: We work hard to be the very best we can be.







Starting Your Secondary Journey

We place great emphasis on ensuring that your child's transfer from primary school is as smooth and stress free as possible.

Following the allocation of places, we visit Year 6 pupils at their primary schools to introduce them to the process of moving up to Haberdashers' Abraham Darby. This allows us to address concerns and gives the children an opportunity to ask questions and discuss thoughts and feelings about taking the step to secondary school. All pupils coming to us from schools outside our catchment area are jointly invited to a 'Getting to Know You' activity morning, where they can meet each other and form new friendships.

In July, pupils are invited into our school for two consecutive 'Transition Days'. This allows them to experience a typical school day at Haberdashers' Abraham Darby. They will also get to know their mentor and other pupils in their mentor groups. Year 9 pupils act as "Buddies" providing peer support to augment the support from pastoral staff.

The New Intake Parents' Evening takes place in July, when Year 6 pupils and their families are invited to meet the mentors and receive further information about our school.

During the second half of the summer holidays, we run a 3 day Summer School where Year 6 pupils are able to come in and participate in a variety of fun activities. This enables them to establish new friendships and familiarise themselves with our building and our staff.

In September our new Y7 pupils benefit from a phased return, allowing staff to give them full support, help allay concerns about getting lost and to begin the official process of settling in.





Rewarding Aspiration, Respect and Excellence

At Haberdashers' Abraham Darby, we believe that recognition and celebration of student achievement are central to fostering a culture of Aspiration, Respect, and Excellence. Our rewards system is designed to motivate pupils, reinforce positive behaviours, and celebrate both academic and character-based successes.

Core Principles

- Inclusivity: All pupils have access to rewards through consistent effort, engagement, and positive conduct.
- Visibility: Achievements are recognised publicly and frequently to build pride and community.
- Progression: Pupils are encouraged to set goals and work towards increasingly significant milestones.

Celebration Days

Pupils who consistently demonstrate our ARE values are invited to attend our celeration events. These have included a disco, ice cream van, inflatables and offsite trips.

Badges

- Weekly subject award badge
- Weekly mentee of the week badge
- Weekly ARE badge for achieving 75 positive points
- Being prepared badge for arriving at school with correct equipment and correct uniform on 50 occasions
- 100% attendance badge

Achievement Points & Physical Badges

Pupils accumulate achievement points across the year. Physical badges are awarded when pupils reach key thresholds:

- Bronze: 400-799
- Silver: 800-1199
- Gold: 1200-1599
- Platinum: 1600-2000
- Diamond: 2000+

Badges are presented in assemblies.

Additional Recognition

- Subject Awards: Termly recognition for excellence or progress in specific subjects.
- Year team awards: Weekly shout-outs during assembly.
- End-of-Year Awards Evening: Formal celebration of outstanding contributions across all year groups.
- Hot Chocolate with the Principal: Selected pupils are invited throughout the year for a relaxed, celebratory chat with the Principal over hot chocolate. Nominations come from staff and reflect moments of exceptional character, leadership, or contribution to the school community.
- Gold Slip: awarded by staff to pupils and signed by the Principal, for exceptional work in class.



Pastoral Care

One of the strengths of the academy is its pastoral team who will monitor your child's welfare, progress, engagement in learning, attendance and punctuality.

We operate a Year System for our pastoral care that runs along side our House System. Each Year group has a Head of Year, a Deputy Head of Year, and Assistant Head of Year.

The mentor is the focal point of the pastoral system and the first port of call for any queries or concerns that you may have. Your child will have lots of support and people they can talk to in addition to their subject teachers:

Our support pathway enables students to communicate with members of staff. Following triage, the staff member(s) will take appropriate action, which may include notifying a third party or the students' parents.

We respond promptly to any concern raised. We are proud to have been awarded the Carnegie Gold Award for mental health & wellbeing support.

"Pupils speak clearly about feeling safe and cared for because trusted adults listen and act when concerns arise" (OFSTED 2026)



Learning

Our 'state of the art' building is well equipped to provide subject specific learning spaces. Our 60 minute lessons help to minimise movement around the building, maximise learning time and allow pupils more opportunity for breadth and depth in their studies. All classrooms are equipped with ICT, which along with tried and tested teaching strategies, enhance and support pupil learning. Pupils are grouped to maximise their learning potential; sometimes they are grouped according to ability, at other times they are mixed. Well qualified and dedicated specialist teachers, and class sizes that we keep as small as possible, help us to ensure that every pupil is fully supported and challenged to achieve their potential. Pupils and parents receive regular written and verbal feedback about progress, which is tracked at all levels. Any progress concerns or gaps in learning are quickly addressed so that pupils catch up and keep up.

In lessons, we choose our content carefully, so every pupil gets to experience the best that has been thought, said, written, made or done. We place great emphasis upon knowledge acquisition, creative and philosophical thinking and the development of a range of inter-personal and 'soft' skills. We challenge pupils to think hard and make connections in their learning. At the start of every unit, pupils are given an overview sheet containing the core and powerful knowledge we want them to be able to remember. We also encourage pupils to show initiative and resilience in all aspects of academy life.



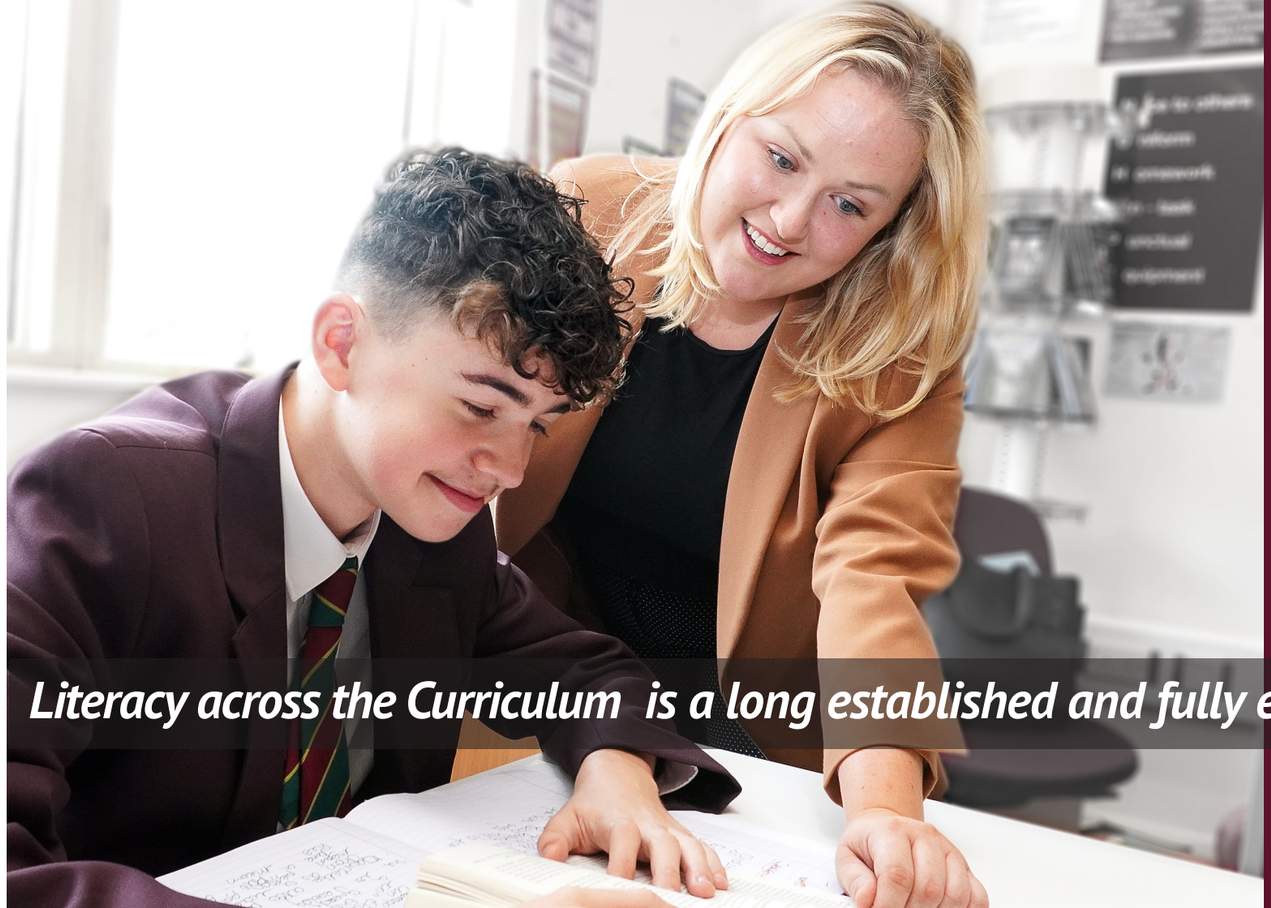


Every pupil is fully supported and challenged to achieve their potential

Curriculum

We have developed a curriculum that meets the needs, sparks the imagination and brings the best out in each individual student according to their ambition, aspirations, ability and interests. Our curriculum ensures that pupils are given a strong grounding in the core academic subjects. In Year 7 we deliver a traditional curriculum that develops skills and understanding in the core subjects of Maths, English, Science and the Humanities. We also aim to develop the creative and practical sides of our pupils with lessons in Art, Design, Music, Languages and Drama. There is a significant focus on spelling, grammar and reading across all subject areas. Transitional provision is also available in Year 7 and 8 to support pupils' literacy and numeracy skills with extra lessons in reading, comprehension and mathematics.

During Year 9, pupils are guided through a choice of academic, vocational and practical courses in order to best meet their individual needs. These will then be combined with their core subjects to equip pupils with a broad and balanced education that will be followed until their exam success in Year 11.



Literacy across the Curriculum is a long established and fully embedded policy

Literacy

Literacy is taught by all subject teachers and is embedded into schemes of learning. This includes the teaching of oracy, spelling, key words, impressive vocabulary, reading skills and extended writing. Literacy is kept high profile across the curriculum with competitions throughout the year.



Extra-Curricular

There are extensive extra-curricular activities available to all. We believe that clubs are a crucial way of enriching the learning and social experience. Outside the usual teaching framework, pupils are able to engage with each other and our staff in ways that will both extend and challenge them.

Our sports clubs are a force to be reckoned with both locally and within the Haberdashers' family of schools. We excel in netball, rugby and athletics with our teams enjoying success in tournaments and on tour. A diverse range of sports clubs are offered throughout the year with access for all abilities.

We have and continue to maintain, a very successful music tradition. We offer great musical opportunity to our pupils, which has resulted in a top reputation within the youth musical world - locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally. Pupils can attend junior and senior bands after school and on Saturday mornings at our Music College.

Our aim is to inspire young people to challenge their limits, become more independent and be able to step up to any challenge.

To whet your appetite, consider some of the options available at the end of a learning day. Something for everyone :

Are you a gamer? We cater for the traditional and digital player.

Into Chess? Make your move at Chess Club.

Knitting and Crochet? A stitch in time saves nine!

Want company [and help?] with work? Drop into Homework Club

Budding artist? Come to Art Club

Which would your child choose? Our offer is constantly developing as we respond to pupils' interests.





Clubs are a crucial way of enriching the learning and social experience



Music

The Academy supports Music by providing heavily subsidised music lessons and this is complemented by our medley of bands predominantly brass, woodwind & percussion.

Each term time Saturday morning, we run a Music College for all band members, offering rehearsals and instrument lessons. Our Megaband, is not only for our pupils, but welcomes all musicians from the local area who play a wind instrument at Grade 1 Level or above.

Our premier Showband and Jazz Band have gained numerous awards and performed at the Symphony Hall, Royal Albert Hall and the Great North Big Band Festival.

From the very beginning, we make this success attainable for all. There are places available for children that demonstrate a musical aptitude before entering Haberdashers' Abraham Darby.

Haberdashers' ABRAHAM DARBY MUSIC



Music is more than just sound, it can aid reading and writing. Improve organisational and time management skills and foster team work.

Our band leaders are encouraged to take responsibility within the bands as section leaders, ambassadors and mentors giving them valuable life experience.

Music is a skill for life.

Sports

Our sports clubs are a force to be reckoned with both locally and within the Haberdashers' family of schools.





We have a thriving rugby squad; competing in and winning many tournaments, whilst training (and fund raising) hard. Saturday fixtures now total 12 matches per team. Year 8 are County Champions. Strong links and development pathways have been forged with the RFU and local rugby clubs. On an individual basis several pupils play at county level. Our rugby squad has toured in the UK, Europe, South Africa, Canada and South America.

Netball is popular, successful and well supported. Our teams are competitive in all county competitions, Years 9 and 10 are Telford and Wrekin Champions. Sixth-form students co-coach some of our younger teams, developing links between year groups. Our incredible fund raising efforts have been a lot of fun, including a netball marathon where 110 students took part in a 24-hour netball match. We are proud to be partnered with the Birmingham Panthers franchise.

Athletics goes from strength to strength. We are prominent at Shropshire County athletics (T&W Champions 4 times in the last 5 years!), a significant number of our students are successful at English Schools level, winning over 60 medals at the County Championships.

Badminton, cross country and basketball are also popular. Our wide offering enables many pupils to experience competitive sport.





Partnerships

Parents and Carers - We develop good relationships with parents and carers and keep them informed of pupils' progress. This is important to us as the support parents can give can go a long way towards aiding their child's education.

Our Sponsor - The Haberdashers' Livery Company of London help us focus on traditional values in a fast changing world. They also provide university bursaries and access to high quality careers advice for our young people.

Our Partner School - Haberdashers' Adams, Newport (together with Castle School House are the Haberdashers' West Midlands Academy Trust) help us focus on making sure our high ability pupils are stretched and challenged. Teachers share good practice across both schools.

Our Partner in the Business Community - Cap Gemini help us ensure our pupils develop an understanding of the world of work and develop the skills and traits that will make them impressive and employable people.

Our Apprenticeships Coordinator - Sponsored by the Haberdashers' Company, is a unique role that seeks out links with businesses to give our pupils access to apprenticeships in a wide range of organisations.



Sixth Form

We currently have 170 students studying in our Sixth Form. Our curriculum is broad, ensuring that students may choose A level or BTEC courses. We are very successful in completing the final leg of the 'school journey' with our young people. All go on to apprenticeships, university courses or employment. Many successfully secure scholarship support from the Haberdashers' Company.