



# Study Abroad

## Supported by Embrace England

**Information for students studying one term or more  
at Bootham School and York College**

Hosted by



**BOOTHAM**  
SCHOOL  
AGES 3-18



**UNIVERSITY**  
CENTRE

# Contents

1.	What We Offer	p3
2.	Programme History	p4
3.	Introducing York	p5
4.	Introducing Bootham School	p6
5.	Introducing York College	p7
6.	Your Study Options	p8
7.	Guardianship & Support	p9
8.	Boarding at Bootham	p10
9.	Homestay & Host Families	p11
10.	Trips and Activities	p16
11.	Frequently Asked Questions	p17
12.	What Our Students Say	p23

## APPENDICES

A.	Programme Fees	p24
B.	Partner Schools	p25
C.	Programme Dates	p28





## What we offer

We are based in the ancient city of York and offer programmes of study at Bootham School and York College. Study options range from placements lasting a single term, to those of over one year. Students are guided by our small, highly experienced team throughout the application process. They also benefit from our local guardianship service after they arrive. This is free to students from our German Partner schools and gives peace of mind to young people and parents alike. Programmes at Bootham school are available to students from 14 years of age. Programmes at York College are open to students aged 16 and over.

We believe passionately in the power of international education. The opportunity to learn and live in another country offers a unique and inspiring foundation for later study and life in general. Our students work hard to develop their independence, build cultural understanding, develop their language skills, and of course, experience the UK's first rate education system.

We work with 30 schools across Germany and offer preferential rates to students from these institutions. We also welcome applications from students based elsewhere. This pack contains lots more information about what options are available, plus an introduction to our study destinations and our application form. If you represent a school and are interested in partnering with us, don't hesitate to get in touch.

You will also find some details of enrichment activities and residential trips to London and Edinburgh which are available to Embrace England students on long term placements at both Bootham and York College

Further information is available on our website:

[embraceengland.co.uk](http://embraceengland.co.uk)

and via email from our Lead programme manager, Jon Bell at [jon@embraceengland.co.uk](mailto:jon@embraceengland.co.uk).

This pack is for those interested in long duration study of one term or more. More information about shorter, Embrace England language holidays, this is available online: [embraceengland.co.uk/sprachferien](http://embraceengland.co.uk/sprachferien).

# Programme history

In 2009, Jim Tomlinson was the Deputy then Acting Head of Whitby College. Jim had worked on various ERASMUS projects and appreciated the cultural and educational value of having international students attend English Schools. Through a York Collaborative, Jim worked with the Headteacher at Huntington School, in York, to provide long term study placements for German student at Whitby College and Huntington School. He knew that the students level of English and work ethos would be excellent and they immediately established themselves as a superb addition to the local learning environment. They gained a huge amount personally and helped to broaden the cultural mindset of local English students! After a few years, York's charm and vibrancy saw the programme develop in the city, with Huntington School becoming the central hub for German students undertaking long-term stays ranging from 1 term, 2 terms, a full year (3 terms) or even longer!

Over the next decade, 150 German students studied at Huntington School, where the emphasis was on academic achievement in a 'Happy and Safe' environment. The pastoral support system guaranteed host families were carefully selected, trained and DBS checked. German parents knew the students were cared for 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Along side this, most of the German long stay students also completed a 14 day Embrace England language holiday, based in York and London. These programmes provided the perfect stepping stone for students wanting to get a taste of York and improve their English whilst being submerged in British culture. They continue to play a key role in our

educational vision. More information about our language holidays is available online in German here:

[embraceengland.co.uk/sprachferien](https://embraceengland.co.uk/sprachferien)

With the onset of Brexit, state schools like Huntington were no longer permitted to have long stay German students. Unperturbed, the York Collaborative, Led by Jim and Embrace England, were determined to create new opportunities for German partner schools and keep the cultural and educational bridges open between the UK and Germany. As a result, students now have a choice of study locations: Bootham School, an independent, private school based in York's historic city centre and York College, the region's premier College of Further and Higher Education.

40 German students have now studied at Bootham School and York College. In both cases they continue to benefit from first rate education and pastoral support as well as Embrace England's free legal guardianship (see pX).

Looking to the future, we are delighted to welcome Jon Bell to the team (pictured). Jim is due to retire at the end of 2024 and Jon brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm. He has been appointed to take over the long stay and short stay options in York and is a passionate believer in placing students and young people at the heart of everything we do.



To contact Jon email  
[jon@embraceengland.co.uk](mailto:jon@embraceengland.co.uk).

# Introducing York

Imagine a city with Roman roots and a Viking past, where ancient walls surround contemporary shops and vibrant eateries and there's a festival for every month of the year. Welcome to York- the original city of adventure!

Home to 200,000 people, York's pedestrianised city centre is designed for those exploring on foot and all the major sites are reachable in a few minutes walk. The city is always 'buzzing' with a modern day feel and mixes the old with the new. York has two Universities and has a vibrant student culture.

York is superbly located with an excellent transport infrastructure that means London and Edinburgh are only two hours away by train. It is the perfect base to discover the rest of the UK. Leeds is just 25 minutes away and Manchester an hour and a half.

York's twin city in Germany is Münster and close relations have existed between the cities since 1957, including educational exchanges, and cultural visits. However, York has always had very close ties with Germany since the Angles and Saxons came from what is now the north of Germany in the 5th Century!

Outside the city you will find rolling hills, heather topped moors, woodland walks and the beaches of the Yorkshire coast. These are, all less than 1 hour away by public bus, car, or train. There are also many walks and cycle routes accessible from the City centre, built around the River Ouse which has carried materials, people and ideas to York for almost 2000 years!



Local Information: [visityork.org](http://visityork.org)



## Introducing Bootham School

Bootham School is a private fee paying school that offers a first-class British education for boys and girls aged 11-18 in the heart of the beautiful historic city of York. Students will study a traditional A level curriculum if they are 16-19 or a GCSE Year 10 programme if they are 14/15. The main site is made up of ten listed Georgian buildings, dating from the early 19th Century, and surrounded by nine acres of green fields and gardens.

Expert and dedicated staff deliver enriching and challenging academic timetables, combined with an outstanding activities programme. Students can choose from more than 100 activities, such as astronomy, cooking, fencing, IT, horse riding and charity work. Such quality of diversity is why UK private schools enjoy such a worldwide reputation for excellence.

There is very little free time at Bootham School with students studying or completing extracurricular activities for 6 days a week! Such an active timetable makes boarding essential as there is limited time for travel to and from hosts hence why all students can only board at Bootham School.

Students enjoy a vibrant boarding community with students attending from more than 40 countries worldwide, including the UK, Hong Kong, USA and Europe. The school has excellent facilities including a fully stocked library, swimming pool, sports hall, tennis courts, climbing wall, gym and observatory.



Local Information: [www.boothamschool.com](http://www.boothamschool.com)

# Introducing York College

York College is Government funded and Government subsidised learning to students aged 16 and over. It specialises in the teaching of 16-19 year olds and offers the widest variety of A-Level classes in the region. Students can choose from over 30 subjects as well as industry focussed vocational courses.

Situated just 3km from the city centre on primary bus routes, it is a modern, state of the art learning environment with the entire campus erected since 2007. The College combines educational rigour with an emphasis on the modern. It has its own theatre, music production suite, green screen environment and virtual reality space. It has first rate sports facilities, large sports hall, gym (free to students) and 4G artificial football pitch.

It is recognised as one of the leading Further and Higher Education Colleges in the country and has been consistently rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, England's national inspection body for education. College students are encourage to develop their personal independence in an environment that ensures close individual care and support. In this way it is an excellent bridge between a school and university study, whether in the UK or in Germany.

Finally, York College has a long history of working with international students. It welcomes close to 100 students from around the world each year and has it's own International department who provide additional support alongside Embrace England's Guardianship care.



Local Information: [yorkcollege.ac.uk](http://yorkcollege.ac.uk)

# Your study options

We realise that everyone's circumstances are different. Our range of study placements reflect this as we aim to meet a wide variety of needs and interests. In addition to deciding whether to study at Bootham School or York College, students can choose to come for just one term, six months, a year, or even longer.

## One Term Placements

One term placements give students the chance to experience an extended period of study in the UK, whilst typically maintaining the progress of their education in Germany. Students applying to York College start in September. Those at Bootham can choose to start in September, January, or April.

## Six Month Placements

For those interested in a slightly longer stay, both Bootham and York College offer six month programmes, starting in September at York College and September or February at Bootham.



## One Year Study Programmes

Students looking for a more comprehensive study option are invited to join Bootham or York College for a full academic year, or even longer.

## A-Levels -16 and over

Students aged 16 and over tend to study an A-Level based programme. Bootham students will be asked to choose 4 A-Level subjects and those at York College will choose 3. Each of these will be studied to a high level of proficiency, alongside local, and other international students.

A-levels are the traditional entry qualification for UK universities and are generally taught over two years. However, most international students study a proportion of this time and receive a completion certificate from Bootham or York College. That said, we do offer students the option of a full, two year, A-Level programme. In this case, they will work towards a complete set of A-level qualifications.

## Vocational Courses – 16 and over

Students aged over 16 can also choose to study a wide range of technical and vocational subjects at York College. Some prior experience of your chosen subject is important, but we are always happy to advise you on this.

## GCSE Study – 14-16 years.

Students aged 14-16 will study a GCSE based programme. This will include a wide range of subjects including core mathematics, English, science, humanities and ethics. They will also select a number of other subjects alongside this after their application has been accepted. Please note, this is only available at Bootham.



## Guardianship & support

Alongside our support for applications. We provide a comprehensive guardianship service to all our students. This is free for students from our partner schools. This service establishes a formal link between students, their UK school or college and their parents at home. Having a UK based guardian is a legal requirement for all those under 18 who are travelling to the UK to study.

At a practical level, guardianship is about having someone on the ground who can provide advice and support where needed. We help students overcome any challenges they face, respond in urgent or emergency situations and ensure establish a supportive and nurturing environment so that they get the most out of their time in the UK both socially and academically.

We provide a 24 hour on call service that students and parents. We work with students and parents to set clear boundaries and create a personalised framework so that everyone can remain happy in York.

We provide host family (homestay) accommodation for York College students during their stay and where necessary for Bootham students during half term breaks and occasional weekends when they are unable to stay at the school. We also work closely with the boarding house teams at Bootham and pastoral support teams at both institutions as necessary.

Jon Bell is our lead guardian for 2025/26 and will personally contact all students and parents in advance of their stay to set up an online meeting to explain more about how guardianship works and better understand their personal needs and expectations, both as individuals and as a family. Email [jon@embraceengland.co.uk](mailto:jon@embraceengland.co.uk) if you have any questions about this aspect of our care.

# Boarding at Bootham

Students at Bootham School will live in one of the School's boarding houses with other students. These are self contained study communities situated on the heart of Bootham's City Centre campus... in fact, most students would say they ARE the heart of Bootham's campus.

Boarders live together with other students often sharing rooms, but with lots of personal space. Each boarding house has common room areas with activities to enjoy in the evenings and at weekend. Residential staff are always on hand to provide support and develop a sense of community.

Here is what the School say about the ethos of their boarding experience:

*"At Bootham, we believe exceptional education is about more than grades. With a more diverse learning environment, students are employers to achieve their ambitions and find their voice. At the end of a packed day's learning, dining and socialising, our pupils have the comfort of retiring to their respective boarding houses where they can relax with room-mates. These sanctuaries are furnished for relaxation, fun ,safety, and study and help build the foundations for lifelong friendships."*

More information about the boarding houses and options for boarding will be given by Bootham school in the lead up to your stay. They will also advise us of a small number of weekends and holidays when boarding houses are not available. During these periods, students will be offered



temporary accommodation with local host families. More information about host family living is given in the next section.

Local Information: [www.boothamschool.com/boarding/](http://www.boothamschool.com/boarding/)



## Homestay & host families

All students studying with Embrace England at York College live with a local family in an arrangement we call homestay. We are responsible for finding a suitable family for you and for ensuring that the home meets all necessary standards. Our aim is to create a home from home where you will feel happy and safe, but also where you will learn more about British culture, improve your English and form life-long connections.

This guide is a snap short of what you can expect from your homestay experience. More detailed information will be given to you during the application process. Our application form also contains a section for you to tell us what time of homestay family you are looking for. Families come in all shapes and sizes!

The overarching requirement of any host family is that they are welcoming, supportive and the house is clean and tidy. They must also place student safety and wellbeing at the heart of their life. As Lead Guardian, Jon Bell is responsible for selecting and approving all host. A process that includes a range of checks and household visits. If you would like more information about how we do this, please ask.

When telling about the sort of host family you are looking for, try to be honest and open, there is no right or wrong answer. For example, some students want a family who give lots of attention and expects students to interact with them all the time. Others are looking for more independence and space. Both are perfectly acceptable. Also think about whether you are happy to live with pet or children. Equally whether you have actual life experience of these two things. There is sometimes a big difference between wanting to live with a dog/child/shark and actually doing it!

Here are a few answers to some common questions about homestay. We suggest you read them carefully as they contain lots more details which are important.

### *What will my bedroom be like?*

Students' rooms will have a single bed, a solid desk, a chair, a wardrobe to store clothes, adequate lighting and heating and storage areas for luggage. This room is the student's private space to relax in. Therefore we encourage students to make it as comfortable and welcoming as possible by bringing photos from home etc. Remember British houses are generally smaller than German houses, which could mean a smaller room.

There could be extra students living with the Host Family during school holidays or as part of short stay programmes. However, this will never mean a student is asked to share a room. It is the student's room for the duration of their stay.

Students are encouraged to mix in the house and not to stay in their room. This may seem an obvious point to make, but hosts want the student to feel comfortable socialising and mixing. Of course, there will be times when students simply want to be by themselves in their room working or relaxing. The hosts will make every effort to encourage interaction and ensure a happy environment, so we ask students to do the same. It's all part of the experience.

### *What will I do for meals?*

All meals are provided by the host except lunch during the working week. Host Families will be grateful to hear about any likes and dislikes students have.

The evening meal will consist of a cooked meal. The food served will vary – sometimes traditional English food but more likely a combination of European/world food. Again, likes and dislikes are welcomed from the student to the host. After the meal, there will always be an option of fruit or a sweet.

Some host families would be happy for students to help preparing the evening meal, just as some families would prefer to prepare the meal alone. Hosts will explain if they would like help and students should be prepared to help if asked. Most families would prefer that students didn't prepare their own meals or use the kitchen outside of mealtimes. This is for safety reasons and to help families keep the kitchen a

safe and tidy environment which is particularly important if there are several students staying in the house.

Some families will encourage a daily sit-down meal with family and the German student. This encourages interaction and helps with bonding. Whilst other families maybe more flexible in their eating habits. Again, it is important for hosts and students to talk about their expectations and to work around them. We strongly encourage student and parents to have these conversations before the stay commences, via the Induction.

We realise many of you believe the English have beans and chips with everything! We promise this is not the case, but again if food is an issue, then discussion is very important between host and student. Food is a big part of anyone's' life and getting a happy balance is important to us and we really encourage conversations about food during the virtual tour of the host house, thus giving German parents the opportunity to have an input about diet.

Students are encouraged to ask if they want something in particular (a cup of tea, a biscuit) as the family will either get this or give direction for the student to help themselves.

### *Do I have to do household chores?*

Students may or may not be asked to join in with household chores, such as setting the table, washing up and tidying their room. This is dependent on the host family's preference. Again, this is a discussion we encourage parents and students to have during the virtual tour. Regardless of this type of details, we do expect that students keep their bedrooms tidy. This is a key requirement of the stay.

### *What household facilities are provided?*

Bathroom – Students will be usually required to share bathroom facilities with other members of the household. Therefore, students are expected to contribute to keeping it clean by mopping up water spills and to leave it tidy for the next person to use.

### *Washing Clothes*

Weekly washing and ironing provided by the Host Family – they will tell students when to produce dirty clothes for washing. Bed linen and towels are provided and will usually be washed weekly.

### *Internet*

Wireless broadband is available in every home. Students are free to access this. However, we have a reasonable use policy. This includes discussing reasonable download limits with host families in advance. For example, their expectations around to use of streaming services.

### *What's family life going to be like?*

This varies in every family pending their structure, interests and attitude. Activities may include watching a film or TV with family members or other students. Evenings are normally the time to take a shower and relax and prepare for the next day. Remember some family members work during the day (or night) so consideration of their work patterns is important. Weekends may bring occasional trips to shopping centres, cinema, bowling, swimming – these can't be guaranteed, it is up to the individual family. However, students are always encouraged to make plans with friends and then they have the choice to join the family if they so wish.

### *What is the most important tip for a successful host family experience?*

In one word, communication! If students and hosts can establish positive, open communication with each other, it is a safe bet that their time together will be happy and fulfilling. That does not mean there will never be challenges or disagreements. However, good communication means it is so much easier to work through any differences and reach good, compromise solutions.

### *What if I have a problem?*

In the first instance students should talk to the host family. This is an important part of the stay and hosts need to be aware of any issues/concerns they may have. We do not want students or hosts to 'suffer in silence!' but to speak freely to each other no matter 'how big or small' the issue is. Again, experience has told us the German students can be fiercely determined to ignore issues or put up with them. Although such a trait is admirable...we don't encourage it! We want hosts and students to be able to speak freely and reach compromises. If the issue persists then Jon is available to act as a mediator for both host and student.

Ultimately, host families have the right to ask for a student to leave their care and we ask students and German parents to be fully aware of this. This is a very rare occurrence, but is an option we must make available for a host family. The same right applies to each student. We will of course work to find a replacement host but this can take time as our standards for host selection are high and we never relocate a student to another host if they do not match our standards.

### *What about other household members?*

Host Families may have children of their own or other students in residence during your stay. Respect is a very important factor shared by all family members – a student's bedroom is their own space and the same applies to every other member of the household. Students must ask before entering another person's bedroom. Normally the students will visit each other in their rooms and talk – but only after permission is granted.

There may be some rooms in the house that are not given access to, for example the host parent bedroom, offices etc. Students are asked to try to speak English at all times so everyone can be involved.

### *How will I keep in touch with my family in Germany?*

We encourage students to use personal phones, zoom, skype, Face time or any form of communication. Host families may have a traditional land line but it can be very expensive to call abroad and is not available for contacting parents back in Germany. We encourage German students and hosts to discuss the best methods of communication. We also ask students to communicate with parents at appropriate times of the day.

### *How will I keep in touch with my Host Family in England?*

When students are out of the house, it is important to have phones switched on. Host families may need to contact students (if they are late or if plans change, etc.) We ask students to respect this request and to ensure they have charge and credit on their phones before leaving the house. There is nothing worse or more worrying than a phone not working for both parties!

### *Will I have my own key?*

Yes, we ask that all students are given a key. However, if any incidents or issues compromise any health and safety issues the host reserves the right to ask for the key to be returned at any time. If this occurs, the host will ensure an adult will be at home at the agreed times of return.

### *Can I go out in the evening? What time will I have to be home?*

Every family will have different ideas about curfews – what is acceptable to one family, isn't to another! So we suggest the following as guidance, which aims to balance freedom with personal safety, the academic needs of each study programme and the needs of the host families.

- Sunday to Thursday: 22:30.
- Friday and Saturday: Midnight

Staying out later than planned without letting the Host Family know can be very distressing for the host family and we ask for students to be respectful of any agreed return times made with the hosts. York is considered a safe city, but is a city, nonetheless! We really do want parents and hosts to discuss this in their conversations. Please text hosts and keep them informed – they will worry!

### *Can I stay over at friends' House?*

Yes, although the process for doing this depends on where your friend is staying. If they are staying at another host family (e.g. with another German student) then the process is simple. If they are living elsewhere (e.g. a local friend, then the process is a little more complicated and may require your

parent's permission. However, we will make you aware of what to do so that you can stay with friends as part of our course induction.

### *How do I get to and from York College?*

Host families are committed to transporting students to and from school on the first day if the trip involves a bus journey. York has a regular timetable to and from the College and the city centre. Gaining familiarity with the bus routes promotes independence and mobility. Costs for bus tickets are not included in host costs.

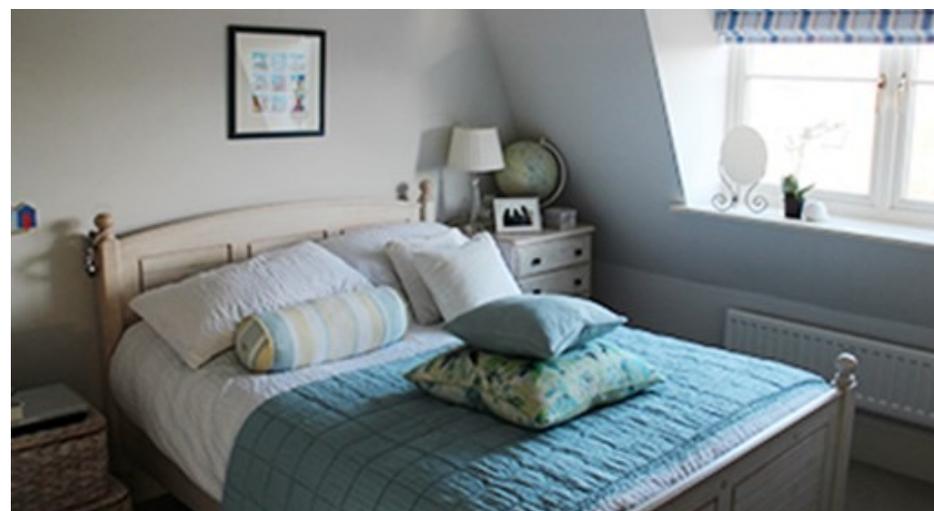
We encourage students to buy a (second-hand) bicycle, as York is flat and has excellent cycle routes with provision such as bike racks. It is also free! Previous students have bought or loaned a bicycle to allow them the added freedom of getting to and from school, the city and their friends' houses. Host families will help students find a bicycle and the necessary supporting equipment such as a helmet, high visibility jacket, lights and a lock. The cycle culture is different in the UK compared to Germany. Although there are cycle lanes, cyclists will find themselves integrating with traffic far more than they do in Germany. However, motorists do accommodate cyclists and after a small adjustment we find the German students adapt very quickly to the differences and enjoy the freedom a bike provides.

We make every effort to ensure hosts are within walking/ biking distance of the school but we cannot always guarantee this, so please be aware there may be additional bus costs involved for the student.

Many families have a pet which can range from a dog or cat to a goldfish or a parrot! If you have an allergy against any pets then please highlight this in the relevant section on the application form.

### *How do I manage Homestay Payments?*

Payment for hosts is paid on a monthly basis directly to Embrace England. They are charged one month in advance. Full details of how to pay will be given once your application has been accepted. Costs are calculated per night and are detailed in appendix A. We deliberately do not ask for the full host payment to be paid up front as part of our contract, a common feature of big commercial organisations, as we understand the financial pressure this places on families. We want to give assurance to German parents that, if for any reason, the student ceases the long term stay, parents are only charged for the time spent in the UK (plus one extra month that counts as a cancellation fee).



# Organised trips & activities

Throughout the year we offer a number of trips and activities as extras. These are available to international students at York College and Bootham school, not only German students. This is a fantastic way to see more of the UK, form connections with fellow students and embracing a truly multinational adventure. Some examples include:

## **Whitby – September 2025**

We kick off in September with a visit to the English seaside. Beaches, seaside amusements, gothic ruins and of course fish & chips. Other day trips will be available throughout the year.

## **London – October 2025**

Join our introduction to one of the world's most iconic cities. Visit a host of major sites with our city walking tour, plus Oxford Street shopping, a West End show, Thames river cruise and Tower of London visit.

## **Edinburgh – February 2026**

Discover Scotland's capital; a city built on an extinct volcano! Try Haggis, play the bagpipes and explore the birthplace of Harry Potter (well the place it was written, not Godric's Hollow... that is invisible to muggles!)

## **Charity & Volunteering**

In addition, we are actively involved in local volunteering and charity projects. To give one example, Embrace England students recently helped to deliver a one day music festival in the centre of York raising money for a local people aged 16-25 without a stable place to call home.



For more information visit: [beinthis.org](https://beinthis.org)

# Frequently asked questions

## ***What are the age requirements to complete a long stay placement at York College or Bootham School?***

- To study at Bootham school at any point during the academic year, September 2025 to July 2026, you must be 14 on or before 31st August 2025.
- To study at Bootham school at any point during the academic year, September 2025 to July 2026, you must be 16 on or before 31st August 2025.
- Some students do decide to complete their Abitur in Germany before considering a one year exchange. This is no problem and they can access any of the programmes at Bootham School provided they are no older than 19 when they begin their study programme. There is no upper age limit for those studying at York College.

## ***How good must my English be?***

Students intending to study long term in the UK will need to be confident in their ability to study in English. That does not mean that your English needs to be perfect and it will undoubtedly improve whilst you are here. However, you will need a solid foundation. There are also government requirements for demonstrating your level of English in cases where a student visa is required.

To make this possible, students should expect to achieve a grade of 3 in the last report they send to us as part of their application. Those requiring a Student Visa will need to

undertake a formal UK Government sanctions test (SELT) and achieve a certain level Common European Language Framework, usually B2:

[europa.eu/europass/en/common-european-framework-reference-language-skills](https://europa.eu/europass/en/common-european-framework-reference-language-skills)

Finally, Bootham School will ask students to complete their own entry examination for English as part of their assessment of your application. Further details of this will be provided by the school.

These formalities to one side, our experience is that achieving the required level of English is perfectly possible for the vast majority of young people from Germany. Spoken English and comprehension is rarely a problem and although written English ability can take longer to develop, studying in the UK on one of our programmes is an excellent way to do so.

All in all, achieving the required level of English, both before and during the programme is perfectly possible. That is not to say that studying in a foreign language is easy. It is a challenge and can make people very tired in the first few days as they adjust. However, in time, the vast majority of students adapt well. Part of our role as guardians and educators is to work with them to ensure that they do.

## ***Do I need a reference from my school?***

Both York College and Bootham School require a reference from your school. The reference needs to make it very clear whether the student has the personality to adapt to new

environments coupled with academic ability. Experience has taught us that a confident, mature and resilient personality needs to be evident before arrival in York. If you would like to talk to us about this aspect your application, please do so.

Please Note: We do not provide a fixed template for the reference. The school is free to write in any format containing the school's letterhead and must be written by a partner school contact or a member of the school teaching staff. The reference needs to be saved in PDF format and sent with the application via email.

### *Can I change my courses if I think I have made a mistake in my application?*

It is always a good idea to think carefully about your subject choices before you apply or discuss them with us directly if you are unsure. If you wish to change your subjects after application, but before you arrive, you should contact us and we will raise the issue with Bootham School or York College. It is usually possible to change, provided we have good notice, but this is not guaranteed.

After you arrive both Bootham and York College will consider change requests, but it is best avoided and they ask that students allow at least two weeks before a change will be made. This is to give you a chance to try your chosen subjects so you can be sure they are of your decision.

Please note: Bootham School/York College reserves the right to cancel any of its courses if the student numbers are too low to justify the course running. Whilst very rare, we ask students to be aware that they may have to change course options if a course is cancelled. This could be relatively late notice in the summer, as full enrolment is not known before then.

Please note: students applying for vocational studies at York College and who require a UK Student Visa will not be able to change their main course of study for immigration reasons.

### *When should I start my study placement e.g. September, January or April?*

All placements at York College start in September. However, those applying to Bootham can choose to start in September, January, February, or April. Those who want the most focussed academic experience often prefer to start in September with their British peers, or in January as the school year builds. Students starting in February or April have a slightly different experience which balances academic opportunity with the freedom to explore in better weather.

### *Will I need a visa to study in the UK?*

All our one term and six month placements last less than 180 days, meaning students DO NOT require a UK Student Visa. One year placements lasting longer than 180 will require a student visa. The School and Embrace England will guide applicants through this process. More information about UK Student visas, including costs and details of the NHS, health surcharge is available here: [www.gov.uk/student-visa](http://www.gov.uk/student-visa).

Any German student needing a visa will be obliged to sit a UK Government approved English language exam before their visa application can be submitted. As list of approved providers, along with additional information about the language test requirements is available here:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/prove-your-english-language-abilities-with-a-secure-english-language-test-selt#approved-test-providers](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/prove-your-english-language-abilities-with-a-secure-english-language-test-selt#approved-test-providers).

However, York College or Bootham School will make sure you are fully aware of the process for achieving your English test result before you make your visa application.

### *How difficult is the work? Will I have much homework?*

The A levels and vocational programmes are challenging subjects and you will be expected to work hard. Each A level has 5 hours per week classroom based study, plus both Bootham and York College advise a similar amount of self-study. Because A-Level students study just 3 or 4 subjects in depth, it is possible to specialise in subjects you feel confident in. This can be a real advantage and we encourage you to research your subject choices carefully, speaking to us if you have questions.

For those studying GCSE based programmes, the time and study requirements are similar. You will study a broader range of subjects, but not in quite as much depth. This enables you to establish a firm and broad foundation for later study.

Vocational courses at York College, are designed for students who wish to specialise in particular areas of technical, skills-based learning, often leading directly to a professional role. This means that much of year learning will be focussed on practical working and linked directly to real world applications. You may also be required to engage with work placements outside of the College. All of which provide an enriching and highly valuable challenge.

### *If I am staying for one year can I then decide to stay for two years?*

Yes. This is possible. You will need to satisfy certain visa

requirements and we will work with Bootham and/or York College to ensure they you navigate this successfully. You will also need to do sufficiently well in your first year to be accepted back for year 2. However, provided you work hard, there is no reason why this shouldn't be the case.

Staying for 2 years can be a very positive option, especially for students who wish to continue their education in the UK longer term. For example, to study at University. See below for more on this...

### *If I do two years at York College/Bootham School, can I apply for a Course at a British University?*

The short answer is yes, absolutely. In our time working with German schools, ten students have chosen to stay and study at university.

To study at University, you would usually need to be 16 at the start of your course and spend two years studying A-Levels or a Level 3 vocational programme. Alternatively, if you are 18 and have already completed your Abitur, we will happily work with you to provide support and advice about studies at a UK University.

Finally, to show what is possible, the picture to the left shows one of our students, Julius:

*"Julius is an inspiration! He first came as a shy German boy with Embrace England, but now leaves a confident German man with a place to study science at OXFORD UNIVERSITY!"*

**JOHN TOMSETT – HEADTEACHER, HUNTINGTON SCHOOL, YORK**

### *What are my study expectations?*

We expect students to take responsibility for completing homework and attending all lessons. Students are expected to work in the York Colleges Learning Centre / Bootham School library if they are not in lessons or to relax Common areas, or participate in any extracurricular activities.

During the exam period, study leave may be granted by York College. Pending the family's situation and desired preference, it may be the student has to complete their study leave at York College. We do encourage this as all resources are available and teachers are at hand for any support that may be needed. However, some families are happy for students to remain at home during study leave but this is a negotiated process and may be determined by whether all parties are happy for a York College student to remain at home alone for a long period of time.

### *What happens if my school attendance is low and/or I can't come to school due to illness?*

We are very proud of our students and find their attitude to study to be excellent. Nevertheless, it is important to stress that attendance is a very important aspect of school life and we do expect students to attend all their classes unless they have a very good reason. Most commonly illness.

If you are so ill that you cannot come to school, you will still be expected to catch up on any work that you have missed. York College and Bootham School will be sympathetic towards genuine illness, but you will be told who to notify them of any absence and explain the reasons. The details of this process will be outlined when you arrive in September.

If you suffer from an extended period off ill health, including illness that requires you to return to Germany to treatment or recovery. Embrace England will work with you and York College/Bootham School to provide as much support and help as possible. However, although extremely rare, there can be a limit to this and both Bootham and York College reserve the right to assess and decide whether the level of absence is such that continuing to study in York impossible.

It is also important to know that UK visa regulations require active academic engagement from students and in an extreme scenario, were your attendance falls to a very low level, York College and Bootham School may have no choice but to withdraw their support for your visa. This would mean that you would have to return to Germany.

### *Can I drink Alcohol?*

In Britain, the legal age for consuming alcohol is 18, not 16. Therefore, students are NOT permitted to purchase or drink any alcohol during their stay if they are below the legal age.

### *Can I smoke?*

In Britain, the legal age to buy cigarettes/E-Vape is 18 and to smoke them is 16. Smoking is not permitted inside or outside any host family home.

### *How easy is it to make friends with other students?*

Bootham School is geared around friendship groups and ensuring everybody is involved and cared for. It is a huge part of their ethos. York College pride themselves on catering for a huge range of students with diverse social interests. They also welcome between 50 and 100 international students each

year and are committed to helping them form friendships and social connections.

For our part, we work hard to encourage students to meet other people, both local people and other international peers. We provide lots of opportunities for them to do so. The trips outlined earlier in the guide are one way we do this, as are the charity and volunteering projects we offer. In addition, we talk to students about their individual interests before they arrive, putting students with similar interests in contact and signposting them to local organisations and clubs.

Ultimately however, building friendships is down to individuals. Having a “can do attitude” and a willingness to try new things will make a huge difference. Sometimes this can be hard, but the more you engage socially, the more they get out of the year.

### *Does York College/ Bootham School have extra-curricular activities/clubs?*

Many!! Ranging from theatre, music, community activities, sports, support for younger students and charity work. Students will be actively encouraged to join in as this is the best way to meet new friends. However, we also recommend you join local clubs and societies to extend your range, expertise and experience. Becoming involved in these activities is a huge help in making friends too. Bootham School in particular places massive emphasis on activities and you will be busy for 6 out of 7 days – including Saturdays. However, the advantages are significant and extra activities will add a huge amount to your time in the UK.

### *Can I contact other German students/parents to find out what the exchange is like?*

We strongly encourage it! A student/parent perspective is all that counts! Here are some former students and parents who are happy for you to get in touch and ask about their experiences.

#### **Bootham School – students**

- Victoria - [laralaukamp@gmail.com](mailto:laralaukamp@gmail.com)
- Giulia - [giulialorbach@icloud.com](mailto:giulialorbach@icloud.com)
- Rieke - [henriekepennekamp@gmail.com](mailto:henriekepennekamp@gmail.com)
- Rosa – [rosa.eggeling@mpgg.de](mailto:rosa.eggeling@mpgg.de)

#### **York College – students**

- Carlotta - [Carlotta.gerke@gmx.de](mailto:Carlotta.gerke@gmx.de)
- Eugenie - [chenemorice@hotmail.fr](mailto:chenemorice@hotmail.fr)
- Moritz - [moritzseifert@hotmail.com](mailto:moritzseifert@hotmail.com)
- Clara - [joclar@gmx.de](mailto:joclar@gmx.de)

## Bootham School – parents

- Christian - [Christian.eggeling@uni-jena.de](mailto:Christian.eggeling@uni-jena.de)
- Axel - [axelconstantin.ehmann@gmail.com](mailto:axelconstantin.ehmann@gmail.com)

## York College – parents

- Barbara - [Barbara.weizsaecker@eneca.eu](mailto:Barbara.weizsaecker@eneca.eu)
- Nancy - [nancy@ceccardi.de](mailto:nancy@ceccardi.de)

### *Can I work when I am studying?*

It is sometimes possible for students to work for a limited number of hours per week, provided they are 16 and over and have a UK Student Visa. Usually this is limited to 10 hours per week. However, working permissions are subject to change and our advice would be that it is not something you should rely on. If you do decide you would like to work, we can provide advice on how to register for a National Insurance Number (required to work in the UK) and the other steps you need to take to work.

### *What if I need serious medical attention?*

The National Health Service provides treatments/operations in case of emergencies. However, we cannot guarantee the after-care that may be needed for any planned major operation or any psychological issues. If we feel we cannot provide appropriate after-care, the student may have to return home to Germany to recover. All travel costs are to be paid for by the German parent.

If an emergency operation does occur and we cannot provide the necessary after-care, German parents are kindly asked to fly to England to provide the support needed until the student is fit enough to return to Germany to make a full recovery. Where applicable, if a student does have to return home for medical attention and is intending to return to the host, then host family payment continues. The same is likely to apply to fees paid to Bootham.

### *Will I receive reports and monitoring to show my progress?*

Yes. Students will receive reports and monitoring grades which show how you are progressing on the course. Students can discuss the grades with their teachers. York College and Bootham School have an online curriculum portal system which gives parents and students continual access to student's progression on all courses...at any time. Details of the portal system are provided at the Induction and parents are encouraged to access.

# What our students say

Here are a couple of comments from recent students, one from York College and one from Bootham...

## Eugenie at Bootham School Boarding

*“Arriving at Bootham Secondary School, I got very warm welcomed and although I took the flight and came here on my own, during the first hours of being here, I never felt left alone. The first day was filled with things to remember but I managed to get through this with the help of my new friends who were also new at this school. I think, having friends and people I could always speak to from the first few days on really helped me not stress much about the new environment. The Induction day and the first few days of school helped me a lot too and made me realize how welcoming everybody is.*”

*“One thing that immediately stood out to me about Bootham School is the huge community it represents. Here, you are not just a student; you are a part of Bootham. This sense of community actually makes you feel like you matter. Everybody matters. Your academic results  
Doing the short stay with ‘Embrace England’ was the best thing I did – it gave me the confidence to come back to York and study! It was totally life changing!”*

## Moritz at York College and living with a host family

*“Going abroad was probably the best decision I ever thought of. It all began when my brother was invited to take part in an exchange year in England back in 2018 after completing a 14 day Embrace England short stay programme. I pretty much followed his footsteps after hearing about all the positive experiences he has made during that time. Embrace England itself is a great idea, as it gives you the opportunity to live in another country but also study subjects in another language (which is a lot of fun!). The team are as well as former Embrace England participants are super supportive and will help you everywhere they can for your application process at the school/college you want to stay at. If there should be any problems they will definitely help you out!”*

*“But let me tell you a bit about York College. York College is a huge campus which lies in Bishopthorpe in (Southern) York. It has about 7000 students and about 300-400 tutors. The College offers up to 40 AS and A-Level courses. However, if you are interested in T-Levels, York College also got you covered. They also offer courses such as engineering, etc. which consists of 80% work in classroom and 20% work in the real world. The tutors themselves are very, very friendly and support you in reaching the goals you’ve set yourself and give you the best possible experience while at College. If you are interested, York College also offers “Extra curricular” activities. These are voluntary activities.”*

# Appendix A – Programme fees

The following fees apply to applications for the academic year 2025/26. They are a faithful representation of our expectations. However they remain subject to change by Bootham School and York College. We anticipate final fees will be confirmed in advance of September.

## Bootham School Students

(Partner schools – See appendix C)

Course Duration	Tuition + Boarding	Registration Fee
One Term	£11400	£0
Six Months	£19400	£0
One Year	£34275	£0

## Other Students

Course Duration	Tuition + Boarding	Registration Fee
One Term	£12700	£500
Six Months	£21600	£500
One Year	£38100	£500

The combined tuition and boarding fee, and registration fee where applicable, is invoiced by and paid directly to Bootham school.

## York College Students

(Partner schools – See appendix C)

Course Duration	Tuition Fee	Total Homestay Fee*	Total (Tuition + Homestay)
One Term	£3000	£3500	£6500
Six Months	£4000	£4800	£8800
One Year	£7500	£9000	£16500

## Other Students

Course Duration	Tuition Fee	Total Homestay Fee*	Total (Tuition + Homestay)
One Term	£3400	£3750	£7150
Six Months	£4500	£5250	£9750
One Year	£8250	£9600	£17850

The homestay fee for students from Partner schools is £32.50 per night. For non partner schools it is £35. This is paid directly to Embrace England, charged monthly and payable in advance.

## Visa Fees and Health Surcharge

For students staying a full year, the combined cost of the UK Student Visa application and NHS surcharge is likely to cost approximately £1250 per student. However, this is set and charged directly by the UK Government as part of the Student visa application process. It is subject to change.

## Appendix B – Partner schools

We work directly with the following 30 schools in Germany. If you are currently studying at one of these schools then you are able to take advantage of discounted course fees and free guardianship provided by Embrace England. If you are studying at another school, you can still apply to join our programme at the regular rate and we also welcome interest from Germany schools interested in collaborating with Bootham School York College and Embrace England.

### Bayern

#### **Karl-Ernst-Gymnasium**

Richterstraße 1  
63916 Amorbach  
Germany  
[www.amorgym.de](http://www.amorgym.de)

#### **Karl-Theodor-von-Dalberg-Gymnasium**

Grünwaldstraße 18  
63739 Aschaffenburg  
Germany  
[www.dalberg-gymnasium.de](http://www.dalberg-gymnasium.de)

### Hamburg

#### **Gymnasium Rissen**

Voßhagen 15  
22559 Hamburg  
Germany  
[gymnasium-rissen.de](http://gymnasium-rissen.de)

#### **Gymnasium Othmarschen**

Walderseestraße 99,  
22605 Hamburg,  
Germany  
[www.gym-othmarschen.de](http://www.gym-othmarschen.de)

#### **Gymnasium Eppendorf**

Hegestraße 35  
20249 Hamburg  
Germany  
[www.gymnasium-eppendorf.de](http://www.gymnasium-eppendorf.de)

#### **Heinrich-Heine-Gymnasium**

Harksheider Strasse 70  
22399 Hamburg  
Germany  
[heinegym.de](http://heinegym.de)

#### **Marion Donhoff Gymnasium**

Willhöden 74,  
22587 Hamburg,  
Germany  
[www.marion-doehhoff-gymnasium.de](http://www.marion-doehhoff-gymnasium.de)

#### **Gymnasium Dörpsweg**

Dörpsweg 10  
22527 Hamburg  
Germany  
[www.doerpsweg.de](http://www.doerpsweg.de)

#### **Luisen-Gymnasium**

Bergedorf  
Reinbeker Weg 76  
21029 Hamburg  
Germany  
[www.halloluisse.de](http://www.halloluisse.de)

#### **Gymnasium Ohmoor**

Sachsenweg 76  
22455 Hamburg  
[gymnasium-ohmoor.hamburg.de](http://gymnasium-ohmoor.hamburg.de)

## Appendix B – Partner schools (continued)

### Hessen

#### Überwald-Gymnasium

Forsthausstraße 20  
69483 Wald-Michelbach  
ElmarBerghaus  
[www.ueberwald-gymnasium.de](http://www.ueberwald-gymnasium.de)

#### Gymnasium Riedberg

Friedrich-Dessauer-Str. 2  
60438 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany  
[www.gymnasium-riedberg.de/de](http://www.gymnasium-riedberg.de/de)

#### Freiherr-vom-Stein-Schule

Schweizer Straße 87  
60594 Frankfurt am Main  
[freiherr-vom-stein.de](http://freiherr-vom-stein.de)

#### Lichtenbergschule Gymnasium

Ludwigshöhstraße 105  
64285 Darmstadt  
[luo-darmstadt.de/index.php/die-luo/europaschule](http://luo-darmstadt.de/index.php/die-luo/europaschule)

#### Schillerschule

Morgensternstraße 3  
60596 Frankfurt am Main  
[www.schillerschule.de](http://www.schillerschule.de)

#### Max-Planck-Gymnasium

Curtigasse 8  
64823 Groß-Umstadt  
[mpg-umstadt.de](http://mpg-umstadt.de)

#### Eichendorffschule

Lorsbacher Straße 28  
65779 Kelkheim  
Hessen  
[www.eichendorffschule.de](http://www.eichendorffschule.de)

#### Leibnizschule

Brandsbornstraße 11  
63069 Offenbach  
[www.leibnizschule-offenbach.de](http://www.leibnizschule-offenbach.de)

### Schleswig Holstein

#### Carl-Jacob-Burckhardt-Gymnasium

Ziegelstraße 38  
23556 Lübeck  
Schleswig-Holstein  
Germany  
[cajabu.de](http://cajabu.de)

#### Gymnasium Glinde

Oher Weg 24  
21509 Glinde  
Schleswig-Holstein  
Germany  
[gymglinde.info](http://gymglinde.info)

### Nordrhein-Westfalen

#### Gymnasium Heepen

Alter Postweg 37  
33719 Bielefeld  
Germany  
[www.gymnasiumheepen.de](http://www.gymnasiumheepen.de)

#### Helmholtz-Gymnasium

Ravensberger Straße 131  
33607 Bielefeld  
[www.helmholtz-bi.de](http://www.helmholtz-bi.de)

#### Johann Conrad Schlaun

GymnasiumSchool  
Sonnenstraße 18,  
48143 Münster,  
Germany  
[www.schlaun-gymnasium.de](http://www.schlaun-gymnasium.de)

## Appendix B – Partner schools (continued)

### **Joseph-Haydn-Gymnasium Senden**

Am Bürgerpark 16  
48308 Senden

[www.jhgsenden.de](http://www.jhgsenden.de)

### **Gymnasium St. Mauritz**

Bischöfliches Gymnasium  
Wersebeckmannweg 81  
48155 Münster

[www.gymnasium-st-mauritz.de](http://www.gymnasium-st-mauritz.de)

### **Städtisches Görres-Gymnasium**

Königsallee 57  
40212 Düsseldorf  
Germany

[www.goerres.de](http://www.goerres.de)

### **Städt. Einstein-Gymnasium**

Fürst-Bentheim-Straße 60  
33378 Rheda-Wiedenbrück

[www.einsteinfreun.de](http://www.einsteinfreun.de)

### **Humboldt-Gymnasium Düsseldorf**

Pempelforter Str. 40  
40211 Düsseldorf

[www.humboldt-duesseldorf.de](http://www.humboldt-duesseldorf.de)

### **Comenius-Gymnasium**

Hansaallee 90  
40547 Düsseldorf

[www.comenius-gymnasium.de](http://www.comenius-gymnasium.de)

### **Städtisches Gymnasium Gerresheim**

Am Poth 60  
40625 Düsseldorf

[www.gymnasium-gerresheim.de](http://www.gymnasium-gerresheim.de)

# Appendix C – Programme dates

The Following dates are subject to confirmation.  
They will be confirmed in early 2025.

## **Autumn Term – September to December 2025**

- Arrive in York: 1st September
- Course Welcome: 2nd September
- Whitby Trip: 6th September
- Half Term Break: October
- London Trip: October
- Term Ends: 19th December

## **Spring Term – January to March 2026**

- Arrive in York: 5th January
- Course Welcome: 6th January (new starters)
- Half Term Break : February
- Edinburgh Trip: February
- Term Ends : 27th March

## **Spring Term – April to July 2026**

- Arrive in York: 12th April
- Course Welcome: 13th April (new starters)
- Half Term Break : May
- Programme Ends (York College): 19th June
- Programme Ends (Bootham): 3rd July

NB. Half term breaks at Bootham are generally two weeks,  
whilst at York College they are one week.

For further information and to apply  
please get in touch

[jon@embraceengland.co.uk](mailto:jon@embraceengland.co.uk)

(+44) 7562185095

*Embrace  
England*



[www.embraceengland.co.uk](http://www.embraceengland.co.uk)