



*“A Home Away From Home”*

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BOARDING AT ALBYN SCHOOL

Upper 1 to Upper 6 (pupils aged 12-18)





Miss Nadine Forsyth, SVQ MA Hons PGDE / RESIDENT HOUSEPARENT

Dr Ian Long BA Hons AKC MA PhD PGCE FRGS FRSA / HEADMASTER

## Welcome

***Welcome to boarding at Albyn.  
Boarding is available to pupils in years  
Upper 1 to Upper 6 (pupils aged 12-18).***

Albyn School is a co-educational day and boarding school of around 650 pupils located in the west end of Aberdeen in Scotland. Headmaster, Dr Ian Long, has been in position since 2008 and has transformed the school from a relatively small independent school to the number one co-educational independent school for academic results in Aberdeen. An impressive number of pupils at Albyn are accepted at their first choice universities and these include the universities of Aberdeen, St Andrews, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oxford and London.

We feel that pupils who board at Albyn School greatly benefit from the independence that will better prepare them for university life.

In our co-educational boarding house, pupils will be able to experience a greater degree of independence whilst still fulfilling all that is required of an Albyn pupil. Albyn boarding takes place in a traditional granite house where we promote a purposeful and fun learning environment. Our goal is to allow pupils the freedom to take responsibility for the organisation of the house. With support from the experienced boarding team, pupils will develop the independence, responsibility and flexibility to better equip the students for life beyond Albyn. The House is run by Nadine Forsyth, an experienced teacher with a passion for sport and the arts.

Pupils, with support from the boarding team, participate in a carefully structured programme including university open days and recreational activities, preparing the students for life after Albyn. Academic routines, laundry chores, cooking and cleaning are all part of the package and this creates a stepping stone to university.

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*At Albyn we encourage  
every pupil to always work  
to their fullest potential.*

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## *The Albyn School Curriculum*

### *A brief overview of courses on offer for pupils aged 12-18*

The majority of pupils who attain places at Albyn School will eventually progress onto university and this shapes our curriculum, homework and pattern of examinations. Our staff are highly qualified and dedicated. They have many years' experience of preparing pupils for public examinations and a high staff-to-pupil ratio ensures that pupils receive individual attention throughout the time that they are with us.

Pupils in U1 and U2 (aged 12-13) study a very broad range of up to 17 subjects including Mathematics, English, three sciences, two languages and a range of humanities and practical subjects. They will also have games and physical education.

When pupils are in U3 and U4 (aged 14-16) they are prepared over two years to sit eight public examinations. These are called iGCSEs or National 5 Examinations. Pupils study a total of eight subjects. These include Mathematics and English together with six other subjects including at least one science and one language. See Table 1 for the subjects that they can choose from:

**Table 1: National 5 or iGCSE Courses**

Art and Design	Engineering Science	Mandarin
Biology	French	Modern Studies
Business Management	Geography	Music
Chemistry	German	Physical Education
Computing Science	History	Physics
Drama	Latin	Spanish

In addition, pupils will have lessons in Personal and Social Education, Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies, Physical Education and Games. None of these will be examined.

Older pupils in U5 and U6 (aged 16-18) usually study five subjects when in U5 and 3-4 subjects in U6. Success in these subjects will enable pupils to attain university places in the UK, Europe, the USA or anywhere else in the world.

Pupils are advised to take five courses in Upper 5. Some of these courses are known as Highers while others are known as AS Levels. Both courses are recognised by universities. The subjects that we offer vary a little each year but nearly always include the following:

**Table 2: Higher or AS Level Courses**

Art & Design	English	Music
Biology	French	Music Technology
Business Management	Geography	Philosophy
Chemistry	German	Physical Education
Classical Civilisation	History	Physics
Computing Science	Latin	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies
Drama	Mandarin	Spanish
Economics	Mathematics	
Engineering Science	Modern Studies	

In U6, pupils can study additional Highers or AS Levels (see Table 2) or they can study for more advanced courses known as Advanced Highers or A Levels. Table 3 shows the list of Advanced Higher or A Level courses currently being taught.

**Table 3: Advanced Higher or A Level Courses**

Art & Design	English	Mathematics
Biology	French	Mathematics of Mechanics
Business Management	Geography	Modern Studies
Chemistry	German	Music
Classical Civilisation	History	Physics
Economics	Latin	Spanish

All pupils in U5 and U6 also undertake Games and a programme of social education and careers guidance. We will provide detailed advice to pupils on how to apply to university. In recent years science, engineering and business related courses have been the most popular subjects pupils have chosen to read at university.

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*Over the last five years, Albyn School  
has been credited by the Sunday Times  
with the highest academic results of  
co-educational independent schools in Aberdeen.*

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With a former Aberdeen football professional (Murray McCulloch) leading the Games and PE Department and a former Olympian rower (Kim Thomas) giving the team a helping hand, the school has developed a large variety of sports. With this wide selection along with the creation of a new netball court, fitness suite and adding sports such as skiing onto the curriculum, pupils have successfully competed in sporting events locally, nationally and internationally.

Albyn's sports teams, societies, choirs and community work have also earned an enviable reputation for the school. With over 100 extra-curricular activities, 27 of which are different musical groups, there is an activity to suit all tastes. While renowned for its strong sense of community and conscious of its own heritage, Albyn also values being in a region that dips its toes in the ocean and has its head in the mountains. The school's motto is 'Vigour et Juventas' and this can be found in every one of the pupils at Albyn.

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*98% pupils  
achieved a place  
at university  
in 2016*

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*In 2015, the school  
had a 96% pass  
rate in Higher  
Examinations.*

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## *Boarding at Albyn School*

***Our traditional granite boarding house is situated just a 5 minute walk away from the school campus. The house is very spacious and will provide your children with a homely atmosphere.***

Pupils will have their own space in our boarding house but also the chance to socialise with the other pupils residing in the house. There are two very comfortable social areas for pupils to watch films or study in along with a kitchen fitted with an Aga for their use at weekends and evenings. The bedrooms in our boarding house are either twin or single rooms and all have clean ensuite facilities.

As house parent, Miss Forsyth will be living in the boarding house. She has the responsibility of ensuring that your child's safety and welfare is the top priority. She will also ensure the running of the boarding house day-to-day and will be there to provide support for your children.

Pupils are encouraged to be independent in the boarding house by helping to choose weekend activities in the city or further afield, arranging and cleaning their own bedrooms and washing their own clothes. The social areas of the house must also be kept clean and tidy so we expect our boarders to contribute to the care of these areas.

The house provides a warm and comfortable environment that will cater for your child's every needs. We understand that living away from home can be a scary prospect which is the reason why we want our boarders to feel as at home as possible. We also feel that boarding is a positive step towards independence which prepares your child for the future.



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*The house provides a warm and comfortable environment that will cater for your child's every needs.*

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## The Boarding House

### Kitchen

Main meals are provided in school by our great catering team. Only the freshest, seasonal, locally sourced ingredients will be used by our chefs. Meals are tailored so that they suit different tastes and preferences from around the world.

The boarders have the opportunity to learn how to cook and help out with meals in the house's large and modern kitchen. All kitchen utensils are provided and there is plenty of space for food storage. There is also an Aga that remains warm at all times not only providing general heat but it can be used to slow-cook certain dishes and produce some delicious food.

Evening snacks and weekend meals will be prepared and cooked in the boarding house kitchen. This is when the boarders can take on a more active role involving themselves in food preparation, cooking and learning about the eating habits of one another. We feel that involving the boarders in meal time preparations gives them an early insight into independent living that will advantage them for when they move on to university.

*We cater to different tastes from all over the world.*

*Only the freshest produce is used to cook with.*



## *The Boarding House*

### Bedrooms



*Our boarders safety and comfort is our first priority.*

We have boarding accommodation for eight pupils and there will be a choice of either sharing a twin room with another boarder or having their own room.

Each room will include a desk with a comfortable chair, plenty of storage in full-size wardrobes and large windows to let natural light into the bedrooms.

Sharing a single-sex twin room means that your children can mix with others from different backgrounds and cultures. Also, if English is not the first language of your child then sharing with a more fluent or

native English-speaker will be a significant advantage in your child's English-learning. There are also single rooms available for those who would prefer not to share.

Boarders will have a lot of freedom with their rooms and we want them to feel as comfortable and homely as possible but we do expect their bedrooms to be kept clean and tidy.



## *The Boarding House*

### Sitting Room Areas and Study Room

*“The study area is great space which I use often to get important work done, undisturbed, in a quiet and peaceful atmosphere. It is very useful, especially during exam time or when you have important coursework to complete without any distractions, helping you focus more.”*

*HEAD BOY, MATTHEW NICOL*

There is a choice of two living room areas that can be used for studying, relaxation time and socialising. The smaller living room is a more intimate and cosy place for a few pupils to relax or study in. The second living/dining room is bigger, much lighter and resembles a summer house with large windows and a glass ceiling with wooden beams. There is a large wooden dining table for the boarders to enjoy their meal times together and to use for studying and two comfortable sofas surrounding a wooden coffee table. There is access through this living room to the garden at the back of the house.

The boarders will also have access to the Senior Study Room at Albyn School. This area is used only by pupils in their last two senior years at school and can only be entered via an electronic pass which every senior pupil receives when they enter Upper 5. The individual booths provide privacy for each pupil and can be used during free class time and out with the normal school day hours. This colourful and quiet room is the perfect place to study and has a scenic wall feature photograph of one of Scotland’s most beautiful must-see destinations, Dunnottar Castle.



## *The Boarding House*

### Bathrooms and Hallways



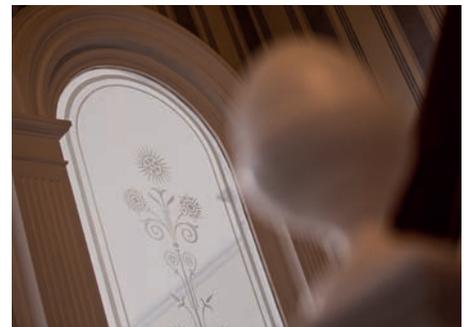
As soon as you step into the boarding house there is a small vestibule followed by another secure door into the reception area. The house is three storeys high with the kitchen, living room, larger living room and two bedrooms on the ground floor, and the rest of the bedrooms on the first and second floors. The spacious winding wooden staircase along with the period features create a very elegant house providing a comfortable and tasteful home for our boarders.

Each of the bedrooms come with a sizeable ensuite bathroom containing a wash basin, toilet and power shower.

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*The spacious winding wooden staircase along with the period features create a very elegant house providing a comfortable and tasteful home for our boarders.*

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*You may be  
skiing one  
weekend and  
at the beach  
the next!*





## *Weekend Activities*

*After a long week full of classes and extra-curricular activities, we understand that your children will need to wind down, relax and explore.*

Aside from studying, there will be a large selection of weekend activities on offer to our boarders including local trips in Aberdeen and the surrounding areas. These trips will be a mix of education and fun. There are some wonderful beaches and beautiful countryside with some historic castles a short distance outside the city and there are also great shops, cinemas and sports facilities - including skiing - in Aberdeen. We want our boarders to get the most out of their 'home away from home' so there will be the opportunity to take part in activities and trips to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Oxford, Cambridge and London.

On these trips, the boarders will visit some of the UK's most historic sites such as Edinburgh Castle, the Wallace Monument, and the Tower of London. These exciting trips are in addition to various UK and international visits that the pupils will have the chance to take part in throughout their time at Albyn School.

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*We will always  
make sure that there  
are activity choices  
for everyone.*

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## Location

***Scotland is a small, safe country with a population of just over 5 million. It has good travel links, with the main towns and cities within easy reach of each other which means that travelling around is usually quick and straightforward.***

Aberdeen offers the best of both worlds; scenic landscapes dotted with castles and woodland trails, a selection of high end shops and busy restaurants. The city has a population of around 220,000 and is considered to be the Energy Capital of Europe.

Aberdeen has always been a very vibrant city rich with different career opportunities. Most well-known for its oil and gas industry, Aberdeen has grown not only through the likes of offshore and engineering jobs but also through vocational, scientific, and creative careers.

With two fantastic universities – Robert Gordon University being the top university for graduate employment in the UK and Aberdeen University being highly academic and world renowned for its research – Aberdeen is an innovative and fast-paced city with a huge opportunities for people of all ages!

Aberdeen has five shopping centres, a range of sports facilities offering sports from wall climbing to swimming, a choice of four cinemas, a 19th century theatre showing a variety of very famous musicals, ballets and operas,



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*Scotland has some of the most beautiful scenery in the world.*

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and a generous amount of greenery to be seen in local parks around the city.

Aberdeen not only offers great career prospects and safety but also a different but interesting culture that should definitely be explored. Just ten minutes from the cosmopolitan life of the city you can enjoy a stroll on one of the picturesque beaches, ski or snowboard at the dry snow sports slope or explore beautiful castles near the shore.

Aberdeen has great transport links; Aberdeen International Airport is approximately a thirty minute drive from Albyn School. There are regular flights to London which take just over an hour together with daily flights to Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam. The train and bus stations are situated in the centre of Aberdeen and a twenty minute walk from school.

You can travel to destinations such as St Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow within three hours by car, bus or train.

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*Aberdeen is a small  
but vibrant city.*

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**Albyn**  **School**

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Contact us for more information on 01224 322408 or email [f.milne@albyschool.co.uk](mailto:f.milne@albyschool.co.uk)

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