

WAKEFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOUNDATION (incl EYFS) ADMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

Wakefield Grammar School Foundation operates selective schools. The Foundation's aim is to offer places only to those prospective pupils who demonstrate that they will be able to take full advantage of the education we have to offer.

We are committed to ensuring that admission decisions will be made by a process that is free from any discrimination on the grounds of disability, race, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation (including transsexual), gender, religion or belief or lack of such (assuming that, in the case of the latter, the prospective pupil and parents agree to adhere to the religious ethos of the School).

The school must also feel reasonably sure that we are able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his or her potential and in line with general standards achieved by the pupil's peers, so that there is every chance that the pupil will have a happy, fulfilling and successful school career. These aims must continue to be met throughout the pupil's time at the school.

It is of great importance that a parent informs the School on the application form should a prospective pupil be disabled under the definition of the Equality Act 2010 and thereby requires special arrangements for the Entrance Examination.

Procedure

Specific entrance procedures exist at each of the five schools within the Foundation. Refer to the Admissions Policy for each individual school for details.

Broadly speaking for external candidates joining from outside the Foundation below the sixth form, entrance is based on an examination or assessment of the child in conjunction with a reference from the current school. Pupils who are due to move from Junior School to Senior School will have been assessed by teaching staff over a period of time for their suitability to meet Senior School entrance requirements and the vast majority of pupils will move to Senior School. Where there are concerns about a pupil's ability to succeed in Senior School, these concerns will have been raised with parents in advance.

Students outside the Foundation applying for admission into Year 12 in either of the Senior Schools will be interviewed by Head and other senior staff and an offer of a place would be subject to achieving certain results in GCSE examinations and a recommendation from the student's current school.

Special Educational Needs

Parents should send a copy of the Educational Psychologist's Report, if available to the school prior to the sitting of the examinations for any candidate who has a Special Educational Need. Due consideration is given to the Special Educational Need in the marking of all papers. The Head of the School may allocate additional time in

exceptional circumstances. Consideration will also be given by the Head when he or she is making decisions on the overall performance of each candidate prior to the issue of results.

Results

All examination papers undertaken by candidates remain the property of the school and are not generally made available to parents. The results of examinations, interviews or other assessments are kept confidential and are not released to candidates or parents. The Head will assess the performance of each child; he or she will also consider any additional information made available by the child's current school and/or written evidence from other sources as appropriate. Within an appropriate time for the marking of examinations and the consideration of applications, parents will be informed, in writing, of one of three possible outcomes: the child is offered a place; the child is offered a place on a waiting list and would only be offered a place in the school if space became available at a later stage; the child is not offered a place. In all cases the decision of the Head is final.

Foundation Awards

There are a number of Foundation Awards (Bursaries) available to candidates who meet the schools' entrance criteria and also qualify as a result of a means-tested financial assessment. The level of the award typically ranges from a 25% discount to a 75% discount off the annual school fees. Full details are found in the Bursary Policy. Further to this there are a small number of scholarships available of limited financial value for academically able students.

Admission of Staff Children

Admission of children of Foundation members of staff or Governors to the Foundation's schools is on the same basis as for any other child and is as described in this policy.

QEGS Specific Admissions Procedures

Admission takes place into Year 7 at Senior School and into Year 12 at Sixth Form. Admission at other ages may be possible, depending on availability of places. Pupils are admitted into Year 7 both from junior schools external to the Foundation and from QEGS Junior School. Pupils transferring from the QEGS Junior School will already have been assessed by QEGS JS. Progress into the Senior School is conditional upon recommendation from the Junior School as to their suitability for the Senior School. It is expected that parents will have been in discussion with the Junior School, should there be concerns about movement into Year 7 at QEGS Senior School.

Admission into Year 7

The Entrance Examination for all other pupils takes place in January each year. Prior to this, a reference will have been sought from each potential pupil's current school. Pupils who have performed well enough in the entrance examination to indicate that they may be eligible for a place are interviewed by a member of the senior team along with their

parents. This interview forms an important part of the assessment of the candidate's ability to integrate well into the school community as well as being able to work to the standard and pace of their peers.

There are four examinations: English (Writing & Reading), Mathematics, Verbal Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning. The school makes the assumption that students who apply for entry to QEGS in Year 7 will be working at or above the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 2 in their primary schools.

English

- **Reading** – Candidates are asked to read a passage and to answer questions upon it.
- **Writing** – Candidates will be given a choice of titles and will be assessed upon their ability to write an imaginative and coherent piece as well as upon the technical aspects of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Mathematics

There will be a variety of questions testing basic numerical skills, problem solving and logical thinking. Candidates may also be required to demonstrate more developed powers of reasoning and the ability to solve simple problems with a newly introduced concept.

Verbal and Abstract Reasoning

This is a standard test similar to those which are widely available commercially. These tests yield very useful information about pupils' abilities that may not be evident from their usual classroom work. They can indicate the likely ease with which a pupil will be able to acquire new concepts and understand new ideas across a range of school subjects.

Admission into Year 12

- Applications are received throughout the year.
- Students will be contacted by the school and asked to come with their parents for an interview in the Spring term following their mock examinations.
- In addition to the Headmaster, prospective students will meet the Heads of Department of those subjects which they have expressed an interest in studying at A Level. In these discussions, assessment will be made as to the likely suitability of the student for study in the chosen subjects.
- Students will usually be expected to have achieved GCSE passes at Grade 5 or above in all subjects taken, with at least Grade 6 in those subjects to be studied at A Level. Students who have not studied to GCSE level may be required to undertake test papers at the school to ascertain their suitability for A Level study.
- Admission is also subject to a positive reference from the student's current school.
- Should application be successful, students will be contacted to confirm their choice of A Level subjects and to receive details of relevant dates.

Admission at Other Ages

Candidates will usually be invited to spend a day at the school when they will usually undertake examinations in Maths and English, and possibly other subjects, appropriate to their age. The rest of the day will be spent with student guides from their prospective peer group in lesson time and at break/lunch times.

At all ages, a reference will be sought from each candidate's current school, before a place is offered.

Practice Papers

Practice papers are available from the Admissions Secretary upon request.

Review History

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