



ADMISSIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Owner	Headteacher and Registrar
Authorised by	Headteacher and Governors
Dated	Autumn i 2023
Review	Autumn i 2024

POLICY

At Derby High School we seek to ensure that every child admitted to the school will thrive in an environment of high expectation in both academic and extra-curricular pursuits, be able to benefit from the rounded education provided and be happy within the school community.

We recognise our duty to embrace diversity and to work to overcome prejudice; we do not discriminate on grounds of diversity, gender, sexual orientation, race or religion. We seek to offer places to those whom we believe will contribute positively to our community and whom we can educate and safeguard within our own teaching, pastoral and learning support structure.

Every child is an individual and each application for entry to the school is considered separately. In addition to academic testing for entry, the school will assess the needs of any prospective pupil with a disability and, in consultation with the child and his/her parents, make a decision about whether the school can make sufficient reasonable adjustments to support the disability. Those adjustments are to support the appropriate educational opportunity through access to the environment, curriculum and wider school activities as well as to meet the school's broader responsibilities to a broad and balanced education. The school understands that circumstances can change so a similar assessment and review would be conducted for any current pupil who becomes disabled after entry to the school. Any provision made is subject to review at regular intervals to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

(See also DHS Accessibility Policy)

At Derby High School all children are expected to attend assemblies and collective acts of worship, which are in the Anglican tradition, however, children of other faiths and no faith are welcomed into the school community. All children must also abide by the school's uniform code.

All prospective pupils and their parents are expected to be in sympathy with Derby High School's ethos and aims (which can be accessed via our website, are available on request and are included in the Parent Handbook) and co-operate with the teaching and support staff in order to achieve them.

Prior to entry, parents are expected to disclose any learning support assessment, identified need, medical condition, behavioural issue or disability, which might make it difficult for their child to access fully the educational provision of the school. Failure to disclose such information would constitute grounds for the withdrawal of an offer of a place at the school. It is important to establish a full partnership with parents, based upon mutual honesty and respect, in order to promote the interests of all pupils.

We reserve the right to make direct contact with any previous school or educational establishment and to request a confidential report on any applicant to the school. This will ask for comment on academic progress to date, attendance issues, involvement in the broader life of the school and general behavioural standards. Where a child is transferring from another fee-paying school, an offer of a place is subject to a check that fees owing to the previous school have been paid.

Progression from one part of the school to another is expected but cannot be guaranteed: there are occasions when such progression is not in the interests of either the child or the wider community. In such circumstances we inform parents well in advance and offer guidance as to future options for schooling.

All decisions about entry to the school and progression from one part of the school to the next are ultimately at the Head's discretion.

PROCEDURES

GIRLS & BOYS UNDER 11 YEARS OF AGE

We do not have a specific date when pupils from other schools of primary age are assessed. Arrangements are made on an individual basis at the mutual convenience of parents and the school.

Briefly the process is as follows: -

1. Contact the Registrar, to arrange to see the Head and to tour the school. Parents will meet the Head and Head of Primary and be shown the Primary Department. Parents will also have the chance to tour the Senior School.
2. If you would like your child to be considered for entry into the school, complete the Registration Form and we will arrange a date for assessment.
3. Your child will spend a day (or a half day for the youngest pupils) with us during which time he or she will be assessed. You will be contacted shortly afterwards in order to let you know if we can offer your child a place.
4. All places are subject to availability.

GIRLS & BOYS WHO WILL BE 11+ (YEAR 7)

Internal pupils

Girls and boys who are currently in Year 6 in our Junior School are regularly assessed throughout the Junior School and confirmation of a place in Senior School will be made for pupils during Year 5 without formally sitting the entrance tests. However, the tests will still be completed in January to provide information for the Senior School. Occasionally, there is concern about whether the pace and level of the Senior School curriculum is right for the child. In such cases, there will be a requirement to sit the entrance tests as final confirmation as to whether or not a place will be offered. Parents will have been kept informed of the situation in advance.

Internal pupils who wish to apply for a scholarship (Academic, Sport, Drama, Music or Art & Design) do so in the same way and with the same time-scale as external candidates. See below.

External pupils

The majority of external candidates sit the Entrance Examination in January. (Pupils are occasionally tested later than this but this is dependent on places still being available.) Girls and boys wishing to sit the Entrance Examination must first have registered and paid the non-refundable registration fee of £100. The Entrance Examination is designed to discover not only the student's knowledge but also potential for future progress.

Tests

Tests are set in Non Verbal Reasoning (NVR), English and Mathematics. These are nationally standardised tests and are intended to be taken by pupils who come from a variety of school backgrounds. Standardised scores reflect a candidate's performance, adjusted for age and related to the average performance across the country. The 'average' score is 100. We look carefully at the standardised tests when considering the offer of a place, but there is no 'pass mark' as such. We are looking to assess overall performance and both academic and extra-curricular potential. We want children who join us to be happy in their work and also to play a full part in the broader life of the school. We request a reference from a candidate's current school and candidates have a short discussion about their interests and achievements with the Head either on the day of the Entrance Examination or shortly after.

Process

In November, all external girls and boys registered for the Entrance Examination are sent an information pack. This includes examples of the style of each paper and a form to be completed. Candidates should indicate whether they wish to be considered for a Music, Art & Design, Drama or Sport Scholarship. All children sitting the entrance exam are automatically considered for an Academic scholarship, there are no extra papers.

Those children registered to take the Entrance Examination will be invited to drama and music events in the Autumn Term and will be invited to one of several Taster Days with our current Year 6 pupils towards the

end of the Autumn Term. Year 6 pupils, both internal and external, are invited to a Senior School Discovery Day in October. We encourage all external applicants to have a tour of the school with their parents and to meet the Head.

Scholarships & Awards

Scholarships will usually be between £500 and a maximum of £3000 and are awarded to girls and boys with outstanding academic potential or particular talent in music, art & design, drama or sport. The number of awards made and their value will vary from year to year. **Any remission offered applies to the basic fees, not any extras.**

Academic: All children sitting the entrance exam are automatically considered for an Academic scholarship, there are no extra papers.

Sport: Applicants submit a form listing sporting achievement and participation and a reference from a teacher or coach. Shortlisted candidates are then invited to the trials session where they talk to the Head of PE and demonstrate their own sport and their fitness in a group session.

Music: Applicants submit a form listing their musical achievement and participation and grade exam levels. Shortlisted candidates are invited to audition; they perform one piece of music on each instrument/voice, sight read on one instrument, have an aural test and an interview with the Head of Music.

Drama: Applicants submit a form listing their achievement and participation in drama and a reference from a teacher or drama coach. Shortlisted candidates are invited to an audition and interview with the Head of Drama.

Art & Design: Applicants submit a form and, on the basis of this, will be shortlisted and invited to bring a portfolio of their work to an interview with the Head of Art and Design Technology and to undertake a drawing task.

Application forms for these awards must be completed by the child.

ENTRANCE IN YEARS 8 - 11

If places are available, we accept applications for entry at any time during Y7 – early Y10. Parents are asked in the first instance to contact the Registrar, to arrange to meet the Head and have a tour of the school. Students are encouraged to come and spend a Taster Day with their year group. On receipt of the registration form and registration fee, students will then be asked to spend a day in school, the first part of which involves taking assessment papers in maths, English, science (Y9 only) and a modern foreign language as well as a non-verbal reasoning test. Break and lunchtime are spent with students from the relevant class, as are afternoon lessons. There is no pass mark as such - we are looking for current levels of performance and potential. Assuming a satisfactory performance on the assessment tests, a good reference from the current school and an interview with the Head, the offer of a place can then be made. About two weeks will normally be allowed for parents to decide if they wish to accept the place.

SIXTH FORM ENTRY

Our Sixth Form is open to any students who meet the entry criteria. The expected minimum grade requirement is seven full GCSE passes at grade 6-9 (including English and Maths at grade 5 and above), in addition to meeting any subject specific requirements listed in the 'Introduction to the Sixth Form' booklet, which is published annually.

The Admissions Process

Please ring or e-mail 01332 514267 or admissions@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk to arrange a tour of the school with the Head and one of our Sixth Formers. We also encourage potential Sixth Form students to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening in October/November. If, after a visit, parents wish to take their child's application further, they will need to register him/her with the school which is free of charge.

On receipt of the registration form a Taster Day will be arranged. This gives prospective students the opportunity to meet fellow students in Year 11 and Lower Sixth (Year 12), go to some Sixth Form lessons in subjects in which they might be interested and spend time in the Sixth Form Common Room. They will also meet the Head of Sixth Form and the Head.

Students interested in applying for a scholarship or an award will usually spend an additional morning in school to be assessed for these awards, usually within two weeks of their Taster Day. It may sometimes be possible for assessments for awards to take place on the Taster Day. All applications are handled individually and, as far as possible, we tailor arrangements to individual needs.

After the Taster Day and, if applicable, the assessment for an award, the Head will write with a formal offer of a place, provisional to the entry requirements being met and subject to a satisfactory reference from a child's current school.

Sixth Form Scholarships and Awards

A wide variety of scholarships are available, the details of which are given below. Scholarships usually range in value from £500 - £3000. We also have a Means Tested Assisted Place Scheme – see detail below.

All students applying for an Academic Subject Scholarship will choose one, two or three optional units and will be interviewed by the Head. The first option must be a subject they intend to take at A level. The second option may be a subject which they wish to take at A level, although this is not obligatory. Applicants may ask to be considered for a scholarship in either or both of their option subjects but they must take the subject for A Level if they accept an award in it (see also **Award of Scholarships**). Art & Design students will be expected to submit a portfolio of their work and will be interviewed. Music candidates will submit a composition and have a practical audition, interview and written task. For both of these, candidates may also choose a second optional paper, as with other subject scholarships. The details of each subject specific paper will be published with the scholarship application forms. Subject specific scholarships will be awarded to students who perform well in both core papers and exceptionally well in one optional paper; they are not automatically awarded in each subject area every year.

Please be aware that Subject Scholarships are aimed at students who can demonstrate outstanding achievement and potential in their chosen option, therefore it is only sensible to apply for a subject in which they are very likely to achieve an 8 or 9 grade at GCSE.

Award of Scholarships

If a student demonstrates outstanding performance in two optional papers, together with the core papers and gives a strong performance at interview, they will be considered for a Major Academic Scholarship linked to both subjects; in this case they would be expected to take both subjects at A level.

All scholars will be expected to show commitment to their chosen subject and help to support younger students and raise the profile of the subject in school; it is clear, therefore, that if a student who has been awarded a subject specific scholarship decides not to take that subject at A level, they will no longer qualify for the scholarship.

Sport, Music, Drama, All-rounder and Head's Awards

In addition to the Academic Scholarships that are available in PE, Music and Theatre Studies, we also offer Co-Curricular Scholarships in Sport, Music and Drama.

In sport, talented sportsmen and sportswomen of county standard can apply for a Sports Scholarship which will be decided on the basis of their application form and a discussion and trial with the Director of Sport.

A Music Scholarship can be applied for by a talented musician who is prepared to demonstrate a high level of commitment to the musical life of the school. The award will be made on the basis of the strength of the audition and an interview with the Head of Music. Applicants will normally be expected to offer at least one instrument at Grade 6 or above.

A Drama Scholarship can be applied for by a talented actor or actress or key member of a backstage/lighting team who can demonstrate talent and a commitment to drama within school. The award will be considered on the strength of an audition and an interview with the Head of Drama.

Applicants for these awards are not required to study the subject at A Level or to sit the scholarship tests.

All-rounder Scholarships are aimed at students who may not show outstanding potential in any single subject area but who can demonstrate a number of achievements and a high level of commitment to a range of areas of school life. They will be decided on the basis of the written application and an interview.

Head's Awards may be made at the discretion of the Head. They may be made to students who have not received any other scholarship or award but who, in the view of the Head, are likely to make a significant contribution to the life of the Sixth Form. They may also be made to students who achieve outstanding GCSE results, who have not received an academic scholarship.

Awards will not automatically be made in each area every year. Students may apply for both subject and co-curricular scholarships but once one has been awarded other applications are discounted – only one award can be held per person.

MEANS TESTED ASSISTED PLACES Year 7 – U6

Derby High School runs its own Means Tested Assisted Place scheme, which is designed to enable children who would not otherwise have the means to take up a place to benefit from the education on offer at the school. These are limited in number. They are awarded to children who demonstrate academic potential and who will contribute fully to the life of the school. The level of fee remission will not exceed 50% (unless in exceptional circumstances) and is subject to means-testing, for which parents will be requested to supply proof of income and investments. Any remission offered applies to the basic fees, not to any extras. All Assisted Places are subject to annual review, and are generally renewed unless there has been a significant change in the financial circumstances of the parents. Parents wishing their child to be considered for an Assisted Place are asked to indicate this when returning the registration form.

YEAR 7 ADMISSIONS PROCESS KEY DATES

Appendix A

External Pupils

October	Senior School Discovery Day for Year 6 pupils followed by Parent Café in the Wessex Hall
Late November	Practice papers and scholarship application pack sent out to all pupils who have registered (Academic, Music, Sport, Art & Design and Drama). Means Tested Assisted Place application forms available from the Bursary for early consideration.
November/December	Taster days with Year 6 available including a tour in the Senior School.
Early January	Scholarship applications due in. Practice papers will be provided on receipt of application for the Academic Scholarship.
Mid-January	Auditions for Drama, Sport, Art & Design and Music Scholarships (for shortlisted candidates).
Mid-January	11+ Entrance and Academic Scholarship Examinations.
Early February	Offer letters sent out. Early acceptance of places is appreciated.
Early March	Acceptance deadline for offers. This will be after state school places are known to parents.

Internal Pupils

	Priority formal offers are sent out to Derby High pupils in June of Year 5.
October	Senior School Discovery Day for Year 6 pupils followed by Parent Café in the Wessex Hall
Late November	Scholarship application pack sent out to all pupils (Academic, Music, Sport, Art & Design and Drama). Means Tested Assisted Place application forms are available from the Bursary for early consideration.
Early January	Scholarship applications due in. Practice papers will be provided on receipt of application for the Academic Scholarship.
Mid-January	Auditions for Drama, Sport, Art & Design and Music Scholarships (for shortlisted candidates).
Mid-January	Academic Scholarship Examination.
Early February	Scholarship result letters sent out. Early acceptance of places is appreciated.
Early March	Acceptance deadline for all places (both internal and external).