

CANFORD



ADMISSION AT 13+ (YEAR 9)

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

We hope this leaflet will guide you through the admissions process for joining the school at 13+, but if there are questions not answered here please do get in touch at any time.

FIRST STEPS

VISITING THE SCHOOL

Parents are encouraged to visit at an early stage and to register as soon as possible. We hold open days twice a year in April and October. Personal visits can also be arranged with an opportunity to spend more time speaking to individual staff.

DISCOVERY DAYS

For pupils we hold Discovery Days prior to pre-assessments with the opportunity to spend a day here taking part in activities and meeting other children. There is also a Q and A session for parents with staff and pupils at these events.

Discovery Day



PRE-ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

Once your child is registered, we will prompt you at each further stage. Registered applicants for places in Year 9 are pre-assessed in a two stage process and there are four possible pre-assessment timeline options to increase flexibility for families. We recommend taking the earliest option unless there are good reasons not to do so.

YEAR 6

OPTION A

STAGE 1:

ISEB COMMON
PRE-TEST TAKEN AT
CURRENT SCHOOL

Autumn

YEAR 6

STAGE 2:

HEADMASTER'S LIST
DAY AT CANFORD

January / February

YEAR 6

OUTCOME:

Before Easter

YEAR 6

OPTION B

STAGE 1:

ISEB COMMON
PRE-TEST TAKEN AT
CURRENT SCHOOL

Summer

YEAR 6

STAGE 2:

HEADMASTER'S LIST
DAY AT CANFORD

October

YEAR 7

OUTCOME:

November

YEAR 7

YEAR 7

OPTION C

STAGE 1:

ISEB COMMON
PRE-TEST TAKEN AT
CURRENT SCHOOL

Autumn

YEAR 7

STAGE 2:

HEADMASTER'S LIST
DAY AT CANFORD

January / February

YEAR 7

OUTCOME:

March

YEAR 7

OPTION D

STAGE 1:

ISEB COMMON
PRE-TEST TAKEN AT
CURRENT SCHOOL

Spring

YEAR 7

STAGE 2:

HEADMASTER'S LIST
DAY AT CANFORD

May

YEAR 7

OUTCOME:

May

YEAR 7

YEARS 6 & 7: TESTING

There are two main stages to the pre-assessment process at Canford, the ISEB Common Pre-Test followed by the Headmaster's List Day.

STAGE 1: THE ISEB COMMON PRE-TEST

Format

This is an online test used by many senior schools for pupils in Years 6 and 7, consisting of multiple choice questions in verbal reasoning, non verbal reasoning, English and Mathematics.

Location

It is taken by pupils at their school, or at Canford if they are not at a prep school. It is important to remember it can only be taken once per academic year in Years 6 and/or 7 but results are age-standardised so it is fair for all children.

Entry

Once your child has registered for Canford, we will be in touch in good time to enter your child for the ISEB Common Pre-Test.

Preparation

No preparation is required and practice tests are not made available by ISEB. For further details please see www.iseb.co.uk/Parents/What-are-the-Common-Pre-Tests

Outcome

If any children find major difficulties with the ISEB test we will explain to parents that we feel Canford would not be the right school for their child, as we do want to ensure that those invited to continue will be able to cope here academically. Those who perform satisfactorily in the ISEB Common Pre-Test are invited to Canford for a Headmaster's List Day.

STAGE 2: THE HEADMASTER'S LIST DAY

Format

This day is a mix of activities, tests and informal interviews. While some apprehension is only to be expected, we try to make the day as enjoyable and positive as we can.

Outcomes

There are three possible outcomes following the Headmaster's List day:

- A 'firm' place at Canford. We will want a satisfactory reference and expect these pupils to sit either Academic Scholarship, Common Entrance or the Canford Assessment in Year 8 as a measure of their current level of attainment, but their places would not depend on this.
- A 'provisional' place subject to a satisfactory reference and doing well in the Progress Day assessment in Year 8.
- A 'waiting list' place with the chance of a place emerging as time goes on.

YEAR 8: FINAL STAGE

In Year 8, all applicants sit **one** of the following entrance tests:

- **Academic Scholarship:** This takes place at Canford after the February half-term for those who wish to sit it.
- **Common Entrance:** For those not sitting the Academic Scholarship who are currently at a prep school that prepares for Common Entrance. This is sat at prep schools in June.
- **Canford Assessment:** For those not sitting the Academic Scholarship and not at a prep school which prepares for Common Entrance. This is sat at Canford in January or February. In some cases it is possible to sit these tests abroad.
- **Progress Day:** For those who have accepted 'provisional' places.

YEAR 8: TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER

Canford sends out details of scholarships to be held in the spring

OCTOBER

'Path Ahead' Information Evening for parents

JANUARY

Scholarship and Bursary application closing dates
Canford Assessment (for those not taking either the Academic Scholarship or Common Entrance)
Progress Day (for those with 'provisional' places)
Music Scholarships take place

FEBRUARY

Sport Scholarships take place (or sometimes in January)
Music and Sport Scholarships results notified
Art, Drama and Design Scholarships take place

MARCH

Academic Scholarships take place (or sometimes in February)
Scholarship and Bursary results notified

MAY

Final house allocations for those without firm house places

JUNE

Common Entrance takes place and results notified
Familiarisation Day at Canford for those joining in September

PRE-ASSESSMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY DO YOU PRE-ASSESS?

We want pupils to join Canford who are the best fit, so that their senior school years offer the most positive experience possible. We are not just looking for academic aptitude. Wider ability, character, attitude and the potential to contribute and thrive here are also valued highly. Pre-assessment allows us to meet each individual pupil and the chance to see them working within a group. Equally if Canford is not the place for them, the pre-assessment process will flag this, giving families time to look for alternatives. Our schedule is in line with that of an increasing number of schools where Year 6 is rapidly becoming the normal pre-assessment time.

IS IT BETTER TO REGISTER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE?

We recommend registration as early as possible and certainly if one has a particular house preference, as house places are offered in date order. Those registered by the end of Year 5 will have the greatest chance of being offered a place.

CAN I CHOOSE WHICHEVER OPTION I LIKE?

Yes. This is a decision for parents. It is recommended that you also consult with the Head at your child's current school to choose the most appropriate option of the four. While places will fill up as time goes on, we will keep some places aside for late developers and for strong late applicants, but in general those entering Option D are likely to find only waiting list places are available.

DO YOU ASK FOR A REFERENCE FROM THE CURRENT SCHOOL?

Yes. References add an important dimension to our understanding of individual pupils.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'FIRM' AND 'PROVISIONAL' PLACES?

Strong candidates will be offered 'firm' places. They will be expected to sit tests (Common Entrance, Canford Entrance Tests or the Academic Scholarship) in the Easter or Summer Term of Year 8 as a measure of their current attainment, but their places will not depend on this. Others will be offered 'provisional' places subject to attending Progress Day in January of Year 8. All being well we would offer a 'firm' place then.

WHAT PROPORTION OF CHILDREN ARE OFFERED PLACES?

In recent years, about 60% of those attending pre-assessment have subsequently been offered places.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD IS PUT ON THE WAITING LIST?

Those not offered a place immediately after their Headmaster's List day will join the waiting list. Pupils will be reconsidered as places become available and many do find places emerge in due course.

DOES THE FACT I ALREADY HAVE A CHILD IN THE SCHOOL MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Younger siblings of current pupils who attend either Option A or B will not be in competition with other applicants for places, provided they reach an acceptable standard in the pre-assessment.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I MISS ALL FOUR OPTION DEADLINES?

It is still worth getting in touch as late places do often come up and our door is seldom completely closed.

CAN I ENTER FOR A SCHOLARSHIP WITHOUT SITTING ANY PRE-TESTS?

Scholarships are open to all, regardless of whether one already has a place in the school or not. We reserve a number of places for those who win scholarships without having sat any previous tests. Those unsuccessful at scholarship will be able to join our waiting list, but there can be no guarantee that a place will become available for them.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We will contact you in advance to invite your child to enter the first available pre-assessment option.

If you have any other questions, please get in touch with our Admissions office, either by email or telephone.

E: admissions@canford.com T: 01202 847207

www.canford.com