

# ADMISSIONS POLICY



HARROW  
SCHOOL

Harrow School is an independent boarding school for approximately 840 boys aged 13 to 18. All pupils are full boarders, there are no day boys or weekly boarders. Every year, 160-165 pupils enter the School in Year 9 (13+) and 15-20 in Year 12 (16+). Although Year 9 and Year 12 are the main entry points, occasionally a place becomes available at the beginning of Year 10. Enquiries regarding this point of entry should be made to the Registrar.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The School is aware of its duties and commitments under equality legislation and is committed to equal opportunity for all. As such, each boy will be treated fairly in any of the admissions processes irrespective of his race or his parents' race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability, religion or belief.

The School will make any reasonable additional or alternative arrangements to ensure that the School's admissions procedures are accessible to disabled boys.

The School will consult with parents and such other persons or organisations as necessary in order to ascertain a child's particular needs and the nature of any additional or alternative arrangements which would be required to meet them if an offer of a place was made.

Parents of a child who has a disability or special educational needs should provide the School with full details on registration. Parents of prospective pupils are always welcome to speak to our excellent Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo) about their son's specific needs at any point of the admissions process. The current SENDCo is Dr Susi Pinkus and her email address is [sjp@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:sjp@harrowschool.org.uk)

Please also refer to the section on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Appendix A to this policy.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Entry to Harrow is competitive and academic standards are high, but the School also believes passionately in providing an all-round education for boys who would embrace the opportunities offered here. As a result, selection for entry is not based purely on academic considerations, but also on the grounds of character, personality and the willingness to make the most of the opportunities offered by the School. Successful candidates will have met the School's minimum academic entry requirements. Boys offering sport, music or drama to a high level will be at an advantage compared to other candidates but only if it is felt they have a good character fit and they are well suited to life at Harrow and the type of education provided here. For more information about the selection criteria, please see Appendix A.

The School retains full discretion as to how and to whom offers are made. The School admits only boys, with the exception of Masters' daughters.

It should be noted that places are not automatically offered to siblings or members of the Harrow Family (sons of Old Harrovians etc). The key determinative factor in the decision-making process is whether the School would provide the right environment in every sense for a particular boy to flourish.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

A scholarship is an award for excellence in academic study, the arts or sport. For many of our 200+ scholars, this award serves primarily as an acknowledgement of their achievements and talent. Scholarships awarded in Year 8 through the competitive scholarship assessment process usually come with a modest financial award (5% of the

School fees maximum). A boy may apply for more than one scholarship (e.g. Academic and Music and Art). Honorary Scholarships awarded once a boy is actually in the School do not carry any financial award.

A bursary is financial support provided by the School which allows a boy to attend Harrow who otherwise could not. Bursaries can range in value from 5% up to 100% of the School fees. All our bursaries are means tested. As a consequence, we always ask the parents of a bursary applicant to complete a confidential statement of financial circumstances in order for us to establish the level of assistance that may be necessary.

Bursaries are awarded to boys who perform particularly well in their assessments relative to other boys. Typically, they will have interviewed very well and come across as boys who we think will particularly thrive here. They will also be offering something else e.g. strong academics, sport, music, drama etc or a combination of these things. The award of a bursary is very much a competitive process and not everyone who applies for a bursary will get one.

## **WITHDRAWAL OF A PLACE PRIOR TO ENTRY OR AFTER ENTRY**

The School reserves the right to withdraw a boy's place if:

His behaviour is giving cause for concern or his academic reports are deemed unsatisfactory;

It becomes apparent that the School fee could not be paid, or if fees are still outstanding at a previous school;

During the admissions process, parents have not been candid about their son's needs (particularly relating to SEND) and the support he might require to be able to succeed and thrive here;

It is felt that the boy now has needs that the School can no longer reasonably support, and the well-being and happiness of the individual boy and the well-being and education of others could be in jeopardy. Such a decision will be made by the Head Master having taken professional advice;

There is evidence that malpractice or dishonesty has taken place during the admissions and assessment process.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information on the admissions process, please refer to the Admissions to Harrow School – General Information at Appendix A.

Dr Eric Sie

Registrar

Reviewed September 2021

Annual review

## APPENDIX A

# ADMISSION TO HARROW SCHOOL – GENERAL INFORMATION

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### INTRODUCTION

The following sections provide parents of prospective pupils with information about the registration and admissions processes of Harrow School.

Harrow School is an independent school for approximately 840 boys aged 13-18. All pupils are full boarders; there are no day boys or weekly boarders. Every year, 160-165 pupils enter the School in Year 9 (13+) and 15-20 in Year 12 (16+). Although Year 9 and Year 12 are the two main entry points, occasionally a place becomes available at the beginning of Year 10, and enquiries regarding this point of entry should be made direct to the Registrar.

### VISITING HARROW

Visiting Harrow is important for prospective pupils and their parents to get the best sense of School life, its aims and ethos.

#### OPEN MORNINGS

Most families visit Harrow before formally registering their son for possible entry, and it is strongly recommended that all prospective pupils (for Year 9 and Year 12) and their parents attend an Open Morning.

There are up to twelve Open Mornings a year. These take place on Saturday mornings and registration for these is via the School's website. Approximately 65 families attend each Open Morning and a typical programme includes:

- a presentation in Speech Room by the Head Master; a pupil panel session led by the Director of Studies;
- a tour of the School with a guide and at least one current pupil;
- a visit to a boarding House (to meet the House Master and some of the boys in that House); and
- the opportunity to meet other House Masters, current pupils and members of the Admissions Department.

We expect to run a small number of online Open Mornings during the course of the year for those parents who are unable to come and visit Harrow in person for whatever reason.

#### OTHER SCHOOL TOURS

Boys registered for Year 9 who are invited to Harrow to meet House Masters in Year 6, will have the opportunity to have a tour of the School with their parents. A tour will also be available to parents of Year 9 applicants if they accompany their sons to the Harrow Test at the beginning of Year 7.

Please note that the tour of the School involves a fair degree of uphill walking and uneven ground. Regrettably, it is not suitable for those with mobility challenges or for children in pushchairs.

Please make contact with the School in advance if you wish to discuss any reasonable adjustments that will improve your visit.

The Registrar will be running webinars during the course of the year for parents who would like to join him to explain the Admissions process and to answer any questions that they might have about the School.

**\*\*Please note that the above statements are subject to Government restrictions relating to Covid-19 at the time and cannot be guaranteed\*\***

## REGISTERING FOR HARROW

All boys interested in attending Harrow must be formally registered. A Registration Fee of £350 is payable on registration. The Registration fee is non-refundable so parents should not apply if they are not 100% committed to a place at the School.

### YEAR 9 ENTRY

The main deadline for registering for Year 9 (13+) entry is 1 May of Year 6, although there are distinct advantages to registering by the end of Year 5 (please see The Admissions Process section). Harrow also accepts 'late' applications between 1 May of Year 6 and 1 May of Year 7, although only outstanding candidates are considered at this stage as there are only very few places remaining.

Standard applications (where no bursary is required) should be made via the online portal.

### YEAR 12 ENTRY

The deadline for registering for Year 12 (16+) entry is early September of Year 11 for overseas applicants and early October of Year 11 for UK applicants (please see the website for specific dates). There is a second assessment period for late applicants in the Spring term of Year 11, and the deadline for receiving both UK and overseas applications for this is the first week of January of Year 11. It is advisable that a boy takes part in the first round of assessments if possible, as there are only a limited number of places available after this.

### AGE AT ENTRY

Ideally, a boy should be in the correct academic year group for his age (the academic year runs from 1 September to 31 August), so that he enters the School in the September following his 13th or 16th birthday. However, there is some flexibility regarding this if a boy has an August/September birthday. In these circumstances, discussions can take place between parents, their son's school and the Registrar to determine the year of entry for which a boy should apply.

**Changes of address, guardianship or school following registration should be notified to the Admissions Office as soon as possible. Harrow School cannot be held responsible for the consequences of correspondence not received.**

## THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS (FOR BOYS NOT APPLYING DIRECTLY FROM HONG KONG OR MAINLAND CHINA)

### FOR YEAR 9 (13+) ENTRY, THE PROCESS COMPRISES THREE SEPARATE STAGES

#### Stage 1

References are requested from current schools and all registered candidates sit the ISEB (Independent Schools Examinations Board) Common Pre-Test, an age-standardised and adaptive series of tests in English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning. This test is sat either at a boy's school, at an alternative educational establishment, or at a British Council office.

Boys sit the ISEB Common Pre-Test between October and May of Year 6, although we very much prefer them to sit the test between October and December of Year 6. The Admissions Department can access the results of Year 9 applicants who have sat the ISEB Common Pre-Test for other schools once these applicants have been registered with us. Please note boys applying to multiple schools that use the Common Pre-Test can only take the test once per academic year. In the event of a candidate taking the test more than once within a single academic year, we will be informed, and the first set of results will stand.

More information about these tests is available at the ISEB website at [iseb.co.uk](http://iseb.co.uk).

#### Stage 2

The results of the ISEB Common Pre-Test along with the reference will be reviewed before boys are selected to go forward to Stage 2 of the assessment. Boys who perform well in the ISEB Common Pre-Test and have strong references will be invited to meet at least one House Master between January and June of Year 6 (this is why it is an advantage to sit the Pre-Test in the second half of the Autumn term rather than later on). Those boys who are not invited to meet a House Master during Stage 2 will meet a House Master when they come for the Harrow Test (Stage 3).

### Stage 3

All boys based in the UK who pass the ISEB Common Pre-Test in Stage 1 will be invited to Stage 3, the Harrow Test, which comprises:

- a computerised English and Maths assessment (30 minutes each approx.)
- a short-written essay (20-25 minutes)
- two interviews: one with a House Master and one with a Senior Master

For boys overseas (excluding those applying directly from Hong Kong) who are not able to travel to the UK due to the pandemic, the Harrow Test will comprise:

- written English and Maths assessments (30 minutes each approx.)
- a short-written essay (20-25 minutes)
- two online interviews (where possible): one with a House Master and one with a Senior Master

### FOR 16+ ENTRY, THE PROCESS COMPRISES TWO SEPARATE STAGES

#### Stage 1

An applicant chooses four subjects that he would like to study in the Sixth Form at Harrow and on which he would like to be tested as part of his assessment. A reference is requested from his current school and he is invited to sit tests in his strongest two subjects, either at Harrow, at his school, or at a recognised test centre, e.g. the British Council.

#### Stage 2

Shortlisted applicants are invited to an assessment day at Harrow, where they sit further tests, have interviews with the Head Master and the Registrars, and attend a seminar with the Head of Subject of one of the School's academic departments.

### THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS (FOR BOYS APPLYING DIRECTLY FROM HONG KONG OR MAINLAND CHINA)

Please refer to the Harrow School website for details of the application process when applying directly from Hong Kong or Mainland China.

Boys applying directly from Hong Kong should get in contact with Ms Battie Fung at Academic Asia at [battie@academic-asia.com](mailto:battie@academic-asia.com).

Boys applying directly from Mainland China should get in contact with Mr Tommy Meng at the UK Boarding Schools Admissions Service in Shanghai at [tommy@ukboardingschools.org.uk](mailto:tommy@ukboardingschools.org.uk).

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Harrow has high academic standards, but the School also believes passionately in providing an all-round education for boys who would embrace the opportunities offered here. As a result, selection for entry is not based purely on academic considerations but also on the grounds of character, personality and the willingness to make the most of the opportunities offered by the School. Successful candidates will have met the School's minimum academic entry requirements. Boys offering sport, music or drama to a high level will be at an advantage compared to other candidates but only if it is felt there is a good character fit and they are well suited to life at Harrow and type of education provided here.

**For Year 9 (13+) entry:** offers of places are made conditional on sitting Common Entrance or performing well in the academic scholarship exams. There is no pass mark for Common Entrance as such, but we would hope a boy with a place at Harrow would be achieving at least 65% in all of the papers that he was sitting. (Many boys average 70% plus). The marks achieved in these exams will help determine which divisions the boys will go into when they arrive at Harrow. Boys who attend schools which do not prepare Common Entrance (e.g. schools overseas, state

sector schools, schools that do the Prep School Baccalaureate or the International Baccalaureate etc) will be asked to sit the Maths, English and Science papers, as well as French (if studied) and Latin (if studied).

**For Year 12 (16+) entry:** successful candidates will have eight plus GCSE (or equivalent) passes at grade 7/8/9 and be very likely to have achieved grades of 8 or 9 in the subjects they wish to study further in the Sixth Form.

All applicants (Year 9, 10 or 12) will also have:

- shown that they have the character and interpersonal skills necessary to thrive in a busy boarding school environment and to make the most of the opportunities offered at the School. In particular, the School looks for traits such as integrity, resilience, tolerance, responsibility and independence, as well as the ability to demonstrate Harrow's core values of courage, honour, humility and fellowship;
- demonstrated that they have the personality and emotional intelligence necessary to be a team member of a close-knit boarding House; and
- conveyed, during the admissions process, a desire to contribute broadly across the co-curriculum during their time at the School.

## SIBLINGS

Sibling status is considered during the admissions process, but the School does not automatically accept younger brothers who apply for a place. The key determinative issue in the decision-making process is whether the School would provide the right environment in every sense for a particular boy to flourish. The number of places available at the time decisions about places are made will also play a significant part in whether a sibling is offered a place.

If the younger brother of a pupil currently at the School broadly meets the selection criteria described in the previous section, the fact that he is the sibling of a current pupil will be taken into account in the decision-making process.

## APPLICATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE HARROW FAMILY

The School appreciates that members of the broader Harrow Family (not just younger brothers) may seek a place at the School and applications submitted by families with strong connections to Harrow (e.g. those with Old Harrovian fathers/ grandfathers etc.) are welcomed. Our links with the wider Harrow Family are important to us. However, although family connections are taken into consideration when places are offered at the School, they do not guarantee the offer of a place. The key determinative issue in the decision-making process is whether the School would provide the right environment in every sense for a particular boy to flourish.

## OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

Harrow acknowledges and respects the huge value and sense of global perspective that overseas pupils provide. Approximately 20% of the overall pupil body resides overseas. Although most boys at Harrow are British nationals, 38 different countries were represented in the student body at the last count. The School does not run a quota system for overseas applicants.

It is essential that overseas applicants possess a high level of fluency in English if it is not their first language, so that they are fully able to access the curriculum (which is delivered in English), should they come to Harrow. For Year 9 (13+) entry, this proficiency in English is measured in both the English and Verbal Reasoning sections of the ISEB Common Pre-Test and by a boy's performance in the Harrow Test. For Year 12 (16+) entry, competence in English (for those for whom English is not a first language) will be examined on the assessment day.

Lessons to support English as an Additional Language (EAL) are available at parental expense once a boy starts at the School.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Harrow School is an inclusive institution that is committed to equal opportunities for all. The School welcomes boys who meet the admissions criteria including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).



The School recognises its duty to make reasonable adjustments to its admissions procedures for boys who have a disability.

Parents of boys who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are required to inform the School about these upon registration. For all years of entry, the School requires that all historic and current documentation (including educational psychologist reports, relevant medical documentation and school reports) is submitted to the Admissions Office upon registration. Additionally, the same documentation and reports should be sent to the Office if produced after the boy has been registered with us. Updated reports should always be sent to us as well.

Feeder schools are also required to disclose details of a boy's specific requirements on their written reference.

These requirements are necessary for the school to be able to determine how the boy's needs can be met during the admissions procedures and on entry, should the boy be offered a place which the parents accept.

All information provided is carefully considered by our specialist SEND team and reasonable adjustments are agreed for admissions assessments in line with the guidance provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). The Registrar will also liaise with the School's Special Educational and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo) to assess whether the School is able to meet a boy's needs and, if so, will ensure that reasonable adjustments are made within the School's capability and resources.

The School welcomes boys with disabilities and/or special educational needs, provided we can offer them any support that they require and cater for any additional needs, and that our site can accommodate them. It is important to note that Harrow has a small specialist SEND team, but the School does not have the facilities to offer highly specialised and intensive support. Physical access to some areas of the site is also limited owing to the historic nature of the campus. The School's Accessibility Plan Is available upon request.

There may be exceptional circumstances in which we are not able to offer a place for reasons relating to a boy's disability or special educational needs. For example, if, despite reasonable adjustments, we feel that a boy is not going to be able to access the education offered, or that his health and safety or those of other boys or staff may be put at risk, we may need to decline a place at the School on that basis.

## ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

With regards Access Arrangements and Admissions for the academic year 21-22, we will continue to use the Joint Council Criteria Qualifications (JCQ) regulations 20-21 and honour existing arrangements which would have met those criteria. For testing that will take place after 1 September 22, we will use the updated JCQ criteria (21-22 guidance, or the most current guidance at that point).

In the majority of cases where access arrangements are requested, we require Educational Psychology (EP), and other, reports to be dated within three years of the testing date. There may, however, be exceptions to this, such as in the case of a medical diagnosis. If school or parents are unsure about the eligibility of reports, please do liaise with us to check.

**Parents of prospective pupils are always welcome to speak to our excellent Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo) about their son's specific needs at any point of the admissions process. The current SENDCo is Dr Susi Pinkus and her email address is [sjp@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:sjp@harrowschool.org.uk)**

## SCHOLARSHIPS, EXHIBITIONS AND BURSARIES

### SCHOLARSHIPS

A scholarship, which usually comprises 5% of the School fee, is an award offered in recognition of elite performance in one of the fields listed below. A boy may apply for more than one scholarship, e.g. an Academic and Music and Sport Scholarship. Scholarships are available at both Year 9 (13+) and Year 12 (16+), in the following categories:

- Academic
- Music
- Art
- Drama
- Sport

Only a limited number of awards are made each year. While elite performance is a pre-requisite for being awarded a scholarship, the following factors are also included in the assessment:

- his character and suitability for boarding;
- his academic ability and potential;
- what the boy is offering as a talent;
- the particular needs of the School (for example, some sports are more in demand than others); and
- the diversity of talent being offered in a particular year.

Honorary Scholarships made once a boy is in the School do not carry the 5% fee remission mentioned above.

## EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions are only available for Music and provide paid for tuition in up to three instruments (with singing counting as an instrument, in this instance).

## GENERAL BURSARIES

A family wishing to make a bursary application should complete the Bursary application form.

We recommend that a boy requiring a bursary to supplement a **Year 9 Scholarship** submits a Year 9 Registration Form (as well as a Scholarship and Bursary Application Form) and the Registration Fee of £350 by the end of Year 5 if possible, so that he goes through our full (standard) academic admissions process. Having assessed him, we will then be able to give his parents an indication, two years before possible entry, of whether he is academically strong enough to come to Harrow and what financial assistance he might be entitled to. If a boy requiring a bursary to come to Harrow is not successful in being offered a place, then £200 of the £350 Registration Fee will be refunded.

Alternatively, if a boy applying for a **Year 9 Scholarship** does not want to go through our full (standard) academic admissions process, or if he is applying between 1 May of Year 7 and early December of Year 8, he should submit a Scholarship and Bursary Application Form and the non-refundable Scholarship Application Fee of £50 only.

We recommend that a boy requiring a bursary to supplement a **Sixth Form Scholarship** submits a Scholarship and Bursary Application Form, together with the Sixth Form Application Form and the documents specified on the form. If an applicant would accept a place at the School irrespective of whether he is awarded a scholarship or bursary, the £350 Registration Fee should be paid. An applicant who would only accept a place at the School on receipt of a bursary should pay the non-refundable £50 Scholarship Application Fee.

A boy must perform especially well in his assessments e.g. the Harrow Test or Sixth Form Test to be awarded a bursary. A boy would typically be academically strong, be of impeccable character and have talents and skills to offer outside the classroom that the School would consider particularly sought after (the higher the level, the better). The award of a bursary is a highly competitive process and performance (and how the boy comes across on the day) matters hugely. We have many more boys applying for bursaries than we have funds for so regrettably many boys will come away disappointed.

## SPECIFIC NAMED COMPETITIVE BURSARIES

### YEAR 7 AWARDS (UK APPLICANTS ONLY)

No Scholarship or Bursary Application Fee is required if only applying for a Year 7 award.

All Year 7 awards can fund up to 100% of the School fee from Years 9 to 13, plus the option of Years 7 and 8, or both, at a prep school. The level of funding is dependent on parents' financial circumstances and the amount of bursarial support that they are eligible for.

### JOHN LYON'S CHARITY BURSARIES

These are available to boys who:

- require **substantial (at least 75% of a bursary award)** financial support;
- have been resident in Barnet, Brent, Camden, the City of London, Ealing, Harrow, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, or Westminster for more than two years; and
- are at least Key Stage 2 achieving a minimum score of 105 (if they are in a state primary school) or expected to achieve at least 65% as an average pass mark at Common Entrance (if they are at a prep school).



## PETER BECKWITH SCHOLARSHIPS

These are available to boys who:

- require **substantial (at least 75% of a bursary award)** financial support;
- show significant potential in sport, music, drama or some other creative activity; and
- are of a standard that might well lead ultimately to Oxbridge admission.

On receipt of a Scholarship and Bursary Application Form, a reference will be requested from an applicant's current school. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to a one-day assessment (comprising tests in Mathematics, English and IQ, a group activity, and a music test for musicians) at the School in January of Year 6).

### SPECIFIC YEAR 9 BURSARIES INCLUDE:

- The Churchill Award, for boys who perform particularly well across the board in their assessments
- The HJ Flower and H Gower Award, for very strong candidates who are the sons of serving members of the British armed forces
- The Derek Kelsey and Richard Lister-Buttle Awards, for very strong candidates who are the sons of Old Harrovians

### SPECIFIC YEAR 12 BURSARIES INCLUDE:

- The Churchill Award, for boys who perform particularly well across the board in their assessments
- The Sixth Form Award, which is available to boys who are resident in the UK. Candidates must require **substantial** financial support.

**If you have any question not addressed in this document then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Admissions Office by email at [admissions@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:admissions@harrowschool.org.uk), or by telephone 020 8872 8007.**

Dr Eric Sie

Registrar

September 2021