



BURY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

11+ Interview Tips at Bury Grammar School

Firstly, congratulations to all pupils who reach the interview stage at Bury Grammar School (BGS)! If you are invited to interview, this means that you have passed BGS's entrance examination. We know our pupils and families like to be well prepared, so please find below some advice to help you get ready for the next part of the admissions process.

Why do we interview pupils?

To get to know you better and have a clearer understanding of your strengths, character, interests, and aspirations. Talking to you is important to us: education is not just about academic achievement, and no-one would ever claim that one set of exams can tell you everything you need to know about someone's ability and potential. We also want to get a sense of how you would make the most of all the wonderful opportunities on offer here at BGS, including our extra-curricular programme and, importantly, to get a feel for whether you would be happy here. Furthermore, the interview is an opportunity for you to get to know BGS better too – to ask us questions, talk to our current Year 7s who went through this experience just 12 months ago and to see a little more of our school.



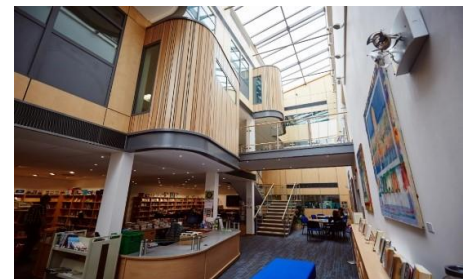
Why do parents also take part in these interviews?

Because you are an integral part of your child's education, and we look forward to getting to know you too. The three-way partnership between pupil, parents and school is essential to every child's success and happiness and will form the foundations of how we communicate in the years to come, throughout your child's time here at senior school. Parents have told us in the past that they have enjoyed being part of this moment in their children's lives and equally we have valued their input.

What will happen on Interview Day?

We are expecting around 300 families to come along to BGS on interview day on Saturday 4th February...but not all at the same time!

Every family will have a designated time slot and will be greeted on arrival. We will be there to guide you every step of the way! When you arrive at school, our Prefects and Senior Teachers will be on hand to explain where to meet your interviewer – this is likely to be in one of our wonderful libraries. Sixth Form students and current Year 7s will be on hand to chat to you if you wish: all our pupils will make you feel at ease and will no doubt be very keen to tell you more about Bury Grammar School!



At the appointed time, one of our Senior School teachers will come and collect you from the library - pupil and family - and take you to a classroom or office nearby for your interview. The interviewer will speak with the pupil first who is likely to be asked to tell us about a project/ special achievement, and we hope you will bring along something to illustrate this. A number of questions will follow that you might expect - about your favourite subjects, your hopes of what your Senior School experience might be like, which clubs you'd like to be part of at BGS, any career aspirations you have. You'll also have the chance to ask us any questions.

Then it will be over to the parents! This is a very important opportunity for you as parents to discuss your hopes and aspirations for your child's future, find out what makes our school different and ask any questions you may have. Your interviewer will be happy to talk to you about our school and advise you about Year

7 transition, our curriculum, exam results, career opportunities, the lovely atmosphere here, our varied enrichment programme, and their experiences of our School as teachers.

The whole interview is likely to last 20-25 minutes. We do hope you will enjoy the experience – we find most people usually do! Afterwards, you can return to the library to talk to senior members of staff or the Principal if you wish.



How should you prepare?

Pupils should bring with them a piece of work or project or a special achievement, or something they're proud of, which they'd like to talk to us about. This is intended to be an ice breaker and an opportunity for us to start to get to know you.

Parents, we know you will have done this already – but thinking seriously about what you would like educationally from the next seven years is important. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.



If a pupil has applied for a scholarship in a certain area, for example, Maths, English, Sport, Music – please be ready to tell us why you have applied for this, why you believe you would be a good Scholar and how you hope you'd contribute to this area of school.

What will BGS be looking for at interview?

From pupils – a genuine thirst for learning, the ability to engage in conversation, and a desire to get the most out of BGS life. Don't worry if you're naturally shy or nervous, our teachers understand! There is no such thing as a BGS type so please just be yourself.

From parents – a full support for our ethos and willingness to work together within our home-school partnership is important to us. Openness, enthusiasm, an appreciation of education, a positive mindset (like us!) are all qualities which appeal to us!

What will happen afterwards?

We hope you'll leave us having had a positive experience, knowing more about our school and excited about your next steps!

The Senior Team will then discuss all the feedback we have from interviewers, your exam results, your school reference, the events you've attended at BGS in recent times and will hope to get a good sense of whether you'd thrive in our School.

Offers will be posted home on 27th February and emailed home on 28th February 2023.

We wish you the BEST OF LUCK!

And don't hesitate to let us know beforehand if you have any questions.
admissions@burygrammar.com

