



## ADMISSIONS POLICY

---

Harrow School ("School") is an independent boarding school for approximately 840 boys aged 13 to 18. All boys are full boarders, there are no day boys or weekly boarders. Every year, 160-165 boys 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.

This Admissions Policy is intended to provide information to prospective parents and boys about the process and the criteria the School applies to admissions. It does not, nor is it intended to, impose additional binding obligations on the School beyond those required by law.

### 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.

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 be met 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 of those needs on registration. Parents of prospective boys 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 Mrs Gemma Cole and her email address is [glc@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:glc@harrowschool.org.uk).

Where a pupil has a significant health problem, the School would need the Harrow School Doctor together with the SENDCo to confirm that it would be appropriate to offer a place before such a decision was made.

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

### SELECTION CRITERIA

While entry to Harrow School is competitive and academic standards are high, 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, art 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 School and the type of education provided here.

Five main criteria are used to determine which boys should be offered places:



HARROW  
SCHOOL

- Academic potential;
- Behaviour: the School only accepts boys with a good behavioural record;
- Suitability for boarding: a boy who is not suited to living in a boarding house community, nor likely to make use of the opportunities afforded by boarding is unlikely to thrive at Harrow School;
- Willingness to make use of the opportunities afforded by Harrow School: This implies some interest in sport, drama, music, art, or some of the other activities on offer. Ability in some such activities will be a strong recommendation;
- The character and personality to make a positive contribution to the life of the School, both inside and outside the classroom.

For more information about the selection criteria, please see Appendix A. The House Masters and Registrar play a major part in the process and advise the Head Master on the selection of boys, in line with this Admissions Policy. Admission decisions are made by the Head Master, whose decision is final.

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, in accordance with the School's statutes and Governors' decisions.

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 (an all- boys' boarding school) would provide the right environment in every sense for a boy to flourish.

The School actively seeks and admits boys with different skills and abilities (including the academic, the creative arts, and sporting), as well as from different backgrounds and ethnicities, into each year-group and House.

Every House should be a balanced House in these terms. Sometimes we will be looking for a boy with particular strengths to go into a particular House due to a perceived need at the time. As a result of this, boys may be allocated a House that may not be a preferred choice (especially when offered a place late on when House lists are full). Parents must be prepared for this. Parents may express a preference for a particular House (or Houses), but these preferences cannot be guaranteed.

## 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 School who otherwise could not. Bursaries can range in value from 5% up to 100% of the School fee. All our bursaries are means tested. Consequently, 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 we believe may be necessary.

Bursary awards are very competitive. Bursaries are offered to applicants who have demonstrated excellent academic excellence and offer other talents that are strong indicators of their potential to thrive at Harrow School along with



limited financial means. 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 due to a finite limit on the funds available, not everyone who applies for a bursary will get one. Being supremely talented in any particular area does not guarantee a scholarship or bursary as there are numerous factors that need to be considered.

For further information on the selection criteria for scholarships and bursaries at Harrow, please see Appendix A.

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

The School reserves the right to deny a boys' application or withdraw the offer of a boy's place (at any time in the admissions and assessment process) 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 completely 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.
- 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 2024  
Annual Review



## GENERAL INFORMATION – APPENDIX A

---

### INTRODUCTION

The following sections provide parents of prospective pupils with information about the registration and admissions processes at 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 directly 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 12 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.

Please note that the tour of the School involves a fair degree of uphill walking and uneven ground. Regrettably, for these reasons, we advise those with mobility challenges and/or children in pushchairs not to attend.

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

### OTHER SCHOOL TOURS

A tour will be available to parents of Year 9 applicants if they accompany their sons to the Harrow Test in the Spring Term of Year 6.

### REGISTERING FOR HARROW

All boys interested in attending Harrow must be formally registered. The Registration Fee for standard entry is £375 and is payable on registration. The Registration fee is non-refundable so parents must 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 July of Year 5. Harrow also accepts 'late' applications between 2 July of Year 5 and 1 January of Year 7, although only outstanding candidates are considered at this stage as there are very few places remaining.

All Year 9 applications should be made via the online portal. Those wishing to apply should only do so via the link to the registration portal provided on the Harrow School website.

## YEAR 12 ENTRY

The deadline for registering for Year 12 (16+) entry is early September of Year 11 (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 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.

All Year 12 applications should be made via the online portal. Those wishing to apply should only do so via the link to the registration portal provided on the Harrow School website. Please note that applicants will only be able to register for Year 12 admission from the April of the year preceding the year of entry (i.e. April 2024 for boys looking to join the School in September 2025).

## 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 a little 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 are able to sit the ISEB Common Pre-Test between September and May in Year 6 or Year 7. Candidates registered for standard entry will need to sit this test between October and December of Year 6. We 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 that candidates 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 only the first set of results will stand.

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

### **Stage 2**

All boys (including those applying directly from Hong Kong and China) who pass the ISEB Common Pre-Test and have a positive reference from their current school in Stage 1 will be invited to Stage 2, the Harrow Test which comprises:

- a computerised English, Maths and non-verbal reasoning assessment (1 hour total)
- a classroom-based group activity (20 minutes)
- one 20-minute interview with a House Master

### **Stage 3**

Applicants holding offers of places in a specific House will be invited to a one-to-one meeting with the House Master from the Summer term of Year 6 onwards. Other applicants holding offers will be allocated a House at a later date, after which a visit can be arranged directly with the House Master.

Many parents leave their son's House allocation to the Registrar. Those families who do indicate a House preference on the registration form often have a pre-existing relationship with the House via Old Harrovian connections. You can explore the Houses and learn more about their history and House Masters here. Alternatively, speak to your son's current Head or to a House Master at one of our Open Mornings.

## **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 contact Ms Battie Fung at Academic Asia ([battie@academic-asia.com](mailto:battie@academic-asia.com)). Boys applying directly from Mainland China should contact Mr Tommy Meng at the UK Boarding Schools Admissions Service in Shanghai ([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



## HARROW SCHOOL

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.

The School reserves the right to withdraw a boy's place post offer if important information pertaining to SEND was not previously disclosed, his behaviour is giving cause for concern, or his academic reports are deemed unsatisfactory.

**For Year 9 (13+) entry:** offers of places are made conditional on sitting Common Entrance or performing well in the academic scholarship exams. While there is no pass mark for Common Entrance as such, 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, schools in the state sector, 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 or more 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 an 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 25% of the overall pupil body resides overseas. Although most boys at Harrow are British nationals, 40 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 on 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 on registration. Additionally, the same documentation and reports should be sent to the Admissions 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 while Harrow has a small specialist SEND team, 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 on 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.

**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 Mrs Gemma Cole and her email address is [glc@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:glc@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
- Design Technology & Engineering

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.

To determine whether a boy is eligible to apply for a scholarship, please get in touch with the applicable Head of Subject for each scholarship discipline by visiting our scholarships page [here](#).

### 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

Please see our guidance on bursaries [here](#).

If an applicant requires a bursary to attend Harrow (whether applying for Year 9 or Year 12 entry), we strongly recommend that you inform us of your need for a bursary when making your application to the School. This will not disadvantage your son's application in any way. You will be able to indicate on the online registration form the level of bursarial assistance you would require for your son to come to Harrow, as a percentage of the School fee.



We recommend that all Year 9 applications are received via the portal by the end of Year 5, if possible. All candidates who have applied by this deadline will go 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 School and what financial assistance he might be entitled to.

Alternatively, if a boy does not want to go through our full (standard) academic admissions process, or if he is applying between 1 January of Year 7 and 22 November of Year 8, he can apply via the scholarship-only route and then pay a reduced, non-refundable Scholarship Application Fee of £140. Those wishing to apply via the scholarship-only route should get in touch with the Admissions office via [admissions@harrowsschool.org.uk](mailto:admissions@harrowsschool.org.uk) to request an application form.

The standard registration fee for Year 12 entry is £375 and should be paid via the portal. If, an applicant would only accept a Year 12 place at the School on receipt of a bursary, they should apply via the portal and get in touch with the Access Team via [accessteam@harrowsschool.org.uk](mailto:accessteam@harrowsschool.org.uk) to find out how to pay the reduced, non-refundable £50 registration 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. Being supremely talented in any particular area e.g. academics, sport, music etc does not guarantee a bursary because there are numerous factors that must be considered.

## SPECIFIC NAMED COMPETITIVE BURSARIES

In addition to our bursary provision, there are a number of specific financial awards that are granted to boys who fulfil set criteria. These are outlined below. All financial awards and bursaries are means-tested.

### YEAR 7 AWARDS (UK APPLICANTS ONLY)

No Scholarship or Bursary Application Fee is required if only applying for a Year 7 award. Boys at their local primary school are eligible to apply for a Year 7 Award. Typically, Year 7 Awards are made to individuals who would need close to 100% fee support in order to come to Harrow School from Years 9 to 13. It also covers the school fees to attend a prep school for Years 7 and 8. 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:

- 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.

#### Churchill Places

These are available to boys who:

- demonstrate the characteristics of personal courage, wide-ranging thinking and a global outlook and who may one day change the world for the better.



Please contact our **Access Team** by email to request a Year 7 Award Application Form. We collate information about each applicant's academic progress and extra-curricular talents as well as the financial background for parents. The Team will request a reference from an applicant's current school. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to sit the ISEB Pre Test in early September. Based on results, a second shortlist of shortlisted candidates will 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 October/November of Year 6.

We announce the results of our Year 7 awards in December of Year 6.

**SPECIFIC YEAR 9 BURSARIES INCLUDE:**

- 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 Sixth Form Award open to boys from the London area and the Churchill Award, for boys who demonstrate the characteristics of personal courage, wide-ranging thinking and a global outlook and who may one day change the world for the better.

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

Dr Eric Sie  
Registrar  
September 2024