

Admissions Information for Year 12 2024/5

Registration

Parents wishing to enter their child for admission to Year 12 at Hereford Cathedral School are asked to complete a Registration Form including a non-returnable Registration fee of £75 to the School Registrar. The Registration Form can be downloaded from the School's website, www.herefordcs.com/admissions or obtained from the Admissions department. Payment may be made either by a BACS transfer or a cheque made payable to 'Hereford Cathedral School'. BACS payments to Lloyds Bank: Sort Code 30-94-14 a/c 00198901 (please give REG FEE and pupil's last name as reference).

Completion of the Registration Form ensures that the child's name is on the prospective pupil registration entry list and also ensures that the relevant information will be sent to parents at the appropriate time, as well as allowing them to apply for any relevant scholarships or fee assistance.

Pupils seeking entrance to Hereford Cathedral School are required to attend a taster day which will include an interview and academic assessment. Assessments for entry aim to identify pupils who have the potential to flourish at Hereford Cathedral School. We are obviously keen to ensure that prospective pupils are able to make the most of the opportunities on offer and have the knowledge and skills to settle happily into the School.

Candidates should be under 17 on the 1st September of the year they are intending to enter. Scholarships and bursaries are also available to children entering the School at 16+ and can be applied for at the same time as registering.

The Taster Day

Candidates are required to attend a taster day at HCS as part of their admissions process. This will typically take place in the Autumn Term of their Year 11. The candidate will be paired with a current student in HCS' Year 12 who is studying most, if not all, of the applicant's preferred A Level subjects. Every effort will be made to match this up as well as possible. Applicants gain insight into Sixth Form life at HCS from this taster day and the lessons which they attend are a useful part of their A Level selection process.

The Interview

A twenty-minute interview takes place at a convenient point during the taster day described above. Either the Headmaster, Head of Sixth Form or a member of the Senior Leadership Team will conduct the interview, the emphasis of which is for pupils to talk about themselves and to highlight their strengths. Most pupils enjoy the interview process and are surprised by how straightforward it is.

The Assessment

We use standardised CAT4 testing to assess our potential Year 12 applicants.

The Reference

The School will require a reference from the child's current school. The Admissions department will request this, usually prior to the pupil sitting the entrance examination. We regard this as an integral part of the assessment procedure.

Registrations received after the main examination date

Depending upon the availability of spaces, registrations can be received after the main examination. The Admissions department will arrange a suitable date and time for candidates to sit the Entrance Examination and attend interview. However, scholarship applications cannot be accepted once the scholarship auditions and trials have taken place or been awarded.

Offers of places

Offers of places are made in writing by the Headmaster as soon as possible after results are known. A Parent Contract and Acceptance Form are included with the offer letter. Offers are unconditional of GCSE results and will be based upon the reference provided by the child's current school, the results of their CAT4 assessment and the School's judgement about the pupil's ability to benefit from the education provided by HCS Sixth Form. For pupils currently at independent schools we will ask the existing school for a confirmation that there are no outstanding fees due.

Acceptance of a place

When a place at the School is accepted, parents/guardians are asked to confirm acceptance in writing to the Headmaster and return the Acceptance Form, signed by both parents/guardians. We also require an acceptance fee of £400; (£150 of this will be retained in the school funds until the pupil leaves. It will then be repaid by means of a credit without interest to the final payment of fees or other sums due to the School. The remaining £250 is non-refundable and will be added to the "HCS Charitable Bursary Scheme"). Payment may be made either by a BACS transfer or a cheque made payable to 'Hereford Cathedral School'. BACS payments to Lloyds Bank: Sort Code 30-94-14 a/c 00198901 (please give ACC FEE and pupil's name as reference).

SCHOLARSHIPS AT 16+

We offer academic, musical, sporting, art and drama scholarships and Headmaster's Awards to recognise and reward exceptional talent which can be nurtured through an education at Hereford Cathedral School. Scholarships are guaranteed for the total number of years the child remains at the School, subject to good progress. If, however, effort, progress or behaviour is judged to be unsatisfactory, the School reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship – the School reviews scholars' progress termly.

Where a pupil has achieved two scholarships or more, the value of the highest award will apply and additional scholarships will be awarded in name only.

Dean's (Academic) Scholarships

These are academic awards. All worthy candidates are invited to apply by writing a letter of application to the Headmaster stating why they feel they should be considered for a Sixth Form Dean's Scholarship. These letters are submitted to the Head's PA on the first day of the Spring Term. Candidates will then be invited to interview (separate to their standard assessment interview detailed above) in the first half of the Spring Term with the Headmaster and Deputy Head (Academic), and their Mock GCSE results will be used as a measure of academic attainment.

Successful Deans' scholars will demonstrate:

- Academic insight and ability in their prospective A-Level subjects.
- A willingness to be fully involved in the life of the School.
- An all-round intellect as measured by their responses in interview and the quality of their application letter.
- Dean's Scholars and Headmaster's Award holders are required to have the academic potential to obtain at least three very good passes at A-Level as exemplified by a strong GCSE mock examination profile.

Art Scholarships

Art Scholarships are assessed by the Head of Art.

Art Scholarship assessments consist of an informal interview with the Head of Art where he/she will present a portfolio of artwork. The portfolio should reflect samples of both schoolwork and work reflecting a personal interest in the subject. Candidates' personal work will demonstrate particular areas of interest such as painting, drawing, photography, model making etc.

The Head of Art will be happy to give advice to any candidate about the nature of his/her portfolio.

Drama Scholarships

Drama Scholarships are assessed by the Director of Drama.

Candidates are asked to prepare a monologue of their choosing, lasting approximately two minutes, from a published play. They should expect to be redirected as part of the audition process, and should read the entire play from which the monologue is taken, to fully understand character motivation and context.

Candidates will also participate in a group workshop, and will have a short interview with the Director of Drama, focusing on the choices they made in their monologue, their understanding of the play, and their interest in drama.

The Director of Drama will be happy to give advice to any candidate prior to the audition.

Music Scholarships

The Director of Music assesses candidates for music scholarships.

At 16+, it is expected that candidates will have reached at least Grade 7 distinction standard in their main instrument and at least Grade 5 distinction standard in their second instrument. All candidates will be required to perform on both instruments at the audition. Candidates will also be tested in sight-reading and aural work. Questions of a general musical nature may also be asked. The ability to show

evidence of outstanding musical potential, genuine musicianship, enthusiasm and a willingness to be involved in the musical life of the School are all of the greatest importance.

It is generally expected that our Sixth Form Music Scholars will be taking Music at A Level.

Sports Scholarships

A Sports Scholarship may be considered for pupils who have achieved a minimum of 'county standard' in one or more of the school's core sports (rugby, hockey, football, netball, rowing and cricket), and/or be the exceptional 'stand-out' player amongst their peers in club or school matches.

Alternatively, a pupil may be considered if they can demonstrate 'international potential' in any sport. The athlete will already be identified by their National Governing Body (NGB) and would be expected to be either competing at Junior or Senior National/International Level, nationally ranked (subject to sport), attending a Level 1 or 2 Professional Club/Academy or have Olympic potential in terms of qualifying times/distances.

Students that meet the criteria in more than one of the sports above will be given greater consideration.

Sports Scholarships are assessed by our Sports Scholarship Committee in the first instance.

Those that are successful will move onto the next stage of the assessment which may include a formal interview, an observation of their performance and tests of their physical and general sporting ability. References from their respective coaches will also be required.

Headmaster's Award

It is not possible to apply for a Headmaster's Award which are given at the discretion of the Headmaster. Typically, they will be awarded to pupils who have entered for two of the other scholarships, but narrowly failed to gain an award.

Please note, assessments for all 16+ scholarships will take place in the Spring Term.

Bursary Application Forms

A link to Application Forms are available on request.

Following the initial online application, Bursary Administration Limited will then contact parents directly to arrange a home visit.

Offers of Bursaries

The Bursar will make offers of bursaries in writing in the Spring Term once the Scholarship trials/auditions and the Entrance Examination have taken place.

Conditions of a Bursary Award

A bursary will be available for the total number of years the child is at the School, subject to good progress and behaviour and an annual means-tested update. If, however, progress and behaviour is judged to be unsatisfactory, the School reserves the right to withdraw the Bursary. Parents would be

given at least one term's notice for the intention to withdraw the Bursary, during which time the pupil would have the opportunity to improve to the required standard and thereby retain it.

The School respects the confidentiality of bursary awards made to families and recipients are expected to do likewise.

Notes

Where an award is not made for a given scholarship, the School may vire funds to increase the above awards or increase bursary funds. It is possible to be awarded a scholarship and still be eligible for bursarial support. Scholarships are retained throughout the school life of the pupil, subject to satisfactory performance. Further details concerning the awards of music and sport awards can be obtained from the School Registrar.

*On occasions, where standards of applications are extremely high but financial constraints limit the number of Scholarships offered, Honorary Scholarships are awarded. These attract no financial remuneration but are accorded the same status as other Scholarships.

For further advice or to request an application form, please contact:

Director of Admissions – Mrs Libby Eaves 01432 363506 admissions@herefordcs.com

Bursar's PA – Mrs Jones 01432 363544 bursarpa@herefordcs.com

Head of Art – Miss Greenough f.greenough@herefordcs.com

Director of Drama – Mr Martin l.martin@herefordcs.com

Music Administrator – Mrs Turtle 01432 363531 a.turtle@herefordcs.com

Director of Sport – Mrs Hopkins 01432 363522 s.hopkins@herefordcs.com