

Admission Information for Year 9 entry 2023/24

Registration

We welcome applications from parents whose child attends a Preparatory School or from parents who wish to transfer their child from Secondary Schools into Year 9. The School uses its own admissions tests rather than the Common Entrance. Sample papers are available from the school website at www.herefordcs.com/admissions.

Parents wishing to enter their child for admission to Hereford Cathedral School are asked to complete a Registration Form including a non-returnable Registration fee of £75 to the Admissions Officer. A Registration Form is enclosed with the prospectus. Additional copies may be downloaded from the School's website, www.herefordcs.com/admissions or obtained from the Admissions Officer.

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.

Scholarships and bursaries are available to candidates entering the School in Year 9 and can be applied for at the same time as registering. Please see table below for dates.

The Interview

The fifteen-minute interview takes place on a separate day prior to the Entrance Examination. The Headmaster interviews candidates prior to the day of the entrance examination. Candidates are asked to bring something (e.g. musical instrument, trophy, photograph or book) that they would be happy to talk about at interview.

The emphasis of the interview is for pupils to talk about themselves and to highlight their strengths. We hope that by meeting a friendly face prior to the Entrance Examination external applicants will be more at ease on the day of the examination. Most pupils enjoy the interview process and are surprised by how straightforward it is.

Entrance Examination

Hereford Cathedral School sets its own Entrance Examination for 13+ candidates. This takes place in late January/early February each year – please see table below for dates. Candidates will normally be under 14 on the 1st September of the year they are intending to enter.

The examination will comprise of papers in English, Maths and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

The standard 13+ Entrance Examination

The English test lasts 60 minutes and consists of reading and composition and seeks to identify imagination as well as good grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The Mathematics test lasts 60 minutes and is based mainly upon work involved in Levels 5, 6 and 7 of the National Curriculum. The test is in two parts; a written non-calculator paper of 40 minutes and a Mental Maths test of 20 minutes.

The Non-Verbal Reasoning test assesses the ability to understand and analyse visual information and solve problems using visual reasoning. A practice paper to familiarise candidates with the style of questions involved precedes the test.

Deferred Entry Entrance Examination

Hereford Cathedral School offers a Deferred Places scheme for 11+ candidates seeking entry into Year 9. Pupils are invited to sit the 11+ entrance assessment at the same time as candidates for 11+ entry in late January/early February. Pupils offered a deferred place for 13+ will not be committed to take up that place until they reach their year of entry, when an acceptance fee of £400 will be required at the same time as other Year 9 entries. Please see table below for dates.

Pupils offered a deferred place are still required to sit the School's own 13+ Entrance Examination for the purpose of setting. These pupils are also eligible to sit 13+ scholarship exams and other awards as detailed. Hereford Cathedral School's policy on deferred places at 13+ aims to offer parents and pupils the peace of mind that there is a place available at 13+, whilst at the same time being able to enjoy the benefits of continued education in Preparatory Schools. Further details are available from the Admissions Officer.

The reference

The School will require a reference from the child's current school. The Admissions Officer will request a reference from the child's present school, usually prior to the pupil sitting the entrance examination. The School will also ask whether all outstanding fees have been met by those attending another independent school. 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 Officer 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. However, once in the school pupils can next apply for scholarships at Sixth Form entry.

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 will be based upon the reference provided by the child's current school, the results of the Entrance Examination and the School's judgement about the pupil's ability to benefit from the education provided by the Senior School.

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 pupil's name as reference).

SCHOLARSHIPS AT 13+

We offer academic, musical, sporting, art, drama and all-rounder scholarships to recognise and reward exceptional talent which can be nurtured through an education at Hereford Cathedral School. Scholarship application forms can be found at www.herefordcs.com/admissions.

Scholarships are guaranteed for the total number of years the child is 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. In general, scholarships are only awarded to pupils entering the school at age 11, 13 and 16. Pupils that enter at intermediate ages may be able to apply for a scholarship at a later stage.

Dean's (Academic) Scholarships

Dean's Scholarships are academic awards. Applicants will sit scholarship papers in English, Maths and Non-Verbal Reasoning. The Academic Scholarship papers are academically more demanding and are sat instead of, not in addition to, the standard entrance exam papers. Candidates will sit the scholarship papers on the same day as the 13+ Entrance Examination – see table below for date. We would advise parents to consult their child's current school as to whether it would be appropriate for them to enter for the Academic Scholarship.

The English Scholarship test lasts 60 minutes and consists of reading and composition and seeks to identify good imagination as well as excellent grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The Mathematics Scholarship test lasts 60 minutes and is based mainly upon work involved in Levels 6 and 7 of the National Curriculum. The Mathematics Test consists of one written non-calculator paper.

The Non-Verbal Reasoning test assesses the ability to understand and analyse visual information and solve problems using visual reasoning. A practice paper to familiarize candidates with the style of questions involved precedes the test. This is the same test for both standard and scholarship candidates.

Sample scholarship papers are available at www.herefordcs.com/admissions.

Art Scholarships

Up to two Art Scholarships are available and they are assessed by the Head of Art. At least one award will be available to internal applicants as Art Scholarships are not available in Years 7 and 8.

The Art Scholarship examination is held on a Saturday morning in mid-January and consists of a three-hour observational drawing – see table for date.

Candidates will also hand in a portfolio of work the day before the examination. 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. The Head of Art will be happy to give advice to any candidate about the nature of his/her portfolio.

Drama Scholarships

Up to two Drama Scholarships are available and they are assessed by the Head of Drama. At least one award will be available to internal applicants as Drama Scholarships are not available in Years 7 and 8.

The Drama Scholarship examination is held on a Saturday morning in mid-January (see table for date) and consists of a 30-minute audition (a speech – which will be sent out to applicants), in addition to a short performance and discussion on a piece of unseen text (which will be available 15 minutes prior to the audition) to/with the Head of Drama.

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

Music Scholarships and Exhibitions

The Director of Music assesses candidates for music scholarships and exhibitions. At 13+, it is expected that candidates will have two instruments and will have achieved Grade 6 ABRSM in their first instrument. 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.

Auditions will be held for 11+ candidates in the first half of the Spring Term – see table below for date. Candidates will be asked to play two contrasting pieces of their choice on each instrument offered and will also be tested in sight-reading and aural work. Questions of a general musical nature may also be asked.

The top candidates may be awarded a Music Scholarship and other candidates may be awarded a Music Exhibition.

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 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 stages 2 and 3 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.

FEE ASSISTANCE

A limited number of transformational bursaries are available each year to provide full financial support to families who would not otherwise be able to support their child's education at the school. We also offer partial fee assistance on a sliding scale according to the results of our means test. Bursaries can be awarded to supplement a scholarship, or simply as a means to supporting pupils. All bursary awards and assisted places are subject to an independent parental means test, which takes into account savings, investments and realisable assets as well as income. Bursary Administration Limited (BAL) will contact parents to arrange a home visit and provide the school with a report.

Support is available to pupils in Year 7 and above who are likely to gain the most from an education at Hereford Cathedral School and who will contribute fully to school life. Awards are made from a limited fund and therefore not all applications made will be successful.

Bursary Application Forms

Application Forms are available from Mrs Jones, PA to the Bursar or the Admissions Office.

Upon receipt of bursary applications, the Bursar will write to parents with an indication of potential eligibility for assistance. With the Bursar's approval, 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 Admissions Officer.

***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.**

DEADLINES FOR YEAR 9 ENTRY

****Please note that due to the current circumstances, the dates and arrangements for the events below are provisional and will be confirmed nearer the time.****

| 2023/24 (<i>September entry into Year 9</i>) | Deadline for Applications: |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| REGISTRATION FORM & FEE | Friday 11th November 2022 |
| BURSARY APPLICATIONS TO BE RETURNED TO HCS | Monday 28th November 2022 |
| SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION | Monday 28th November 2022 |

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

Admissions Officer – 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

Head of Drama – Mrs Price m.price@herefordcs.com

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

Assistant Head (Extra-Curricular) – Mr Jerram 01432 363567 p.jerram@herefordcs.com

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