

ADMISSION AT 8+

BEFORE THE TESTS

What happens before the 8+ tests?

All those who have registered for the 8+ entrance tests receive a letter from the Registrar formally inviting them to attend the admissions tests. It contains a reply slip and also a report form, to be passed to the Headteacher of the pupil's current school.

Once the reply form has been returned, you will receive a second letter providing details of the day itself, including the timings of the different tests. The tests will be held at MCS in the January preceding entry the following September.

What to wear and what to bring?

Boys need to bring writing equipment, a rubber and a ruler. They should wear casual clothes. School lunch will be provided, but boys are welcome to bring their own packed lunch if they prefer. We will provide a snack and a drink during the morning.

What should I do if I have a question?

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Registrar at any stage of the admissions and applications process at registrar@mcsoxford.org.

ON THE TEST DAY

Which tests will my son take?

Boys take tests in English (spelling, composition and comprehension), Maths and Verbal Reasoning. Tests last 15 minutes for spelling, 30 minutes for composition, 45 minutes for comprehension, an hour for Maths and 50 minutes for Verbal Reasoning. There are breaks between them.

What else happens on the day?

There are two breaks in the day – one for a drink and biscuit in the morning, the other at lunchtime which encompasses a short tour and a play.

How can I help my son prepare for the tests?

There is no need to prepare your son for the tests. We do not expect or require pupils to receive any coaching for the tests. Our tests are designed to allow us to assess each candidate's potential, not simply their current academic attainment. The most important thing is that he feels relaxed about coming for the day. However, sample English and Maths papers are available on the school website to give you an idea of the format of the papers and the type of questions that will be asked.

Boys may also like to look at some Verbal Reasoning before the day, since this may not be familiar to all children from their current schools. We cannot publish VRT papers for copyright reasons, but they can be bought at Blackwell's, WH Smith and other bookshops; there are also various websites where verbal reasoning can be practised as a fun activity if you prefer.

AFTER THE TESTS

How will my son be interviewed?

Most boys are invited back for short interviews. They will meet Mr Tim Skipwith, the Head of the Junior School, for an informal style interview. We ask all boys to bring an object (or picture) to stimulate discussion. Boys will also meet a second Junior School teacher, with whom they will do a short piece of reading and oral comprehension. Neither of these interviews will last more than 10–15 minutes.

For any queries please contact the Registrar at registrar@mcsxford.org or on 01865 253430