



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

FOUNDED BY WILLIAM OF WAYNFLETE, 1480

Admissions Policy



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Introduction

Applicants of appropriate age and sex will be considered for admission to the school on the basis of the school's Admissions Policy and in accordance with the school's Equal Opportunities policy. Pupils are admitted on the basis of ability as determined by a written assessment, interview and the Master's discretion. Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

We ask that parents inform the school as soon as possible in the application process if their child has a disability and that requests for specific adjustments, such as additional time, use of a word processor or other special measures, are made in writing, supported by an up-to-date report from an educational psychologist. The admissions selection panel will, in addition to considering pupils' interview and assessment performance, take notice of all references provided in support of a pupil's application. All pupils receive formal notification of acceptance or otherwise in accordance with HMC guidelines.

Stages of Entry

Entry to Magdalen College School is at the ages of seven (Year 3), eight (Year 4), nine (Year 5), eleven (Year 7), thirteen (Year 9) and sixteen (Year 12). Entry may occasionally become possible in intermediate year groups. There is no automatic progression from Junior School to Senior: all pupils, both internal and external, sit the same competitive examination for entry into Year 7. Only pupils sexed male at birth will be considered for entry to Years 3-11. Those sexed male and female are eligible for entry in Years 12-13.

Registering

Parents wishing to register their child should complete a registration form. Registration for pupils from maintained schools for entry into the Junior School and Years 7, 9 and 12 should be made by 31st October in the year preceding entry. Registrations for entry into Year 9 from preparatory schools should be made by 31st October in Year 6 ahead of the pre-test in Year 6. At the discretion of the Master, later registrations may be allowable. If you require the registration form in a different format, please contact the Registrar.

Assessment for Entry to the Sixth Form

For external applicants, places will be offered as a result of interviews, tests and a report from the applicant's current school, and will be conditional upon specified GCSE grades, typically A* (or 8 or 9) grades in proposed A-Level subjects as a minimum. While it is expected that existing MCS Fifth Form pupils will progress to the Sixth Form, this is not automatic, but is dependent on previous good conduct and academic performance, not least at GCSE. Specifically, pupils must demonstrate a suitable approach and work ethic throughout the Middle School; must realise their potential across the board at GCSE; and must secure 8 or 9 grades in each of the four subjects they intend to study in Sixth Form. As stated above, reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Assessment for Entry to Other Year Groups

Magdalen College School sets its own examination for entry to the Junior School and Years 7 and 9 for candidates from maintained schools. These exams take place in the Hilary (Spring) term.

Candidates for Year 9 from preparatory schools sit a compulsory pretest in January of Year 6. Places are offered for Year 9 on the results of this pretest and conditional upon the candidate passing either the Magdalen College School scholarship examination or Common Entrance. Where preparatory schools do not prepare pupils for Common Entrance (eg. following the Prep School Baccalaureate), the preparatory school will be in direct contact with the Registrar at Magdalen College School about the progress the pupil has made.

Examination Content

Save for the 7+ examination, where there is no Verbal Reasoning (VR) test, all candidates for entry into the Junior School and Years 7 and 9 sit tests in English, Mathematics and VR. Candidates from maintained schools for entry into Year 9 additionally take a test in French or another Modern Foreign Language. Reasonable adjustments will be made for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Sample papers for all standard entry points are available. References from current schools are requested for all candidates and most candidates are called for interview.

Informal Assessment

The school offers an informal assessment service for prospective 7+, 8+, 9+ and 11+ candidates, to enable parents to gain an idea of their child's academic abilities in the context of a possible application. Further details are available on the website.

Offers and Acceptances

The offer of a place at Magdalen College School is at the discretion of the Master and her decision is final. Parents whose sons or daughters are offered a place must either accept or decline the place by the date specified. Parents who accept a place complete an Acceptance Form, agreeing to the school's Standard Terms and Conditions then in force, and paying a deposit.

Scholarships

Some scholarships are available for 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry. For more details please contact the Registrar.

Residence

Pupils must be living with a parent or legal guardian in order to take up and retain a place at MCS

Appeal Procedure

If a parent believes that his/her son or daughter has been unfairly rejected by Magdalen College School, he/she should first write to the Master outlining the reasons for concern. The Master, or a senior colleague nominated by the Master (or the Registrar) will then provide an explanation and/or reconsider the earlier decision. The Master will then write to explain her final decision. Whether or not the parents have a child currently at the school, in respect of a child who is a new applicant, the parents and school are not in a contractual relationship at this stage, so this reconsideration does not take place as part of the school's Complaints Policy.