

ADMISSION AT 8+ (YEAR 4)

BEFORE THE TESTS

What happens before the tests?

All those who have registered for the 8+ entrance tests receive an email from the Registrar formally inviting them to attend the admissions tests. The email contains details of the day itself, including the timings of the different tests, and instructions on where to go and what to bring. It also contains a reply slip which will need to be completed and returned to us. At this time we also contact the applicant's current school for a written reference.

The tests will take place in the January before the September entry. All boys registered for the 7+, 8+, 9+ and 10+ tests all come in on the same day.

What to wear and what to bring?

Boys need to bring a pencil, rubber, and a ruler. They should wear whatever they feel comfortable in, though it is worth bearing in mind that the day includes plenty of opportunities for physically letting off steam (including a session led by Junior School Sports staff). We shall provide boys with a snack and a drink during the morning, and lunch, too. Boys may also bring their own packed lunches if preferred.

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 (registrar@mcsoxford.org).

ON THE TEST DAY

Which tests will my son take?

Boys take tests in English (composition and comprehension), Maths and Verbal Reasoning. Tests last 30 minutes for composition, 35 minutes for comprehension, 45 minutes for Maths and 50 minutes for Verbal Reasoning. There are breaks between them.

What else happens on the day?

There is a break in the morning for a drink and biscuit, followed by some outdoor play (weather permitting). There is also a break for lunch and an activity led by Junior School Sports staff in the Sports Hall.

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 them. 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 your son feels relaxed about coming for the day. 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. Practice books can be bought at Blackwell's, WH Smith, Amazon 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 use as an icebreaker (no live animals please!). Boys will also be interviewed by a second Junior School teacher, with whom they might carry out some English or Maths practice. Each of these interviews will last approximately 15 minutes.



For any queries please contact the Registrar at registrar@mcsoxford.org or on 01865 242191.