

ADMISSION TO HARROW SCHOOL – GENERAL INFORMATION



HARROW
SCHOOL

Introduction

Harrow School is an independent school for approximately 830 boys aged 13-18. All pupils are full boarders; there are no day boys or weekly boarders. Every year, 160-165 pupils enter the School in Year 9 (13+) and 15-20 in Year 12 (16+). Although Year 9 and Year 12 are the two main entry points, occasionally a place becomes available at the beginning of Year 10 and enquiries regarding this point of entry should be made direct to the Registrar.

Visiting Harrow

Open mornings

Most families visit Harrow before formally registering their son for entry, and it is strongly recommended that all prospective pupils (for Year 9 and Year 12) and their parents attend an open morning in order to get the best sense of the School's aims and ethos.

There are 12 open mornings a year. These take place on Saturday mornings and registration for these is via the School's website. Approximately 65 families attend each open morning and a typical programme includes a presentation in Speech Room by the Head Master; a pupil panel session led by the Director of Studies; a tour of the School with a guide and at least one current pupil; a visit to a boarding House (to meet the House Master and some of the boys in that House); and the opportunity to meet other House Masters, current pupils and members of the Admissions Department.

School tours

Boys registered for Year 9 who are invited to Harrow to meet House Masters in Year 6 will have the opportunity to have a tour of the School with their parents at the same time. A tour will also be available to parents of Year 9 applicants if they accompany their sons to the Harrow Test at the beginning of Year 7.

Registering for Harrow

All boys interested in attending Harrow must be formally registered. A Registration Fee of £325 is payable on registration.

Year 9 entry

The main deadline for registering for Year 9 (13+) entry is 1 May of Year 6, although there are distinct advantages to registering by the end of Year 5. Harrow also accepts 'late' applications between 1 May of Year 6 and 1 May of Year 7, although only outstanding candidates are considered at this stage as there are only very few places remaining.

Registration Forms for Year 9 entry can either be downloaded from the Harrow School website or requested from the Admissions Office.

Year 12 entry

The deadline for registering for Year 12 (16+) entry is early September of Year 11 for overseas applicants and early October of Year 11 for UK applicants (please see the website for specific dates). There is a second assessment period in the spring term of Year 11, and the deadline for receiving both UK and overseas applications for this is the first week of January of Year 11. It is advisable that a boy takes part in the first round of assessments if possible, as there are only a limited number of places available after this.

Registration Forms for Year 12 entry can be downloaded from the Harrow School website or requested from the Admissions Office.

Age at entry

Ideally, a boy should be in the correct academic year group for his age (the academic year runs from 1 September to 31 August) so that he enters the School in the September following his 13th or 16th birthday. However, there is some flexibility regarding this if a boy has an August/September birthday. In these circumstances, discussions can take place between parents, their son's school and the Harrow Registrar to determine for which year of entry a boy should apply.

The admissions process

For Year 9 (13+) entry, the process comprises three separate stages:

Stage 1

References are requested from current schools and all registered candidates sit the ISEB (Independent Schools Examinations Board) Common Pre-Test, an age-standardised and adaptive series of tests in English, mathematics, verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning. Boys sit this test either at their school, at an alternative educational establishment or at a British Council.

Boys sit the ISEB Common Pre-Test between October and May of Year 6, although we very much prefer them to sit the test between October and December of Year 6. The Admissions Department is able to access the results of Year 9 applicants who have taken the ISEB Common Pre-Test for other schools once these applicants have been registered with us.

Stage 2

Boys who perform well in the ISEB Common Pre-Test and have strong references will be invited to meet at least one House Master between January and June of Year 6 (**this is why it is an advantage to sit the Pre-Test in the second half of the autumn term rather than later on**). Those boys who are not invited to meet a House Master during Stage 2 will meet a House Master when they come for the Harrow Test (Stage 3).

Stage 3

All boys who pass the ISEB Common Pre-Test in Stage 1 will be invited to Stage 3, the Harrow Test, which comprises:

- a computerised English and mathematics assessment (30 minutes each)
- a short written essay (20-25 minutes)
- two interviews: one with a House Master and one with a Senior Master.

For 16+ entry, the process comprises two separate stages:

Stage 1

An applicant chooses three subjects that he would like to study in the Sixth Form at Harrow and in which he would

like to be tested as part of his assessment. A reference is requested from his current school and he is invited to sit tests in two of his three chosen subjects, either at Harrow, at his school, or at a recognised test centre, e.g. the British Council.

Stage 2

Shortlisted applicants are invited to an assessment day at Harrow, where they sit the third test, have interviews with the Head Master and the Registrars, and attend a seminar with the Head of Subject of one of the School's academic departments.

Selection criteria

Harrow has high academic standards but the School also believes passionately in providing an all-round education for boys who would embrace the opportunities offered here. As a result, selection for entry is not based purely on academic considerations.

Successful candidates will have met the School's minimum academic entry requirements:

For Year 9 (13+) entry, candidates will have achieved an average of at least 65% across the board at Common Entrance and a minimum of 60% in mathematics and English if they are at a school that prepares them for the full range of Common Entrance exams. If they are at a school in the UK or abroad (excluding Hong Kong) that does not prepare boys for the full range of Common Entrance exams, they will have passed English and mathematics with a minimum of 60% and undertaken setting papers in science and French (if studied).

For Year 12 (16+) entry, successful candidates will have seven or eight GCSE (or equivalent) passes at grade 7/8/9 (A*/A), and be likely to have achieved grades of 8 or 9 (A*) in all the subjects they wish to continue with in the Sixth Form.

All applicants will also have:

- shown that they have the character and interpersonal skills necessary to thrive in a busy boarding school environment and to make the most of the opportunities offered at the School. In particular, the School looks for traits such as integrity, resilience, tolerance, responsibility and independence, as well as the ability to demonstrate Harrow's core values of courage, honour, humility and fellowship
- demonstrated that they have the personality and emotional intelligence necessary to be a team member of a close-knit boarding House
- conveyed during the admissions process a desire to contribute broadly across the co-curriculum during their time at the School.

Withdrawal of a place before entry

The School reserves the right to withdraw a boy's place if his behaviour is giving cause for concern, if it becomes apparent that the School fee cannot be paid, or if fees are still outstanding at a previous school.

Sibling policy

Sibling status is taken into account during the admissions process, but the School does not automatically accept younger brothers who apply for a place. The key determining issue in the decision-making process is whether the School would provide the right environment in every sense for a particular boy to flourish. The number of places available at the time decisions about places are made will also play a significant part in whether or not a sibling is offered a place.

If the younger brother of a pupil currently at the School broadly meets the selection criteria described in the

previous section, the fact that he is the sibling of a current pupil will be taken into account in the decision-making process.

It should be noted that the sibling policy does not apply to Year 12 (16+) entry.

Applications from members of the Harrow family

The School appreciates that members of the broader Harrow family (not just younger brothers) may seek a place at the School and applications submitted by families with strong connections to Harrow (e.g. those with Old Harrovian fathers/grandfathers) are welcomed. However, although family connections are taken into consideration when places are offered at the School, they do not guarantee the offer of a place. The key determining issue in the decision-making process is whether the School would provide the right environment in every sense for a particular boy to flourish. The number of places available at the time decisions about places are made will also play a significant part in whether or not a member of the Harrow family is offered a place.

Equal opportunity

In line with the School's commitment to inclusivity and diversity, no boy is disadvantaged in any of the admissions processes as a result of sexual orientation, disability, religion, ethnicity or social background. Indeed, all admissions are made in due observance of this policy and details given on the Registration and Acceptance Forms, the scholarship booklet and the Terms and Conditions.

Overseas applicants

Harrow acknowledges and respects the huge value and sense of global perspective that overseas pupils provide. Approximately 20% of the overall pupil body resides overseas, with half of these boys coming from British expatriate families. Although the majority of boys at Harrow are British nationals, 36 different countries were represented in the student body at the last count. The School does not run a quota system for overseas applicants.

It is essential that overseas applicants possess a high level of fluency in English, if it is not their first language, so that they are fully able to access the curriculum (which is delivered in English) should they come to Harrow. For Year 9 (13+) entry, this proficiency in English is measured in both the English and verbal reasoning sections of the ISEB Common Pre-Test and also by a boy's performance in the Harrow Test. For Year 12 (16+) entry, competence in English (for those for whom English is not a first language) will be examined on the assessment day.

Lessons to support English as an Additional Language (EAL) are available at parental expense once a boy starts at the School.

Disabilities and special educational needs

Admission to Harrow School is in accordance with the School's Admission Policy. It is made on the grounds of academic performance, character, personality and the willingness to make the most of the opportunities offered by the School.

The selection process takes into full account at all assessments (i.e. the ISEB Common Pre-Test, the Harrow Test, the Hong Kong Harrow Test, Common Entrance and GCSE examinations) the reported findings of any chartered educational psychologist, medical or allied professional who has been consulted about an applicant's special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

Harrow's curriculum is suited to the needs of the more academic boy; however, the School can support pupils with a wide range of needs. It is incumbent on the parents of boys who have special educational needs and/or disabilities to inform the School about these on registration. Feeder schools are also asked to disclose details of a boy's specific requirements on their written reference.

Whether a boy's year of entry is Year 9 or above, the School expects that all historic and current documentation, including educational psychologist reports, relevant medical documentation and school reports, will be submitted to the Admissions Office before a boy sits the Harrow Test. The Registrar will then liaise with the Head of SEND to assess whether the School is able to meet a boy's needs and, if so, to ensure that reasonable adjustments are put into place within the School's capability and resources (in line with the duties outlined in the Equality Act 2010).

It is important to note that Harrow has a small specialist SEND team but the School does not have the facilities to offer highly specialised and intensive support. Physical access to some areas of the site are also limited owing to the historic nature of the campus. Please refer to the School Disability Access Plan on the website for more information.

Scholarships, exhibitions and bursaries

Scholarships

A scholarship, which usually comprises 5% of the School fee, is an award given in recognition of elite performance in one of the fields listed below. A boy may apply for more than one scholarship, e.g. an academic and music and sport scholarship. Scholarships are available at both Year 9 (13+) and Year 12 (16+) in the following categories:

- Academic
- Music
- Art
- Drama
- Sport

Only a limited number of awards are made each year. While elite performance is a pre-requisite for being awarded a scholarship, the following factors are also included in the assessment:

- his character and suitability for boarding
- his academic ability and potential
- what the boy is offering as a talent
- the particular needs of the School
- the diversity of talent being offered in a particular year.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions are only available for music and provide tuition in up to three instruments (with singing counting as an instrument in this instance). The award of a music exhibition does not give access to a bursary.

General bursaries

If a scholarship of 5% is awarded to a boy, he can be considered for a means-tested bursary and the scholarship and bursary together can cover up to 100% of the School fee. A family wishing to make a bursary application should complete the section entitled 'Bursaries' on the Scholarship Application Form.

We recommend that a boy requiring a bursary to supplement a **Year 9 scholarship** submits a Year 9 Registration Form (as well as a Scholarship and Bursary Application Form) and the Registration Fee of £325 by the end of Year 5 if possible, so that he goes through our full (standard) academic admissions process. Having assessed him, we will then be able to give his parents an indication, two years before possible entry, of whether he is academically strong enough to come to Harrow and what financial assistance he might be entitled to. If a boy is offered a place after the Harrow Test but is not then awarded a scholarship in Year 8, £200 of the £325 Registration Fee will be refunded to his parents.

Alternatively, if a boy applying for a **Year 9 scholarship** does not want to go through our full (standard) academic admissions process, or if he is applying between 1 May of Year 7 and early December of Year 8, he should submit a Scholarship and Bursary Application Form and the non-refundable Scholarship Application Fee of £50 only.

We recommend that a boy requiring a bursary to supplement a **Sixth Form scholarship** submits a Scholarship and Bursary Application Form, together with the Sixth Form Application Form and the documents specified on

the form. If an applicant would accept a place at the School irrespective of whether he is awarded a scholarship or bursary, the £325 Registration Fee should be paid. An applicant who would only accept a place at the School on receipt of a bursary should pay the non-refundable £50 Scholarship Application Fee.

Specific competitive bursaries

Specific Year 9 bursaries

- a. The Sherwood Award, for very strong candidates who live in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire or Leicestershire
- b. The HJ Flower and H Gower Award, for very strong candidates who are the sons of serving members of the British armed forces
- c. The Derek Kelsey and Richard Lister-Buttle Awards, for very strong candidates who are the sons of Old Harrovians

Specific Year 12 bursaries

- a. The Kane Family Award, which is available to boys who are resident in the London Borough of Harrow
- b. The Sherwood Award, for candidates who live in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire or Leicestershire

Year 7 Awards (UK applicants only)

No Scholarship or Bursary Application Fee is required for a Year 7 award.

All Year 7 awards can fund up to 100% of the School fee from Years 9 to 13, plus the option of Years 7 and 8, or both, at a prep school. The level of funding is dependent on parents' financial circumstances and the amount of bursarial support that they are eligible for.

John Lyon's Charity bursaries

These are available to boys who meet all the following criteria:

- require substantial financial support
- have been resident in Barnet, Brent, Camden, the City of London, Ealing, Harrow, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, or Westminster for more than two years
- are at least Key Stage 2 attainment level 5 (if they are in a state primary school) or expected to achieve at least 65% as an average pass mark at Common Entrance (if they are at a prep school)

Peter Beckwith Scholarships

These are available to boys who meet all the following criteria:

- require substantial financial support
- show significant potential in sport, music, drama or some other creative activity
- are of a standard that might well lead ultimately to Oxbridge admission

On receipt of a Scholarship and Bursary Application Form, a reference will be requested from an applicant's current school. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to a one-day assessment (comprising tests in mathematics, English and IQ, a group activity, and a music test for musicians) at the School in January of Year 6).

If you have any question not addressed in this document, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Admissions Office by email (admissions@harrowschool.org.uk) or by telephone (020 8872 8007).

Dr Eric Sie
Registrar
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