

Admission to Harrow School – General Information

1. 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.

2. 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 to get the best sense of the School's aims and ethos.

There are twelve Open Mornings a year. These take place on Saturday mornings and registration for these is via the School's website. Approximately 75 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. 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.

3. 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 1st May of Year 6, although there are distinct advantages to registering by the end of Year 5 (please see Stage 2 of the Admissions Process). Harrow also accepts 'late' applications between 1st May of Year 6 and 1st 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 for late applicants in the Spring Term

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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 better that a boy takes part in the first round of assessments if at all possible, as the number of places available after this is even more limited (with places having already been offered).

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 1st September to 31st 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 which year of entry a boy should apply for.

Changes of address, guardianship or school following registration should be notified to the Admissions Office as soon as possible. Harrow School cannot be held responsible for the consequences of correspondence not received.

4. 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, Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning. This test is sat either at a boy's school, at an alternative educational establishment or test centre, e.g. the British Council.

Boys sit the ISEB Common Pre-Test between October and May of Year 6, although it is advantageous for the candidate to sit the test between October and December of Year 6. The Admissions Department can access the results of Year 9 applicants who have sat the ISEB Common Pre-Test for other schools, once these applicants have been registered with us. Please note boys applying to multiple schools that use the Common Pre-Test, **can only take the test once per academic year**. In the event of a candidate taking the test more than once within a single academic year, we will be informed, and the first set of results will stand.

More information about these tests is available at the ISEB website (www.iseb.co.uk).

Stage 2

The results of the ISEB Common Pre-tests and references will be reviewed before boys are selected to go forward to Stage 2 of the assessment. 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 pass the Pre-Test but 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

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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 Maths 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 four subjects that he would like to study in the Sixth Form at Harrow and which he would like to be tested in as part of his assessment. A reference is requested from his current school and he is invited to sit tests in his best two of his 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 further tests, 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.

5. 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.

For Year 9 (13+) entry, there is no Common entrance pass mark per se, however we would expect boys holding a place to have achieved an average of at least 65% across the board at Common Entrance 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 Maths with a minimum of 60% and sat setting papers in Science, French and Latin (if studied). Most boys achieve well over 70% at Common Entrance. The marks achieved in these exams will determine which divisions boys will go into when they arrive at Harrow.

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:

- showed 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

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- 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

6. Withdrawal of a Place Prior to 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 could not be paid, or if fees are still outstanding at a previous school.

7. Sibling Policy

Sibling status is considered during the admissions process, but the School does not automatically accept younger brothers who apply for a place. The key determinative 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 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.

8. 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 etc.) 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 determinative 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.

9. 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 are available on the Registration and Acceptance Forms, the scholarship booklet and the Terms and Conditions.

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10. 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 many of these boys coming from British expatriate families. Although most 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 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 once a boy starts at the School. Please note that any subject (including EAL) requiring additional tuition will incur an extra charge.

11. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Harrow School is an inclusive institution which is committed to equal opportunities for all. The School welcomes boys who meet the admissions criteria including those who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The School recognises its duty to make reasonable adjustments for boys who have SEND. Boys who are identified as having special educational needs or disabilities will, like all others, be entitled to access the full school curriculum and be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities on offer in all areas of school life

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.

Harrow is suited to the needs of the more academic boy; however, the School can support and welcomes boys with a wide range of needs.

Parents of boys who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are required to inform the School about these on registration and provide the relevant reports and case history. Feeder schools are also required to disclose details of a boy's specific requirements on their written reference.

For all years of entry, the School requires 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.

All information provided is carefully considered by our specialist SEND team and reasonable adjustments are agreed for admissions assessments in line with the guidance provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). The Registrar will also liaise with the School's Special

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Educational and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo) to assess whether the School is able to meet a boy's needs and, if so, to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made within the School's capability and resources.

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. The Head of Learning Support is always happy to discuss any SEND related issues with parents at any point in the admissions process or prior to submitting an application.

12. 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; and
- the diversity of talent being offered in a particular year.

Therefore, being outstanding in a specific category, is not a guarantee of a scholarship/award.

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.

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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. In the event of an award, House choice at this stage will be extremely limited as we will be filling the few remaining spaces.

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

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.

Please note that only boys in need of bursarial support, will be considered eligible for this award.

John Lyon's Charity Bursaries

These are available to boys who:

- a) require **substantial** financial* support;

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- b) 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; and
- c) are at least Key Stage 2 achieving a minimum score of 110 (if they are in a state primary school) or expected to achieve at least 70% as an average pass mark at Common Entrance (if they are at a prep school).

Peter Beckwith Scholarships

These are available to boys who:

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

***Please note that candidates in need of substantial support are likely to require at least 75% of a bursary award.**

The Sherwood Award

These are available to boys who:

- a) require **substantial** financial* support;
- b) have been resident in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire or Leicestershire;
- c) are at least Key Stage 2 achieving a minimum score of 110 (if they are in a state primary school) or expected to achieve at least 70% as an average pass mark at Common Entrance (if they are at a prep school).

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 and English, a group activity, an interview and a music test for musicians) at the School in January of Year 6.

Specific Year 9 bursaries include:

- a) The Sherwood Award, for very strong candidates who live in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire or Leicestershire. Candidates must require **substantial** financial* support;
- b) The HJ Flower and H Gower Award, for very strong candidates who are the sons of serving members of the British armed forces;

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- c) The Derek Kelsey and Richard Lister-Buttle Awards, for very strong candidates who are the sons of Old Harrovians.

Specific Year 12 bursaries include:

The Sixth Form Award, which is available to boys who are resident in the UK. Candidates must require **substantial** financial* support. Please see Section 12 for further information.

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

**Dr Eric Sie
Registrar
November 2018**

***Please note that candidates in need of substantial support are likely to require at least 75% of a bursary award.**

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