

Bringing out the best in every boy



The Mall School

# Future Schools a Guide for Parents



# Timeline of the 11+ process

Year	Term	Event
4	Autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Standardised scores testing (InCAS)</li><li>Parents' Evening</li></ul>
	Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School exams</li><li>Parents' Evening</li><li>Parent meeting with Headmaster to discuss senior school options</li></ul>
	Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School exams</li><li>Parents' Evening</li></ul>
5	Autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Standardised scores testing (InCAS)</li><li>Parent meeting with Headmaster</li><li>Parents' Evening</li></ul>
	Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School exams</li><li>Parents' Evening</li></ul>
	Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School exams</li><li>Parents' Evening</li><li>Parent meeting with Headmaster</li></ul>
6	Autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>11+ grammar schools assessments</li><li>Standardised scores testing (InCAS)</li><li>Confirm registrations at senior schools</li><li>Interview practice</li><li>Mock 11+ exams</li><li>Parents' Evening</li><li>Online ISEB assessment</li></ul>
	Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Most boys will sit their 11+ examinations</li><li>Senior school interviews</li><li>Offers sent to parents</li></ul>

In the autumn term there is a future schools evening for parents of boys in Year 3 and above and in the spring term we hold a senior schools fair.



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## *Which school should my son go to?*



In the autumn term, parents of boys in Year 3 and above are invited to an 11+ information evening at The Mall where the Headmaster outlines the process for boys moving on to their senior schools. In Year 4, parents meet separately with the Headmaster to discuss senior school options. These meetings continue throughout Year 5.

During Year 4 and 5 parents should visit those schools they are interested in – many parents like to visit more than once. It is a good idea to take

your son with you on the second occasion, but it is unwise to allow him to think that there is only one school that you are considering as his disappointment will be even greater than yours if this does not work out.

Do use open days to ask questions about the senior school, (GCSE, A-Level / IB results, sports teams and their success, extra-curricular provision, bus routes, fees, pastoral care etc) You will of course want to choose a school which caters for your son's individual needs – socially and pastorally as well as academically. You will want to find a school where your son will be happy and thrive. You will also want to choose a school where he is likely to be offered a place.

By the end of Year 5 or start of Year 6, you should have registered your son's name at three to five senior schools.

No two senior schools are alike – either as institutions or in terms of their entry requirements. This is why the best way through the system is in discussion with the Headmaster, though he should merely advise rather than choose the school.

Parents will have different ambitions – some will want schools that have amazing sports facilities, some will want a school with a reputation for caring for the individual, some will prize the academic over all other matters.

Other areas to identify could be the ethos of the school, the size of the school, the pastoral care and assistance for special educational needs, the school's development plans for the future, the school's reputation, the offer of bursaries and/or scholarships and the logistics of day to day travel.



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## *What is the 11+?*

The 11+ is an assessment for pupils joining a senior school in Year 7. Pupils sit the 11+ when they are in Year 6. Year 7 is typically the main entry point for schools as it includes pupils from the maintained sector. Despite increased competition for places, there are also more places available at this entry point. At 11+ the examinations can take place at the start of the autumn term (for the state grammar schools); the second half of the autumn term for the ISEB online assessment; but most exams take place in January of Year 6. The outcome of these examinations will determine which senior school your son will transfer to at the start of Year 7. Interviews usually follow the examinations and a headmaster's report may also be requested by each senior school. If you are considering the maintained sector, you will need to contact your local authority for information regarding application to state schools. If you are looking at grammar schools, registration is completed in the summer term of Year 5.

## *What does the assessment consist of?*

Primarily, boys are assessed in English, mathematics, verbal reasoning and non verbal reasoning although this can vary between senior schools. The tests can be taken as a paper based assessment or as a computer based test. A number of schools use the Independent Schools Examinations Board (ISEB) common pre-test which is an online test for verbal reasoning, non verbal reasoning, English and mathematics.

## *How long are the tests?*

The tests are generally 45 minutes to an hour long. The ISEB common pre-tests are in an online multiple-choice format and take about 2 ½ hours to complete; the tests can be taken together or at separate times either at The Mall or at the senior school for which your son is entered.

## *How does the school prepare boys for these tests?*

The normal class work boys do in English, Maths, verbal and non verbal reasoning prepares them for the 11+. As they move into Year 5, we also use past 11+ papers for practice and other suitable 11+ revision material. We use the InCAS computer based test in the autumn term to track pupils which also gives the boys an opportunity to complete a series of tests that reflects the format of the common pre-test. Verbal reasoning and non verbal reasoning are taught as discrete lessons from Year 4.

In Year 5 homework in other subjects is reduced or removed from the spring term, and additional practice for English, Maths, verbal and non verbal reasoning is provided using the BOFA 11+ practice website.

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## *What happens with the results of the ISEB common pre-test?*



For schools that use the ISEB common pre-test, once the boys have completed their online test the marking is completed electronically. The test score is then adjusted for age. These standardised scores range from 70 to 140 with the average being 100. If your son has been registered for more than one school where they take the common pre-test your son will only need to sit the test once and the results will be shared with those senior schools by ISEB.

## *Will the boys have an interview?*

Many schools include an interview as part of the assessment process. We ask parents to advise us of the date of an interview as the school is not always directly informed. A senior member of staff will conduct a practice for the individual boy a few days before the real interview. During the autumn term in Year 6 we invite an external consultant to interview all the boys. The consultant gives feedback to the boys and to the senior leadership team. Senior staff will do further practice sessions with your son before his actual interview.

## *Will senior schools ask for a reference?*

Most senior schools ask for a confidential reference about a boy from the Headmaster which will indicate if he believes the right choice of school has been made. This does underline the need for parents and the school to be realistic, as well as hopeful, about an individual boy's chances. The reference also includes information about a boy's interests and achievements in other areas apart from the academic. At the start of the autumn term in Year 6, parents are sent a record of achievement form to complete which lists a boy's interests and achievements for the previous year. The record of achievement also includes details of parental involvement with the school. The Headmaster uses this information when completing the confidential references to senior schools.



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## *When do I need to register my son?*

Although your son will not go to his next school until the end of Year 6, the process can begin as early as Year 4, because a few schools have an early closing date for registrations. Most grammar schools require registration in Year 5 and the majority of the independent schools have their registration deadlines in the autumn term of Year 6. Please note that these dates are subject to change so it is best to contact the registrar or the admissions office at individual schools for the most up to date information. School websites and prospectuses should also give you the dates, which can differ widely from school to school. It is very important to make a record of closing dates as schools are likely to be inflexible about late applications.

## *How many schools should we register for?*

Many London parents are putting their sons' names down for several schools at once – which goes some way to explaining the competition for places. It is quite hard to opt for just one school in such a climate and many parents are prepared to pay several registration fees to create a safety net. Ideally, three to five schools would be a good number. At the beginning of Year 6, the Headmaster will ask parents to confirm which schools their sons are registered for.





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## *Is there any provision for boys with special educational needs taking the 11+?*

Boys who have an educational psychologist's assessment may be eligible for additional time in their 11+ assessment. For more information about this please contact the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Mrs Wright.

## *Will my son receive more homework?*

The homework schedule for Years 5 and 6 has been adapted to allow more time for English, maths, verbal reasoning and non verbal reasoning. Once the 11+ exams have finished the homework schedule will change to incorporate more variety. Verbal reasoning and non verbal reasoning homework will start in Year 4.

## *Which schools can my son go to?*

There is a large range of schools in the area that have an intake at Year 7. The local schools we have always fed into at 13+ also have an entry point in Year 7 eg. Hampton, KCS Wimbledon, St George's, Reed's, St Paul's, Westminster, Halliford, Claremont Fan and St James'. If you are considering boarding for your son the Headmaster will discuss your options with you.



## *Are scholarships available at 11+?*

Yes, both academic and non-academic scholarships are available at this entry point. To gain an academic scholarship, most schools do not set additional papers as they use the results from the 11+ assessment. For non-academic scholarships, most schools offer music, sport and drama with some others also offering art and technology. Senior schools will usually have the criteria for scholarship awards on their website. The Headmaster can give more information about non-academic scholarships.

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School Name	Town	Ages	Gender	Type
<b>Independent Schools</b>				
Box Hill	Dorking	11-19	Co-Educational	Day & Boarding
Canbury	Kingston	11-16	Co-Educational	Day
Christ's Hospital	Horsham	11-18	Co-Educational	Day & Boarding
City of London	Blackfriars	10-19	Boys	Day
City of London Freemen's	Ashted, Epsom	7-18	Co-Educational	Day & Boarding
Claremont Fan Court	Esher	2-18	Co-Educational	Day
Epsom College	Epsom	11-18	Co-Educational	Day & Boarding
Ewell Castle	Epsom	2-18	Co-Educational	Day
Frensham Heights	Farnham	3-18	Co-Educational	Day & Boarding
Halliford	Shepperton	11-18	Boys (Co-Ed sixth form)	Day
Hampton	Hampton	11-18	Boys	Day
Hampton Court House	Hampton	3-18	Co-Educational	Day
Harrodian	Barnes	4-18	Co-Educational	Day
Ibstock Place	Roehampton	3-18	Co-Educational	Day
John Lyon	Harrow on the Hill	11-18	Boys	Day
KCS, Wimbledon	Wimbledon	11-18	Boys (Co-Ed sixth form)	Day
Kew House	Brentford	11-18	Co-Educational	Day
Kingston Grammar School	Kingston	11-18	Co-Educational	Day
Latymer Upper	Hammersmith	11-18	Co-Educational	Day
Lord Wandsworth	Hook	11-18	Co-Educational	Day & Boarding
LVS, Ascot	Ascot	4-18	Co-Educational	Day & Boarding
Radnor House	Twickenham	7-18	Co-Educational	Day
Reed's	Cobham	11-18	Boys (Co-Ed sixth form)	Day & Boarding
St Benedict's	Ealing	3-18	Co-Educational	Day
St George's	Weybridge	11-18	Co-Educational	Day
St James	Ashford	11-18	Boys	Day & Boarding
St John's	Leatherhead	11-18	Co-Educational	Day & Boarding
St Paul's	Barnes	7-18	Boys	Day (& Boarding from 13-18)
Westminster Under	Westminster	7-13	Boys (Co-Ed sixth form)	Day
Whitgift	Croydon	10-18	Boys	Day & Boarding

School Name	Town	Ages	Gender	Type
Grammar Schools				
Tiffin	Kingston	11-18	Boys	Day
Sutton	Sutton	11-18	Boys	Day
Langley	Slough	11-18	Co-Educational	Day
Greenshaw	Sutton	11-18	Co-Educational	Day
Mill Hill County High	Edgware	11-18	Co-Educational	Day
Queen Elizabeth's	Barnet	11-18	Boys	Day
Wilson's	Sutton	11-18	Boys	Day
Wallington County Grammar	Wallington	11-18	Boys	Day
Upton Court	Upton	11-18	Co-Educational	Day
Hershel	Slough	11-18	Co-Educational	Day
St Bernard's Catholic	Slough	11-18	Co-Educational	Day









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