



LOUGHBOROUGH Grammar School

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1. Introduction

Loughborough Grammar School (LGS) is an independent day and boarding school for boys aged between 10 and 18 (National Curriculum Years 6 to 13). The School belongs, along with Fairfield Prep School, Loughborough High School and Loughborough Amherst School, to Loughborough Schools Foundation, a family of schools situated on a single campus in Loughborough. The School is a member of HMC.

Our aim is to provide an environment where students can learn to flourish, equipped to live fulfilling lives in the 21st Century. We acknowledge that good academic achievement is vital and we seek to promote this through outstanding teaching where we cultivate a love of learning that we hope will stay with our students throughout their lives. To this end the School seeks to make it possible that each boy receives appropriate support to enable him to fulfil his academic potential. We take pride in our strong pastoral support system and ensure that there is consistency and continuity of care throughout a boys' journey through the school. There is more to an excellent education than good academic achievement; we therefore also encourage all pupils to achieve excellence in whatever aspect of school life they show a particular talent or aptitude for and to play an active part in community life.

The main points of entry to the School are at 10+ (for entry into Year 6), 11+ (for entry into Year 7), 13+ (for entry into year 9) and 16+ (for entry into Year 12). However, examinations for entry are also set at 12+ (for entry into Year 8) and 14+ (for entry into Year 10) where space permits.

The School is open to applications from boys, irrespective of race, nationality, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion or creed, disability or previous educational background. In particular, the School is fully aware of its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. ***The School provides academic and music scholarships and as well as Foundation Bursaries it offers a School Assisted Places Scheme, to provide funds for able pupils on the basis of financial need.***

Admission to the School depends upon a prospective boy meeting the criteria required to maintain and if possible, to improve the educational and general standards for all its pupils commensurate with the ethos of the School. The School also makes every effort to encourage as wide a range of applications as possible, through frequent Open Days, Taster Days and meetings for potential candidates, through advertising, and through contact with local schools.

The School does not discriminate in any way regarding entry. It welcomes pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), providing that it is able to meet their educational needs. We also welcome pupils with other disabilities provided that our site can safely accommodate them,. We strongly advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical or mental disabilities to discuss their son's requirements with the School before sitting our entry tests, so that the School is able to make any reasonable adjustments which are required. Parents must provide a copy of an educational psychologist's report or a medical report if they have one. The School will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for their son if he becomes a pupil at the School.

2. The Procedure for Candidates from 10+ to 14+

a) Registration

Every candidate must be registered prior to the date laid down each year by the School. The deadline is usually late December for entry at 10+, 11+ and 13+. There is a fee of £100 that is paid on registration and this is non-refundable. In certain circumstances late registrations and the late sitting of the examination are allowed at the discretion of the Headmaster.

Admission to the School is dependent upon two factors: firstly, a prospective pupil must meet, through his results in the entrance examinations, the academic criteria required to meet the educational standards of the School; secondly, the School must be satisfied that a boy's attitude to study and behaviour are commensurate with the ethos of the School. This will be assessed through the reference provided by the existing school, his prior disciplinary record, his attitude during the examination process and any interview with senior staff.

b) Examinations for Candidates from 10+ to 14+

Examinations for entry into the Senior School take place from January each year. The syllabi for each year group are published on the web site. Nevertheless, late applications are accepted provided that spaces exist in the relevant year group. The Admissions Registrar will be able to confirm.

All of the examinations are based on the National Curriculum, so that there should be no need for any pupil to make extra preparation for them. The timing of the examination, the announcement of results and the deadline for acceptance is co-ordinated, as far as possible, with other local independent schools to ensure that candidates have a fair chance to make a decision.

Special provision is made for candidates who have been identified as having a specific learning difficulty through an educational psychologist's report. In particular, candidates are given an appropriate allowance of extra time, and cognisance is taken of any report in the final process of selection for entry into the School.

For overseas applicants, entry is by examination in Mathematics and English, as well as a Skype interview.

c) Entry from a previously selective school.

If a boy was previously at a selective school, entry will usually be on the basis of reports from the previous school and interview. If the boy is thought to be on the borderline, then he may be required to sit the relevant entrance exam.

d) Additional Information

Information about each candidate is requested from the candidate's existing school and this information forms an important part of the decision-making process. In addition,

the School may also make direct contact with a candidate's existing school to ensure that selection is made on the best possible evidence.

e) **Interviews**

A number of borderline candidates may be interviewed by the Headmaster and staff who have been involved in the marking of papers, so that there is as much information as possible for the final process of selection.

f) **Selection**

The final selection of candidates takes into account not only the examination performance, but also all the other available data.

The final choice is made by the Headmaster and the Deputy Heads after consultation with the relevant Heads of Year and Heads of Department.

g) **Review place**

Where a boy's academic results in the 11+ Entrance Exam place him just below the normal pass/fail borderline for admission, a 'review place' may be offered, following consultation with the pupil's current Headteacher. The offer of a review place should indicate to parents that Loughborough Grammar School is concerned that the pupil may find the pace of learning at the School difficult. The Head of Year will carry out an interim review at Half-Term in October of Year 7 of the boy's progress and communicate the results to parents. At the end of Autumn Term, a full review will take place and the Head of Year will meet with parents. It is hoped that, at this time, the School will be confident in the boy's ability to meet academic expectations, and that his place can be confirmed. If there is any doubt, the review period will be prolonged until the end of Spring Term, when a further review meeting will be convened, and a final decision made as to whether the boy may remain into Year 8 and beyond.

h) **Scholarships, School Assisted Places and Foundation Bursaries**

A number of honorary scholarships are offered. These have no financial value, but confer considerable prestige: there is a scholars' society with bespoke extension activities, a scholars' tie, and recipients receive one-to-one academic mentoring to ensure that they are being suitably stretched. Scholarships are awarded on academic merit and are dependent upon examination performance. There is no need to make separate applications to be considered for these awards.

There are also a number of Music Scholarships; boys wishing to be considered for a music scholarship must submit their music scholarship application form by the start of the Spring Term. This is in addition to the application to sit the academic entrance examination.

The School can also make limited funds available, according to financial need, to able pupils through the Schools Assisted Places Scheme. These awards are made on academic merit in the entrance examination and will involve a meeting at School with a member of the Bursary staff. A small number of significant School Assisted Places are also available for Year 12 entry up to 50% of fees (larger bursaries may be available, dependent on exceptional performance at GCSE). These are dependent upon performance in the GCSE examinations, parental income and a meeting with a member of the Bursary staff.

Foundation Bursaries are available to pupils currently in the school where family circumstances change unexpectedly. Both the Schools Assisted Places Scheme and Foundation Bursaries Scheme are administered by the Bursary.

i) **Acceptance**

The parents of successful candidates are sent a copy of the Terms and Conditions for Loughborough Schools Foundation and the Parents' Handbook and are required to sign the Acceptance Form and pay a deposit to complete the admission's process.

j) **Appeals**

Parents of candidates not accepted have the right of appeal against the decision within two weeks of the publication of the results. That appeal will be heard by two Governors and their decision is final.

3. **External Entry into the Sixth Form**

a) **Procedure**

In a normal year, pupils enter the School from other schools – some of whom are from overseas. Candidates from home based schools should normally be sixteen years of age, but not yet seventeen on 1 September of the year of entry. Offers for admission for home-based students are made on the basis of interviews with two senior members of staff (from the Headmaster, the Deputy Heads and the Head of Sixth Form - the Head of Department of relevant subjects might also be involved in interviews), a confidential report from the Head of the candidate's existing school, predicted and/or mock GCSE results are also sometimes required.

Offers for overseas students are based on performance on School based examination papers or past IGCSE/GCSE papers in the subjects they wish to study as well as an academic reference from their school. Applicants whose first language is not English should have achieved an IELTS score of at least 6.0. A Skype interview is also required.

Any offer that is made is conditional on achieving a minimum of five subjects in GCSE at grade 6 or above, including English and Mathematics. In addition, individual subjects

may have specific requirements in performance at GCSE, for example a grade 7 at GCSE, if that subject that is to be studied at A Level.

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b) **Acceptance**

The parents of successful candidates are sent a copy of the Terms and Conditions for Loughborough Schools Foundation and the Parents' Handbook and are required to sign the Acceptance Form and pay a deposit to complete the admission's process. The acceptance fee will be refunded if the school does not confirm a conditional offer.

4. **Overseas Students**

Prospective pupils who do not have English as their first language may apply for a place at the school in the usual manner. Their assessment will include an online proficiency test and a written test of English language administered by the Head of English as an Additional Language (EAL). In the event that they visit the School, they may engage in an informal interview with the Head of EAL, or with the Director of Boarding. Alternatively, an interview may take place via Skype, if appropriate.

The results of these English language tests are considered alongside the normal entrance tests appropriate for the age level of entry in order to determine whether the pupil will be able to cope with studying in a second language at LGS. Whilst every applicant is treated as an individual, we generally look for a minimum of A2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for Years 7 & 8 entry; B1 for Year 9 entry; B2 for Y10 entry; and C1 for Lower Sixth (or a high B2 if the student is planning to study Maths and Sciences and scores well on these subject papers).

EAL pupils who are admitted to Loughborough Grammar School will be able to receive specialist help to enable them to access the mainstream curriculum. In addition, pupils may be prepared for exams, where appropriate, such as the Cambridge English Language Assessment examinations and IELTS. The fee for entering these examinations is charged to the end-of-term bill.

During new students' early EAL lessons, further assessment, both overt and discreet, takes place. Subject teachers, tutors and Housemasters also monitor these students both in House and in the mainstream classroom. The Head of EAL may also carry out "shadowing" of new EAL pupils in order to better ascertain their English language needs in the mainstream classroom. Evidence of need for language support will lead to the student receiving group and/or individual EAL lessons.