

Admissions Information for Year 9 2024/25

Registration

Parents wishing to enter their child for admission to Year 9 at Hereford Cathedral School are asked to complete a Registration Form including a non-returnable Registration fee of £75 to the School Registrar. The Registration Form can be downloaded from the School's website, www.herefordcs.com/admissions or obtained from the Admissions department. Payment may be made either by a BACS transfer or a cheque made payable to 'Hereford Cathedral School'. BACS payments to Lloyds Bank: Sort Code 30-94-14 a/c 00198901 (please give REG FEE and pupil's last name as reference).

Completion of the Registration Form ensures that the child's name is on the prospective pupil registration entry list and also ensures that the relevant information will be sent to parents at the appropriate time, as well as allowing them to apply for any relevant scholarships or fee assistance.

Pupils seeking entrance to Hereford Cathedral School are required to attend an interview and sit the 13+ Senior School Entrance Examination. Assessments for entry aim to identify pupils who have the potential to flourish at Hereford Cathedral School. We are obviously keen to ensure that prospective pupils are able to make the most of the opportunities on offer and have the knowledge and skills to settle happily into the School.

The interview and Senior School Entrance Examination are intended for children wishing to enter Hereford Cathedral School at 13+ (Year 9). Candidates should be under 14 on the 1st September of the year they are intending to enter. Scholarships and bursaries are also available to children entering the School at 13+ and can be applied for at the same time as registering.

The Interview

The twenty-minute interview takes place on a separate day prior to the Senior School Entrance Examination. Either the Headmaster or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, Head of Year or a Year 9 Tutor interviews candidates prior to the day of the entrance exam.

The emphasis of the interview is for pupils to talk about themselves and to highlight their strengths. We hope that by meeting a friendly face prior to the Entrance Examination external applicants will be more at ease on the day of the examination. Most pupils enjoy the interview process and are surprised by how straightforward it is.

The Senior School Entrance Examination

The Entrance Examination takes place at Hereford Cathedral School on a Saturday morning in late January and consists of a Non-Verbal Reasoning test and papers in English and Mathematics. The English test lasts 60 minutes and involves reading, comprehension, inference and creative writing. The Mathematics test is based upon work from the Core Key Stage 3 curriculum and lasts 60 minutes. The use of calculators is not permitted. The Non-Verbal Reasoning test assesses the ability to understand and analyse visual information and solve problems using visual reasoning. It will be preceded by a short practice.

Sample papers are available on request.

The Reference

The School will require a reference from the child's current school. The Admissions department will request this, usually prior to the pupil sitting the entrance examination. We regard this as an integral part of the assessment procedure.

Registrations received after the main examination date

Depending upon the availability of spaces, registrations can be received after the main examination. The Admissions department will arrange a suitable date and time for candidates to sit the Entrance Examination and attend interview. However, scholarship applications cannot be accepted once the scholarship auditions and trials have taken place or been awarded.

Offers of places

Offers of places are made in writing by the Headmaster as soon as possible after results are known. A Parent Contract and Acceptance Form are included with the offer letter. Offers will be based upon the reference provided by the child's current school, the results of the Senior School Entrance Examination and the School's judgement about the pupil's ability to benefit from the education provided by the Senior School. For pupils currently at independent schools we will ask the existing school for a confirmation that there are no outstanding fees due.

Acceptance of a place

When a place at the School is accepted, parents/guardians are asked to confirm acceptance in writing to the Headmaster and return the Acceptance Form, signed by both parents/guardians. We also require an acceptance fee of £400; (£150 of this will be retained in the school funds until the pupil leaves. It will then be repaid by means of a credit without interest to the final payment of fees or other sums due to the School. The remaining £250 is non-refundable and will be added to the "HCS Charitable Bursary Scheme"). Payment may be made either by a BACS transfer or a cheque made payable to 'Hereford Cathedral School'. BACS payments to Lloyds Bank: Sort Code 30-94-14 a/c 00198901 (please give ACC FEE and pupil's name as reference).

SCHOLARSHIPS AT 13+

We offer musical, sporting, art, drama and Headmaster's (all-rounder) scholarships to recognise and reward exceptional talent which can be nurtured through an education at Hereford Cathedral School.

Scholarships are guaranteed for the total number of years the child is at the School, subject to good progress. If, however, effort, progress or behaviour is judged to be unsatisfactory, the School reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship – the School reviews scholars' progress termly. Where a pupil has achieved two scholarships or more, the value of the highest award will apply and additional scholarships will be awarded in name only. In general, scholarships are only awarded to pupils entering the school at age 11, 13 and 16. Pupils that enter at intermediate ages may be able to apply for a scholarship at a later stage.

Art Scholarships

Art Scholarships are assessed by the Head of Art.

The Art Scholarship examination is held on a Saturday afternoon in mid-January and consists of a three-hour observational drawing.

Candidates will also hand in a portfolio of work *the week before* the examination. The portfolio should reflect samples of both schoolwork and work reflecting a personal interest in the subject. Candidates' personal work will demonstrate particular areas of interest such as painting, drawing, photography, model making, and digital artwork.

The Head of Art will be happy to give advice to any candidate about the nature of his/her portfolio.

Drama Scholarships

Drama Scholarships are assessed by the Director of Drama.

The Drama Scholarship examination is held on a Saturday afternoon in mid-January. Candidates are asked to learn and perform one short monologue from a choice of three that will be sent to applicants in advance of the audition; to prepare a piece of unseen text, which will be performed with an existing

Drama Scholar (available 15 minutes prior to the audition); and participate in a short interview with the Director of Drama, focusing on the choices in their monologue and unseen text, and their interest in drama.

The Director of Drama will be happy to give advice to any candidate prior to the audition.

Music Scholarships

The Director of Music assesses candidates for music scholarships. At 13+, it is expected that candidates will have two instruments and will have achieved Grade 6 ABRSM in their first instrument. The ability to show evidence of outstanding musical potential, genuine musicianship, enthusiasm and a willingness to be involved in the musical life of the School are all of the greatest importance. It is generally expected that Music Scholars will choose to take a GCSE in Music.

Auditions will be held for 13+ candidates in the first half of the Spring Term. Candidates will be asked to play two contrasting pieces of their choice on each instrument offered and will also be tested in sight-reading and aural work. Questions of a general musical nature may also be asked.

Sports Scholarships

A Sports Scholarship may be considered for pupils who have achieved a minimum of 'county standard' in one or more of the school's core sports (rugby, hockey, football, netball, rowing and cricket), and/or be the exceptional 'stand-out' player amongst their peers in club or school matches.

Alternatively, a pupil may be considered if they can demonstrate 'international potential' in any sport. The athlete will already be identified by their National Governing Body (NGB) and would be expected to be either competing at Junior or Senior National/International Level, nationally ranked (subject to sport), attending a Level 1 or 2 Professional Club/Academy or have Olympic potential in terms of qualifying times/distances.

Students that meet the criteria in more than one of the sports above will be given greater consideration.

Sports Scholarships applicants attend an trial day which includes observation of their performance and tests of their physical and general sporting ability. References from their respective coaches will also be required.

Headmaster's Award

It is not possible to apply for a Headmaster's Award which are given at the discretion of the Headmaster. Typically, they will be awarded to pupils who have entered for two of the other scholarships, but narrowly failed to gain an award.

FEE ASSISTANCE

A limited number of transformational bursaries are available each year to provide full financial support to families who would not otherwise be able to support their child's education at the school. We also offer partial fee assistance on a sliding scale according to the results of our means test. Bursaries can be awarded to supplement a scholarship, or simply as a means to supporting pupils. All bursary awards and assisted places are subject to an independent parental means test, which takes into account savings, investments and realisable assets as well as income. Bursary Administration Limited (BAL) will contact parents to arrange a home visit and provide the school with a report.

Support is available to pupils in Year 7 and above who are likely to gain the most from an education at Hereford Cathedral School and who will contribute fully to school life. Awards are made from a limited fund and therefore not all applications made will be successful.

Bursary Application Forms

A link to Application Forms are available on request.

Following the initial online application, Bursary Administration Limited will then contact parents directly to arrange a home visit.

Offers of Bursaries

The Bursar will make offers of bursaries in writing in the Spring Term once the Scholarship trials/auditions and the Entrance Examination have taken place.

Conditions of a Bursary Award

A bursary will be available for the total number of years the child is at the School, subject to good progress and behaviour and an annual means-tested update. If, however, progress and behaviour is judged to be unsatisfactory, the School reserves the right to withdraw the Bursary. Parents would be given at least one term's notice for the intention to withdraw the Bursary, during which time the pupil would have the opportunity to improve to the required standard and thereby retain it.

The School respects the confidentiality of bursary awards made to families and recipients are expected to do likewise.

Notes

Where an award is not made for a given scholarship, the School may vire funds to increase the above awards or increase bursary funds. It is possible to be awarded a scholarship and still be eligible for bursarial support. Scholarships are retained throughout the school life of the pupil, subject to satisfactory performance. Further details concerning the awards of music and sport awards can be obtained from the Admissions Officer.

***On occasions, where standards of applications are extremely high but financial constraints limit the number of Scholarships offered, Honorary Scholarships are awarded. These attract no financial remuneration but are accorded the same status as other Scholarships.**

For further advice or to request an application form, please contact:

Director of Admissions – Mrs Libby Eaves 01432 363506 admissions@herefordcs.com

Bursar's PA – Mrs Jones 01432 363544 bursarpa@herefordcs.com

Head of Art – Miss Greenough f.greenough@herefordcs.com

Director of Drama – Mr Martin l.martin@herefordcs.com

Music Administrator – Mrs Turtle 01432 363531 a.turtle@herefordcs.com

Director of Sport – Mrs Hopkins 01432 363522 s.hopkins@herefordcs.com