



# Admissions Policy

## Introduction

The John Lyon School is a successful and well regarded independent HMC boys' school situated in Harrow on the Hill. The School is easily accessible from nearby underground stations:- Harrow on the Hill which is on the Metropolitan Line and is a 13 minute walk or South Harrow which is on the Piccadilly Line and a 10 minute walk away. The School is also served by a number of local bus routes as well as a home-to-school bus service.

## School Aims

- To treat every boy as an individual
- To strive for academic excellence
- To provide outstanding pastoral care
- To offer a broad range of opportunities outside the classroom

## School Ethos

The John Lyon School has a richly deserved reputation for providing an excellent all-round education that combines high academic standards with excellence in Sport and the Arts. The School is a friendly and purposeful place. Learning is both broad and deep, and we offer a unique education that embraces opportunity and excellence both within and beyond the classroom. Sport, Music, Drama, societies and community projects all flourish and thrive. At John Lyon every pupil matters.

## Entry Points

The usual entry points are at 11+, 13+ and 16+ (Sixth Form), although pupils may be considered for other years if places are available.

For the purposes of entry applicants' ages are calculated according to UK custom. The School does not rigidly apply the 1st September birthday watershed for determining an applicant's eligibility for entry, but an applicant whose birthday falls after 1st September in the year of entry will need to demonstrate that he is of sufficient maturity to cope with the academic and social demands of the School. In regard to summer-born pupils, we do not formally 'weight' results for summer-born applicants but we do take note of those pupils who are significantly younger than their peers within the application process and when making our offers.

Occasionally, an applicant may have fallen behind in his education due to illness, time spent abroad, etc. In such a case, the School may offer a place in a year lower than the applicant's age would normally imply. Occasionally, the School may also offer an outstanding applicant a place in a year ahead of his chronological age group. Parents or guardians will be consulted before such an offer is made, but the decision as to the appropriate year for the applicant, taking into account all the relevant circumstances, is a matter for the Head, whose decision is final.

## **Visiting the School**

Our annual Open Day takes place in the Autumn term: there is no need to book in advance. We also host 'School in Action' afternoons throughout the year, which provides an opportunity to tour the School at work and meet the Head. Please contact the Admissions Office to book a place on the next available date if you are interested.

## **Registration Procedures**

To apply for admission please complete the registration form then submit this to the Admissions Office together with the appropriate registration fee. You will receive confirmation that your son is eligible to sit the entrance examination. This does not constitute an offer of a place at the School. The final dates for submission of an application are 31<sup>st</sup> October of the year preceding entry for 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry

Parents are required to declare, on the Registration Form, any medical condition or learning difficulty which may affect performance in the examination. Any supporting documentation from relevant professionals should be submitted too. Additional time in the entrance examinations may be allocated where appropriate.

## **Entrance and Awards**

Selection is based upon: performance in our entrance examinations, school reports and an interview at 11+ and 13+. We are an academically selective school and potential and achievement in at least one major academic area is required of all successful applicants.

All boys who sit the 11+ or 13+ examinations in the January preceding entry will be considered for Academic Scholarships; their performance in the examination, their school report and their interview will all be taken into consideration. Award Scholarships are also available for the most able candidates in Art, Drama, Music and Sport: additional assessments will be required for these awards. Scholarships normally provide a remission from between £500 to £2,000 of the tuition fees per year. Award Scholarship application forms are available to download from our website or can be requested from the Admissions Office if required. The final dates for submission of a Scholarship Application is the 31<sup>st</sup> October in the year proceeding entry.

Means tested bursaries are also available. Please request a 'Confidential Statement of Income' application form from the Admissions Office when you send in your registration form. The closing date for receipt of these assessment applications, together with all the necessary supporting documentation, is 31<sup>st</sup> October in the year proceeding entry.

Once a place has been accepted by returning the Form of Acceptance, together with the Confirmation of Entrance cheque for £750, parent(s) will be sent a copy of The John Lyon School Handbook for Parents, which contains our current Terms and Conditions and Rules and Regulations. Both parents/guardians will be required to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of these in order to secure the place at the School. In the event of a withdrawal after a place has been accepted the Confirmation of Entrance fee cannot be refunded.

## **11+ Examination**

The Entrance Examination is in three parts:

- English examination – 1 hour
- Mathematics examination – 1 hour
- Group activity and interview - 2 hours

### *English*

We focus attention on the basic Spelling and Grammar skills of entrants alongside comprehension and creativity. The format is typically a comprehension passage followed by creative writing element, usually involving a picture stimulus which is the format of much of this type of task up to and including IGCSE examinations. This might be either non-fiction or fiction and pupils should be prepared for either. The content of the comprehension is aimed at the level of a confident year 6 pupil. We have a level of intellectual rigour in our teaching in Year 7 and it is important that pupils can make this necessary 'step-up' on arrival. Students are expected to be able to offer comments on the effect of choices made by the writers and questions are graduated in complexity.

Pupils should be reading widely and frequently, outside as well as in school, for pleasure and information. They should be able to read silently, with good understanding, inferring the meanings of unfamiliar words, and then discuss what they have read.

The test in English is written to identify pupils who are confident with language, in their reading, comprehension and writing. In addition, pupils' grammar, spelling and punctuation should be accurate and handwriting neat and legible. Marks will be awarded specifically for this area in the creative element of the paper.

### *Mathematics*

The 11+ Mathematics examination requires knowledge of all topics from the Mathematics Key Stage 2 National Curriculum ([link](#)). Candidates will encounter problems that test these topics across a range of difficulty levels in both familiar and unfamiliar contexts. Few candidates are expected to be able to answer every question. The specimen paper is representative of the difficulty of the questions likely to be encountered and as such provides an excellent preparation for the examination.

Calculators are not permitted. Where appropriate, the best candidates will show complete working to the support their answers; we are looking for pupils who can develop clear and concise solutions rather than just those who can reach the correct answer.

### *Group Activities*

As part of the entrance examinations day, boys will take part in a series of group activities. These are not academic tests, but an opportunity for us to see how boys respond to different problems and how they work in practical circumstances. As a School that values potential highly, we observe these activities to judge the 'teachability' of potential Lyonians and what they will add to the whole School community.

These activities cannot be prepared for, but will include small group tasks and problem-solving challenges.

### *Interview*

All applicants are interviewed by an academic member of the Senior Team. The interview will be done in a small group and boys will be asked to talk about a topic, which may be academic, or based in current affairs or similar. It is an opportunity for a boy to tell us more about his interests and aspirations and our experience is that many pupils enjoy our interviews and leave us smiling,

Candidates are with us for the whole day. There will be a lunch break between the two sections. No explicit preparation is required for the interview.

### **I3+ Examination**

The I3+ examinations consist of four compulsory papers:

- English – 1.5 hours
- Mathematics – 1 hour
- French – 45 minutes
- Science – 45 minutes

An optional Latin paper can also be taken.

The John Lyon School places particular importance on our I3+ interview process. All candidates should normally meet the Head for an interview, prior to the examination date. During this interview, which lasts for fifteen minutes, each candidate will be asked about his interests, given a passage to read aloud and do some mental arithmetic.

### **Sixth Form (I6+ Examination)**

For those interested in Sixth Form Entry we hold an Open Evening in the Autumn term. This offers the opportunity to meet the Head of Sixth Form, Department Heads and the Heads of UCAS and Oxbridge. Those interested are also invited to join our current Year 11 pupils for their AS Level options talks in January.

The closing date for I6+ Application Forms is 31st January in the year of entry. Interviews for I6+ entry will be held at the beginning of March. A completed application form and confirmation of predicted GCSE grades are required. We will also write to the candidate's current school requesting a reference.

I6+ candidates are invited into school to meet the Head of Sixth Form to discuss the subjects they would like to take for A-Level. Conditional and Unconditional Offers will be made pending predicted grades and GCSE results.

In order to proceed automatically into the Sixth Form, it is necessary for a candidate to achieve 6 GCSE passes at A\*-B, including A grades in the four subjects they wish to study at AS Level with a minimum of C grades in Mathematics and either English Literature or English Language. Any offers are conditional upon examination grades and further discussion about his options may be required once your son receives his results.

### **General Information**

Our School website [www.jonhlyon.org](http://www.jonhlyon.org) is being continually updated and is an excellent source of information. Some of our policies and procedures are available online for viewing; please do not

hesitate to contact us if you require a paper format rather than an electronic version. Some of these policies include:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Policy and arrangements for admission, discipline and exclusions
- Curriculum Policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Education and welfare provision for pupils with statements and pupils for who English is an additional language
- Policy for health and safety on school visits
- Rewards and sanctions policy
- Complaints policy and number of formal complaints in the previous school year

### **Summer-born applicants**

We do not weight results for summer-born applicants but we do take note of those pupils who are significantly younger than their peers within the application process and when making our offers.

### **Extra time and the use of laptops in entrance examinations**

Parents are required to declare in a letter attached to their registration application, any medical condition or learning difficulty which may affect performance in the examinations. In some circumstances we may be able to arrange additional time for completion of at least some papers in the entrance examination. We may also be able to arrange for the use of a word processor for the 13+ English paper should this be judged appropriate. In such cases notification, supported by a report from the candidate's educational psychologist, is required well in advance of the entrance exam day.

### **Equality**

All candidates for admission are treated equally, irrespective of their, or their parents', race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, orientation, property, birth or other status. We comply with our legal and moral responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and the Equality Act, 2010).

*The Equality Act 2010 provides a single, consolidated source of discrimination law that applies to all schools. Schools may not discriminate unlawfully against pupils because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief, or sexual orientation. In addition to this The John Lyon School acknowledges our non-discrimination and planning requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act of 2001 and the Equality Act 2010. The SEND Code of Practice 2014, revised April 2015.*