

## **Admissions Policy A1 [ISI 32 (3) (a)]**

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Our Admissions Policy has been shaped to ensure that those who join Bloxham School are happy, successful and thrive in our environment.

We are an academically selective school, though academic ability is by no means our only consideration when admitting candidates to Bloxham. We deliver an all-round educational ethos, blending first-class academic tuition with a broader curriculum of sport and the arts, under-pinned by Christian values. As such, we aim, through our Admissions Policy, to admit those candidates who meet the relevant admissions criteria as set out in this policy.

### **Equality, diversity and disability**

All candidates for admission will be treated equally, irrespective of their, or their parents' race, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, religion and belief, gender reassignment or any disability. Candidates will also be treated equally in respect of their parents' age, gender or marital or civil partnership status.

The School is inclusive and welcomes applicants with disabilities and special educational needs. The School currently has limited facilities for the disabled but will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 in order to accommodate the needs of candidates who have disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the School can cater adequately.

Parents of a candidate who has any disability or special educational needs should provide the School with full details on registration. The School needs to be aware of any particular requirements which may affect a candidate's ability to participate in the admissions procedure and to take full advantage of the education provided at the School.

Based on the information provided, the Head of Learning Support and the Headmaster through consultation with the parents, shall determine the reasonable adjustments that are required for the applicant during the admissions procedure and those that are required should the offer of a place be made, in accordance with the School's obligations under equality legislation.

### **Entry at 11+ (day and weekly boarding)**

Candidates must complete our Assessment Day, which comprises an exam, testing in verbal reasoning, maths and English; and an interview. The Assessment Day takes place in November before expected entry (while the candidate is in Year 6). Successful candidates will be offered a place following the Assessment Day, subject to a positive reference from the candidate's current school.

Academic scholarships may be awarded for an outstanding performance in the exam. Further scholarship assessments, in Art, DT, Drama, and Music, also take place at this time.

### **Entry at age 13 (day and boarding)**

Assessment for those seeking entry at 13 comprises a verbal reasoning test and an interview in the Lent Term of the candidate's Year 7. Successful candidates will be offered a place subject to a positive reference from the candidate's current school.

For those sitting candidates sitting the Common Entrance, offers are provisional, and confirmed following satisfactory performance in this examination.

For entrance at 13, scholarships are available in Academia, Art, DT, Drama, Music and Sport.

*For those seeking to join from September 2019*, the arrangements will include a pre-test and Assessment Day. The pre-test (for which Bloxham will use the ISEB Common Pre-test) will be taken at the candidate's current school or at Bloxham School, if preferred, between November and January during their Year 7. Providing the candidate's overall score, when taken as a combination of performance in the four tested areas (verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning, Maths and English) reaches the benchmark standard, they will be invited to attend the school's Assessment Day, which will take place the following February (while still in Year 7). The Assessment Day will comprise an interview, group exercise and an unprepared piece of extended writing. Performance on the day will be scored to standard criteria and considered alongside a report from the candidate's current school, with these four elements – the interview, group exercise, written piece and school report – considered equally. Places are offered following the Assessment Day; for those sitting Common Entrance, offers are provisional, and confirmed following satisfactory performance in this exam.

A further Assessment process may be held in May of that year (when the candidate is in Year 7), and/or in September of the following year (when the candidate is in Year 8), if space allows.

### **Entry at age 16 (day and boarding)**

Candidates for entry to the Sixth Form are asked to complete a two-part form. Section A is filled in by the candidate, it should then be passed with Section B to their present Head, who is asked to give further information and to return the completed form to Bloxham School. Candidates are then invited for an interview with a senior member of staff.

Conditional offers are only made to those who are expected to achieve the requirement for entry to the Sixth Form. We would normally expect students to achieve a minimum of six GCSEs, including Maths and English, at grades 9 to 5 (or grade equivalent). Students should achieve a grade 6 or above in those subjects they wish to take at A Level (and a grade 7, if studying Maths and the sciences). For subjects with no associated GCSE, the grades achieved in other subjects will be taken into consideration. Entry onto A Level Courses will be at the discretion of the Deputy Head, Curriculum.

At 16, scholarships are available in Academia, Art, DT, Drama, Music and Sport.

### **In Year entry**

Subject to available places it is sometimes possible for pupils to join our School in Year. Admission assessment for these candidates is at the Headmaster's discretion.

### **Overseas Candidates**

Bloxham School welcomes applications from overseas candidates, however all candidates must have the legal right to live and study in the UK.

*If candidates require sponsorship to come to our School, parents should bring this to the attention of the Admissions Department as soon as possible.*

It is important that candidates have a sufficient level of English to be able to benefit from the broad and varied curriculum offered at Bloxham School and are able to make a positive contribution to the School community. It is a policy of our school that candidates for whom English is not their first language must have a base level of English at, or to the equivalent of level 5.5 ILETS.

In order for us to assess candidates English capability additional assessment may be required during the admissions process for candidates whose first language is not English.

### Registration

Parents are asked to submit the following additional documents with the registration form when making an application to the School:

- a letter from the head teacher of the candidate's current School, enclosing their two last school reports;
- a 200 word statement written by the candidate, outlining their interests and why they wish to study at Bloxham School.

### Interview

Candidates who are invited for interview may be interviewed via Skype, if an in-person interview at the School is not possible.

Candidates spoken English will also be assessed as part of the interview.

### Additional testing

Overseas candidates seeking to join at 13 or 14 are asked to complete entrance tests in Maths and English as well as an English listening assessment.

Candidates seeking to join at 16 will be invited to sit academic papers, including maths and English, based on UK GCSE examinations.

Candidates wishing to join the School for the Sixth Form are expected to demonstrate an ability to achieve the equivalent qualification of at least a B grade at GCSE in the subjects they wish to study at A Level.

### Entrance tests

Testing will normally take place at school. Occasionally, and at the discretion of the Admissions Department, tests may be taken elsewhere, provided adequate invigilation can be guaranteed.

### 2nd Interview

Upon completion of the tests, successful candidates who have visited the school will be offered a place.

Those who have not been able to visit in person, are then interviewed for a second time on Skype before the decision to offer a place is made.

## **Awards**

A limited number of discretionary awards may be available. These are summarised as follows, and further information may be found in our Bursaries Policy:

### **Merit Awards**

At each of the three main points of entry (11+, 13+ and 16+) the School offers a number of merit awards each year to recognise talent in the following areas:

Academic

Music

Art

Drama

Design & Technology

Sport (13+ and 16+ only)

**Scholarships** which are the major merit awards.

**Exhibitions** which are the lesser merit awards.

### **Bursaries**

Bloxham School seeks to widen access to its mainstream academic education by offering bursarial support to parents who would not otherwise be able to afford the fees.

**The Raymond Trust** is able to offer generous support to talented students for whose parents Bloxham's fees are out of reach (13+ only). Generous support is available to children of Armed Forces personnel, Clergy, Teachers and Old Bloxhamists (who may also be able to apply to the Woodard Benefit Fund).

*This policy should be read in conjunction with the Bursaries Policies.*