



Admission at 11+

Pupils seeking entrance to Hereford Cathedral School from another school are required to attend an interview and sit the 11+ Senior School Entrance Examination. Assessments for entry aim to identify boys and girls 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 11+ (Year 7). Candidates should be under 12 on the 1st September of the year they are intending to enter. Scholarships and Bursaries are also available to children entering the School at 11+.

Pupils at Hereford Cathedral Junior School (HCJS) are not normally expected to sit the Senior School Entrance Exam. In some exceptional cases, however, members of HCJS are required to sit the Entrance Exam, while all pupils who enter HCJS in Year 5 or later are normally expected to sit the exam. All HCJS pupils are interviewed as part of the transfer process to the Senior School.

The Interview

For pupils from other schools, the interview takes place on a separate day prior to the Senior School Entrance Examination. Either the Headmaster or a member of the Senior Management Team/ Head of House or a Year 7 Tutor interviews candidates prior to the day of the entrance exam. Candidates are asked to bring something (e.g. musical instrument, trophy, photographs etc) that they would be happy to talk about at interview. Candidates are also required to read a brief comprehension exercise.

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 interview for pupils from Hereford Cathedral Junior School takes place at a later date but is conducted along exactly the same lines as those described above for the pupils applying from other schools.

The Senior School Entrance Examination

The Entrance Examination takes place at Hereford Cathedral School on a Saturday morning in late January or early February and consists of a Verbal Reasoning test and papers in English and Mathematics.

The English test lasts 60 minutes and involves comprehension, a creative writing exercise and commentary.

The Mathematics test is based upon work involved at levels 4 and 5 of the national curriculum and lasts 50 minutes. The use of calculators is not permitted.

The Verbal Reasoning test is a type of IQ test and lasts 50 minutes, preceded by a short practice.

The Reference

The School will require a reference from your child's current school. The Admissions Officer will request a reference from your child's present school, usually prior to the pupil sitting the entrance examination. The School will also ask whether all outstanding fees have been met by those attending another independent school. We regard this as an integral part of the assessment procedure.

Offers of Places

Offers of places are made in writing by the Headmaster as soon as possible after results are known. These will be based upon the reference provided by your child's current school, the results of the Senior School Entrance Examination for external applicants 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

Parents are asked to confirm acceptance in writing to the Headmaster. When a place at the School is accepted, we 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"). Cheques made payable to Hereford Cathedral School.

Transfer from Hereford Cathedral Junior School

Junior School parents are required to pay the £400 (less the £150 if already paid whilst at the Junior School) but not the registration fee of £75.

Registrations received after the main examination date

Depending upon the availability of spaces, registrations can be received after the main examination. The Admissions Officer will arrange a suitable date and time for candidates to sit the Entrance Examination and attend interview.

Scholarships at 11+

The School offers academic, musical, sporting and all-rounder scholarships. 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. 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. Pupils that have had the opportunity to apply for a scholarship at 11+ are not allowed to make a subsequent application at 13+. The only exceptions to this are those pupils applying for an Art Scholarships at 13+, as these awards are not made at 11+.

Dean's Scholarships

These are academic awards each with a value of 15% of school fees. They are awarded by the Headmaster on the basis of a candidate's performance in a Scholarship Exam.

In the case of pupils from HCJS, the Headmaster of the Junior School advises which pupils should be invited to sit the Scholarship Exam.

In the case of pupils from other schools, shortly after the Senior School Entrance Examination, a number of the best candidates are invited back for a Scholarship Day. There is no application form to complete; all Senior School Entrance Examination candidates are automatically considered for this scholarship procedure if their results are good enough.

Music Scholarships and Exhibitions

The Director of Music assesses candidates for awards. In the case of pupils from HCJS, the Headmaster of the Junior School advises which pupils should be invited to apply for a Music Scholarship or Exhibition.

The top candidates may be awarded a Music Scholarship, with a value of 10% of school fees. Other candidates may be awarded a Music Exhibition, in which case they will be given free music lessons on an instrument and, in exceptional circumstances, on their second instrument.

Auditions will be held each year for 11+ 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.

At 11+ it is expected that all candidates will have reached the standard required by Grade 5 of the Associated Board before applying. General promise of musicianship is of the greatest importance, as is enthusiasm and potential. It is always a good idea for candidates to visit the Music School and the Director of Music for an informal pre-audition prior to formal applications. Please contact the Music Administrator to arrange an appointment on 01432 363531.

Sports Scholarships

Sports Scholarships are assessed by the PE Department in the first half of the Spring Term, each with a value of 10% of fees. In the case of pupils from HCJS, the Headmaster of the Junior School advises which pupils should be invited to apply for a Sports Scholarship. References will be required for applicants from other schools.

Candidates should have regularly represented their school's first team and will often be at least of the standard required for county selection in one of the major sports offered by the School. Alternatively, external applicants may come with a very strong recommendation from their school.

All-rounder Scholarships

All-rounder Scholarships are assessed by the Headmaster, each with a value of 10% of fees. It is not possible to apply for an All-rounder Scholarship. They are usually awarded to pupils who have been entered for two of the other scholarships, but narrowly failed to gain an award. Typically, they are awarded to a boy or girl who, following the Senior School Entrance Exam, has been invited back to the Academic Scholarship Day and who has separately applied for either a Music or Sports Scholarship.

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.

Only pupils who join the School after the 11+ main entrance examination are eligible to apply for 13+ scholarship trials/auditions.

DEADLINES AND KEY DATES FOR ENTRY AT 11+

2017/18 <i>(September entry into Yr 7)</i>	Deadline for Applications by:	Date of Scholarship /Examination Day:
REGISTRATION FORM & FEE	December 2016 (year 6)	
BURSARY APPLICATIONS	December 2016	
SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP	December 2016	Friday 20 January 2017
ENTRANCE INTERVIEWS		Saturdays 14 & 21 January
MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP	December 2016	Thursday 26 January 2017
ENTRANCE EXAM DAY		Saturday 28 January 2017
ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP	n/a (by invitation from the School)	Friday 3 February 2017