

The assessment procedure for entry from 2009

Several Assessment Days will be held at Marlborough in the January or February of the year prior to entry.

A candidate will arrive at the College around 10.45 a.m. and shortly thereafter he or she will take a Test for Potential which has been designed for Marlborough by Durham University. *We stress most strongly that this is not an academic examination and that prep schools cannot prepare their pupils for it in any way at all.*

After lunch the candidate will be escorted by a senior pupil to his or her chosen house. Here there will be two short interviews, one with the HM and another with a general assessor, and this will complete the assessment.

Towards the end of February of that year, we shall consider the Prep School report and we shall take account of how a pupil has performed in interview and in the Test for Potential. The purpose of this test is not to cream off the academically brightest children but to inform our decision in the case of those pupils who find themselves on the borderline for selection. We shall take note of family connections with the College and of the commitment of those pupils who have been on the 'Firm' list for a considerable time.

In early March, we shall write to parents offering their son or daughter either a place on the Firm ('A') List or on the Reserve ('B') List. In a very few cases we may suggest that, in our opinion, Marlborough would not be the most suitable school for a child.

Parents of children who are offered a Firm Place will be asked to confirm their choice of house and to pay a deposit of £1,000. If particular houses turn out to be oversubscribed, we shall offer places in other houses.

A pupil offered a Firm Place after our assessment at 12+ is guaranteed a place at the College for entry at 13, subject to continuing reports from the prep school that he or she is behaving well and trying hard and with the requirement that the pupil will be successful in the Common Entrance examination.

If and when parents decline the offer of a Firm Place, we shall at once offer that place to the next pupil on our lists. We shall reserve a number of places to meet the case of pupils who apply after the standard assessment date. These pupils will be placed on a 'Master's List' and may well win a place if they can show a particular merit or need. It is also possible that on a prep school's strong recommendation a worthy late-developer may win a place by this route.