



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

Admissions Policy

This Policy addresses ISI Regulatory Requirements (Effective Sept 2018) Part 6, para 32, sub-para 3(a)

The aim of our Admissions Procedure is to ensure that pupils who join the College are able to be happy, successful and secure within our academic, cultural and pastoral environment. We are an academically selective school and identification of high academic aspiration and a willingness to work hard is central to our admissions process. However, we do not believe in selection upon academic criteria alone. Our co-educational boarding nature offers wonderful opportunities to pupils but also makes certain demands: readiness to live as a boarder within a tight-knit community is key to prospects of success. We also recognise the central value of Art, Drama, Music, Service and Sport and look to encourage enthusiasm for these fields. We look for pupils who are prepared to make the most of the opportunities on offer at Marlborough.

We do not discriminate on grounds of race or creed: those looking to join Marlborough College must, however, be comfortable with the demands set by our Anglican foundation and character.

We seek to operate our Admissions procedures fairly and sensitively. We value historic and family connections with the College but are also keen to foster new associations and links to build an inclusive and diverse pupil body. Pupils and their parents must be prepared to work with us for the good of the school community. They should understand our rules and aspirations and be prepared to work with us in order to follow and achieve them.

Until September 2021, Year 9 pupils will be admitted to the College as a result of an Assessment that occurs in the Easter Term of Year 7.

Registrations are taken from four years before the intended date of entry. The aim of the Admissions system is to encourage the diversity that is such a pronounced feature of a Marlborough education. We are looking for academically ambitious all-rounders, and so co-curricular contributions and character are considered carefully alongside ability in the classroom. The candidate's head's reference is very important in the decision-making process. The academic part of the reference is confirmed by the online Independent Schools Examination Board Pre-Test and together these make up 60% of the assessment. Two interviews take place at the College, and in these we are looking for potential and a willingness to engage in all aspects of the life of a busy boarding school. Places are offered at the beginning of March and guarantee pupils a place in the College. We still ask pupils to undertake the Common Entrance examinations in the following year in order to maintain academic focus and to help us with setting purposes. However, a child's place in the school is not dependent on the outcome of these examinations. We appreciate that some schools may not prepare children for these examinations and of course we make allowances for this.

The current Admissions system helps parents to plan ahead with greater certainty and it enables the College to cast a broader net in order to attract good pupils who will benefit from the great range of opportunities on offer and who will be willing to accept invitations to explore.

The College's Bursary policy has also helped to broaden access and we are increasing the bursarial provision available year on year. Details of the College's Bursary Policy can be seen elsewhere on the website.

A small number of late applications may be considered should spaces become available. Assessment will be via current school reports, a visit to the College, an interview, a Head's Reference and a Midyis test. As with the main assessment we are looking for academically able and ambitious pupils who will thrive in our full boarding environment and make a strong co-curricular offering to the College.

From 2022 onwards, Year 9 pupils will be admitted to the College as a result of an Assessment that occurs either in the Easter Term of Year 6 or Year 7, with registrations opening 5 years before the intended date of entry. The Year 6 assessment date will give families greater certainty at an early stage, particularly families where a school transfer is necessary between Year 6 and Year 7. However, the decision for a child to take up a place at a full boarding school is one that needs to be thought through carefully and some families will come to this decision later than year 6. In order not to penalise these families and to ensure that our intake is as diverse and inclusive as possible, we will retain a number of places for pupils applying in Year 7 and a small number of places for those who apply to us in Year 8. Those applying in Year 6 and 7 will undergo an Assessment at the College in the Easter Term worth 50% of our assessment and the ISEB Pre-Test and the Head's reference will make up the remaining 50%. Those applying to the College in Year 8 will be asked to provide a Head's reference and will attend College for an Assessment day that will include a Midyis assessment to confirm the academic element of the Head's reference and two interviews.

Entry to Year 10

A small number of pupils will be admitted to the College in Year 10 if space is available. Entry will be based on a Head's reference, a Midyis assessment and an interview. The criteria for admission are the same as for the Year 9 Assessment where we are looking for academically ambitious all-rounders, and co-curricular contributions and character are considered carefully alongside ability in the classroom.

Entry to Year 12

Approximately 25 girls and a small number of boys are admitted to the College in Year 12. References are taken for the pupil's current school and they are invited to the College for interview and to sit assessment papers based on their A level choices in the Autumn term of Year 11. Offers are made in early December. Overseas applicants may be interviewed and sit papers abroad but all applicants are required to have visited the College. Late applications may be considered should places unexpectedly become available. They will undergo the same assessment process as those sitting the main assessment. We are looking for academically able and ambitious pupils with aspirations to achieve places at top universities and colleges in the UK and overseas. Nevertheless, as a full boarding school, co-curricular contributions and character are considered carefully alongside ability in the classroom.

The College reserve the right to ask for updated references at any time before a child joins the College. Should significant pastoral or behavioural concerns arise such that our ability to keep the child safe in a full boarding environment is compromised or it is deemed that their behaviour may

be detrimental to the welfare of other boarders then the College may, at its discretion, withdraw the offer of a place.

For further information see: Equal Opportunities Policy, Bursary Policy, SENDA Policy

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Where found: College Website

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