

ENTRY TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

A. Introduction

Some Independent Senior Schools use the Common Entrance examinations for assessing boys and girls who transfer at the age of 13+. The 13+ examination is taken in the week after the summer school half term.

The syllabuses are devised by the Independent Schools Examinations Board. These are broadly in line with National Curriculum requirements, but at an above average level in most subjects. **See www.iseb.co.uk**

Papers are set by appointed examiners and answers are marked by the Senior School for which a candidate is entered.

Other Independent Schools prefer to set their own assessments which usually involve English, Maths, a standardised reasoning test, and a pupil interview. Please see the attached list for individual school details. a pre-test to establish whether a candidate's academic level is appropriate.

There is an entry fee for the Common Entrance examination of approximately £100.00 and all Year 8 pupils sit this.

Subjects examined at 13:
English, Maths, Science, French, Geography, History, RS and Latin (optional)

Some parents see Common Entrance as daunting. It should be noted that English, Maths, French, Science and Latin offer different levels in order to ensure that all candidates are able to achieve in these subjects. The experience of studying an assessed range of subjects at this stage is also excellent preparation for 16+ examinations.

Rose Hill has extensive experience in preparing children for these examinations. The use of subject specialist teachers from Year 5 and setting in the core subjects ensures individual attention, tailored to individual exam requirements. Interview techniques are also practised.

B. Head's Report

A Head's report is normally requested by the senior school and forms part of the assessment procedure. This report includes comment about a candidate's cultural and sporting achievements, character, and contribution to school life.

C. Pre-tests

Pre-tests are used by an increasing number of senior schools, usually in Year 6 or 7. They give parents an early indication of whether the school is right for the child. Some senior schools will confirm a place based on the pre-test, some still require success at Common Entrance.

D. Choosing a School

The Headmaster is present at most Parents' Evenings for advice and personal appointments are encouraged. Prospectuses from Senior Schools can be ordered via the school office.

Senior School Open Days are advertised in the Rose Hill weekly newsletter but, while these may provide a useful general introduction to the school, a personal visit enables you to see the school on a normal working day, meet key personnel and see the pupils at work and play.

It is not advisable to take your child with you on your first visit to a senior school. His or her view will of course be important, but not at this initial stage.

N.B.

1. League tables may be interesting, but they do not necessarily provide an accurate guide to a school's performance. It is vital to see how a school's GCSE and A Level/IB results relate to the standard demanded at entry to the school. This is the real indicator of how pupils' performance has been enhanced.

2. Always look at a school's achievements outside the academic ones. Most schools offer a broad balance and exciting opportunities in the creative arts and sport. Some are well-known for particular areas of strength, perhaps drama or hockey.

3. Find out about GCSE options and whether the school offers A levels or International Baccalaureate.

The Independent Schools Council Information Service can be useful for reference – visit www.findanindependentschool.co.uk

E. Registering at a School

For three schools in our area, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks and Brighton College, it is essential to register your child at least 3 years before age of entry.

Other schools will accept registration later, but early registration is clearly advisable.

Registration costs vary from school to school.

F. Scholarships

Most schools offer awards for excellence in one or more of the following areas:

Academic

Drama

Sporting

Art and Design

Music

Although awards can in theory amount to 50% of fees, this is becoming less common as schools are increasingly looking to offer financial support to parents who are genuinely in need. This is done by using a means test and is called a Bursary Award.

Standards required for scholarships relate directly to a school's admissions criteria and its place in the market. As a rule, a more academic entry requirement will mean similarly higher expectation in non-academic areas.

The timing of senior school scholarships varies but most occur in the Spring term.



F. Rose Hill Awards

Rose Hill has an Award scheme for children entering Year 7. Details are available from the school office.

G. Any Questions?

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me if you would like to discuss any aspect of future schooling for your child.

FUTURE SCHOOLS

Please note this is not an exhaustive list. These schools have proved popular with parents over the past five years. If you express an interest in a school further afield, the Headmaster will be pleased to advise you and, if necessary, pay a visit in order to help your choice.

NAME	TYPE	LOCATION	ENTRY PROCEDURE AT 11	ENTRY PROCEDURE AT 13
Ardingly College	Co-ed Day/Boarding	Ardingly	February English/Maths/VR	February - English/Maths/VR June - Common Entrance
Battle Abbey	Co-ed Day/Boarding	Battle	January entrance exams	January entrance exams
Bede's School	Co-Ed Day/Boarding	Hailsham, East Sussex	N/A	Interview with Head & meet with other staff. If satisfactory, offer made. Common Entrance to be taken but place already confirmed
Beechwood Sacred Heart	Co-ed Day/Boarding	Tunbridge Wells	Entrance exams in English/Maths/NVR & VR in January	
Benenden School	Girls Boarding	Benenden	Common Entrance	—————→
Bethany School	Co-Ed Day/Boarding	Goudhurst	November assessments as per 13+	January assessments: NVR, Maths, comprehension, spelling, creative writing

NAME	TYPE	LOCATION	ENTRY PROCEDURE AT 11	ENTRY PROCEDURE AT 13
Brighton College	Co-ed Day/Boarding	Brighton	January – English/Maths/VR/Creative writing/interview	Spring pre-test. Common Entrance in June
Claremont Senior School	Co-ed Day	Bodiam	N/A	Entrance exam in Spring
Eastbourne College	Co-Ed Boarding/Day	Eastbourne	N/A	Common Entrance in June Pre-test available if necessary
Kent College	Girls Day/Boarding	Pembury	November exams: English/Maths/VR and interviews + on-line CEM test	January – as per 11+ with French and Science papers sat at Rose Hill Common Entrance option
Lingfield Notre Dame	Co-Ed Day	Lingfield, East Grinstead	Entrance exam in January: English/Maths/VR	
St Leonards-Mayfield	Girls Day/Boarding	Wadhurst	Entrance exam in English, Maths, Science, VR, NVR & interview in November	As per 11+ entry

NAME	TYPE	LOCATION	ENTRY PROCEDURE AT 11	ENTRY PROCEDURE AT 13
Sevenoaks	Co-Ed Day/Boarding	Sevenoaks	School report November Entrance exam in English/Maths/Science/VR/ NVR and interview in early January	Pre-assessment (VR/NVR & interview) in October Common Entrance in June
Sutton Valence	Co-Ed Day/Boarding	Maidstone	Entrance exam English/Maths/VR/ NVR in November	Common Entrance Pre-testing option in February
Tonbridge	Boys Day/Boarding	Tonbridge		Pre-test using CEM on-line plus interview in Autumn term of Year 6 Common Entrance (June) or Scholarship in April/May
Walthamstow Hall	Girls Day	Sevenoaks	Entrance exam English/Maths/Reasoning and interview in November	As per 11+ but in January
Worth	Co-ed Day/Boarding	Worth	Entrance exams English/ Maths and interview in January+ NVR	Entrance exams as for 11+ Common Entrance in June. Pre-test in January English/Maths/NVR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PROSPECTUS, PLEASE CONTACT ANN GREEN IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE