



BIRKENHEAD
— SCHOOL —

Admissions Information



Seniors & Sixth Form Entry

Seniors
Ages 11-16

Sixth Form
Ages 16-18



Initial Enquiry

Enquiries for admission to Seniors can be made by telephone at any stage of the year or by attending either of our Open Days held in the Michaelmas or Summer terms.

Assessment

Applications for assessment can be made either at the end of Year 5 or the beginning of Year 6. Application forms are available at the Open Day or from the Headmaster's PA at any time.

Assessment Days take place in early June (Year 5) or January (Year 6) when children are invited in small groups. The day is intended to be an enjoyable experience for the children, whilst at the same time providing us with an opportunity to assess them in formal and informal situations.

No specific preparation is required, although parents may wish to know that children take a verbal reasoning test during the day and we will assess their reading, writing and arithmetic in the context of various lessons. We recognise that these children are still young and we involve staff who have experience with Year 5/6 pupils in the assessment process. References are also requested from the child's current school.

Reserving your Place

Once an offer has been received, parents should reserve their place by completing and returning the Reservation Form together with a Reservation Fee of £300. The Reservation Fee is refunded to parents on the completion of their child's education at the School.

Parents offered places following the Year 5 Assessment Days in June should accept their place by 31st August. Those offered places following the Year 6 Assessment Days in January should accept their place by 1st March. Any places not accepted after this date will be offered to those pupils who have been placed on our waiting list.

Academic Scholarships

Children who have been offered and have accepted a place for Year 7 may wish to try for one of our Academic Scholarships. They will be able to do so by sitting the Scholarship Examination in early February and should request an application form from the Headmaster's PA. Places are secure and are not affected by the outcome of the examination.

Confirmation of Place & Contracts

Following reservation of your place, the Bursar will issue contracts and further information in March/April. Completed contracts should be returned within two weeks.

Commitment

It is our belief that it is in the best interest of students to know which school they are going to well in advance. We encourage parents to make a firm decision early on and let us know if we are not their first choice school. If you have reserved your place and decide at a later date to go elsewhere, we would prefer that you let us know immediately to allow us to offer places to those on our waiting list.

Key Dates for Admissions - Year 7 Entry

September Entry Assessment Days:	Year 5	June 2021 for September 2022 entry
	Year 6	January 2021 for September 2021 entry



Initial Enquiry

Enquiries for admission to Sixth Form can be made by telephone or by attending either of our Open Days in the Michaelmas or Summer terms.

Assessment

Entrance to Sixth Form is dependent on GCSE results. Students will need to have obtained a minimum of 6 GCSE 'passes' (ie grade 5 or above) and grade 7 or above in the chosen subjects however a lower grade is sometimes considered where students have shown particular commitment and aptitude to succeed. In the case of subjects which have not been taken at GCSE relevant other subjects will be taken into account.

Taster Day & Application

Students are invited to attend a Taster Day which will be personalised to encompass those subjects that are being considered for A Level study. To arrange a Taster Day, please contact the Headmaster's PA who will discuss subject choices and arrange for the Head of Sixth Form to contact you.

Following the Taster Day, an application pack will be sent which should be completed and returned and an interview with the Headmaster will be arranged.

Scholarships

Birkenhead School is committed to providing a first class education to academically able students of all backgrounds. If you wish to apply for an Access Scholarship you should indicate your wish on the Sixth Form Application. Those wishing to apply will be invited to attend the Scholarship Examination in early March. The award of an Access Scholarship will be based on the results of the test and an interview with the Headmaster and Head of Sixth Form.

Academic Scholarships are honorary scholarships awarded to any student who achieves 8 or more grade 8 or 9 at GCSE.

Reserving your Place

If we feel certain that students have the ability or clear potential to succeed in their A Level study, a place will be offered for entry to Sixth Form. Once an offer has been received, parents should reserve the place by completing and returning the Reservation Form together with a Reservation Fee of £300. The Reservation Fee is refunded to parents on the completion of their son or daughter's education at the School.

Confirmation of Place & Contracts

Following reservation of your place, the Bursar will issue contracts and further information in March/April. Completed contracts should be returned within two weeks.

Bursaries

Parents of any student who has been offered a place may apply for a bursary if they are unable to pay full fees. Bursaries are means-tested and vary in size dependent on family circumstances. They are provided towards the core School fees, and not in support of lunches, uniform or other extra provision such as music tuition.

For those applying for entry to Year 7, bursaries are considered twice during the year; in the Michaelmas Term for those who have undertaken the Year 5 Assessment, and in February, following the Year 6 Assessment. Bursaries for Sixth Form are considered in February/March.

Bursaries will apply from the start of the following academic year. The deadline for Bursary applications is two weeks after receipt of an offer letter.

School Fees

Fees for September 2020

Fees for January 2021 will be confirmed during Summer 2020

Senior School (Years 7 and 8)	:	£3,845 per term
Senior School (Years 9 to 11)	:	£4,145 per term
Senior School (Years 12 & 13)	:	£4,145 per term

Fees include, in addition to the cost of tuition and a wide range of co-curricular activities, almost all text books and materials, exercise books, examination fees (with the exception of re-sits), most year group trips, travel to sporting fixtures and travel and personal accident insurance.

The sum of £30 is added to the fees for Michaelmas Term for all students in the Senior School and this covers the cost of lifelong membership to the Old Birkenian Society, after seven years' payment.

Additional Charges:

Catering	:	£249 per term (Years 7 to 11)
Seniors Homework Club	:	£6.00 per session until 5pm, plus £5.00 after 5pm or after attendance at a co-curricular activity).
Study Skills/Learning Support Sessions	:	£202 per term (10 sessions average)
Minibus Service	:	£295 per term under 10 miles £365 per term over 10 miles

Conditions of Admission

The conditions of admission are published on the School website and a copy can be sent upon request.

Exam Results 2019

GCSEs

- 21% of grades awarded at Grade 9
- 57% of grades awarded at 7 or above (equivalent of A*/A under the old grading system)
- 69% of girls' grades awarded at grade 7 or above

A Levels

- 49% of all grades awarded at A*/A
- 91% of all Sciences grades awarded at A*-B
- 92% of Chemistry grades at A*/A
- 64% of Maths grades at A*/A

Birkenhead School was the top performing school for A Level results in Merseyside in 2018.

Cumulative Summary results can be viewed on the School website at: www.birkenheadschool.co.uk under School Life / Academic.

Information on past exam performance can be obtained by contacting Mr T Whitworth (Deputy Head Academic) via the School Reception on 0151 652 4014.

Contact Information

Ms Julie Hopper

PA to the Headmaster

Email: seniorsadmissions@birkenheadschool.co.uk

Telephone: 0151 651 3009 (Direct Line)