



MAKING AN APPLICATION FOR A PLACE AT WINCHESTER COLLEGE

Please see separate information about Election (the Academic Scholarship examination) and Music Awards.

- Boys should be registered any time after their eighth birthday and **before the end of Year 5 (9+ to 10+)**. They are usually at least 13, but under 14, on 31 August in the year of entry to the School. Registration forms are available from the Deputy Registrar, Mrs Kirstie Richards (admissions@wincoll.ac.uk); telephone + 44 (0)1962 621247.
- Completed registration forms should be sent to the Deputy Registrar with the registration fee, which is currently £200. It is not essential to register before an *initial* tour of the School and introductions to boarding houses have taken place.

Choosing a House

There are ten Commoner Houses and College (for academic Scholars). Information about Housemasters can be found on the website by clicking on *Boarding*. Parents can seek advice about choice of Houses (1) from the Head of their son's present school or from the Registrar at Winchester College, Mr Keith Pusey (registrar@wincoll.ac.uk); telephone +44 (0)1962 621141. Most parents come to Winchester for an initial visit which includes a tour of the School and the opportunity to see at least two Houses and Housemasters before making a choice.

- When parents have chosen a House, the completed registration form is sent to the Deputy Registrar who then passes it to the relevant Housemaster. He will be the point of contact from then on. **The choice of House should be made during Year 5. Some House lists are full before the beginning of Year 6, and all are likely to be full before the end of October in that year.**
- There is an Open Day (June) for parents of boys in Years 3 and 4 who are not already registered at the School. Full details are available from Mrs Philippa McComb (pcm@wincoll.ac.uk).
- Sometime between January and May of Year 6 (2), candidates will be invited by the relevant Housemaster to attend an interview. In addition to the interview with the Housemaster, there is a short written test (3), taken on the same day. There is no pass mark for this test; it is *one* of the factors that the Housemaster considers; the others are a report from the candidate's current school and the Housemaster's impressions at the interview.

- Decisions on all the boys on a Housemaster's list are made towards the end of May (just over two years ahead of the time of entry to the School). If the Housemaster offers a place in his House, that place is firm, subject only to the boy's passing the Entrance Examination, or making a good showing in Election, in May of the year of entry. We expect boys who hold firm places to pass one or other of these examinations, although failures do sometimes occur.
- If the Housemaster is unable to offer a place, the candidate's file is passed to the Headmaster and the Registrar for further consideration. There are three possible outcomes: the offer of a place on the General List (see below); the offer of a place on the Reserve List; rejection.
- The **Reserve List** is a waiting list with no guarantee of a place in the School. However, it is possible to gain a place in a House if vacancies occur. It is also possible to take the Entrance Examination without a place in a House, in the hope that a very strong performance will lead to the offer of a place. This also relies on vacancies occurring.
- Promotion from the Reserve List to the General List is possible. The Registrar usually makes this decision if vacancies occur, and if he receives evidence of outstanding progress.
- The **General List** includes those boys who were not able to secure places in the Houses of their choice but who are considered to be very strong candidates. A General Place is a firm place in the School, again subject to passing the Entrance Examination. A place in a House is found at a later date.

- (1) *How do prospective parents choose a House?* Sometimes through the recommendation of family, friends or on the advice of the Head of the current school. Parents of prospective candidates can also consult the Registrar who will recommend two Housemasters for parents to see. After these visits, parents opt for one of the Houses. They are, of course, free to visit further Housemasters if necessary, before registration. **Parents are asked to make direct contact with the Housemasters that they wish to see.** Each visit, which lasts about an hour, will include a tour of the House; one of the Housemasters whom they arrange to meet will also provide, or arrange, a full tour of the School (up to one hour) if requested to do so. Parents are encouraged to bring their sons with them on these visits. It is normally possible to arrange appointments on the same day. Once a House has been chosen, a registration form should be obtained from the Deputy Registrar and returned to her together with the registration fee.
- (2) *What happens if a boy is registered after the age of 11, or once House lists are full?* The Registrar, who administers the Reserve and General Lists, interviews boys (in the same way as a Housemaster) once they have been registered and he has received a report from the current school. The boys also sit a short written test (3). After the test and interview, the Registrar will make an offer of a place on the Reserve List, or reject the candidate. For an outstanding candidate he might be in a position to make an offer of a place on the General List.
- (3) *The written test* has two sections, each lasting ten minutes. The first deals with words, the second with numbers and codes. No specific preparation can be made for these verbal and numerical reasoning tests.