



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

Admissions system for applicants attending schools in the UK, EU and schools outside Asia

Winchester College is one of the country's most distinguished schools. We pride ourselves on a unique admissions system, and a substantial financial assistance which we are able to offer to deserving pupils each year.

We have recently undertaken a major review of our admissions process. Our aim is happiness. We want the right boy to get to the right school, with minimum anxiety before his acceptance, and maximum enjoyment after it.

Our process is therefore human and personalised; focused on potential, not merely prior attainment; and designed to fashion an accessible, balanced and harmonious community. It has its origins in systems designed by top universities and depends substantially on interview. It is designed to offer maximum interaction with the school at all times.

There are 3 simple stages:

Stage 1: Choosing the School and a House (Year 4 and 5)

First, we encourage applicants to learn more about the school by using our website and requesting a Prospectus.

The school sits alongside the River Itchen in the historic city of Winchester. We suggest you to visit, taking one or more of the following opportunities:

Open Days in Year 4 and Year 5 can be booked online. Open Days are popular so we ask that you only attend one.

Registrar's Tours for up to 15 families run from the summer term of Year 4 to the end of Year 5. They include a tour of the school and a boarding house with a senior boy followed by a Q and A session with the Registrar, a Housemaster, a matron and a Head of Department.

Housemaster at Home visits allow parents a tour of the school with a senior boy and then a visit to up to 3 Houses, booked centrally via the Admissions team. We thus offer parents and boys the opportunity to have seen up to 5 Houses.

The Registration Form should be returned to the Admissions Office by 3 July in Year 5.

Stage 2: Assessment and Preparation (Year 6 and 7)

All applicants to Winchester will be able to take the ISEB Common Pre-test at their school or at an approved centre, in October or November of Year 6. A report will additionally have been commissioned from the candidate's school. Results of the Common Pre-test will be released in early December.

Successful candidates will then be invited for interview between January and March of Year 6. Interviews consist of a 45 minute discussion and a short maths test. Results are available in May and you will receive either:

A House Place. A place in the boarding house of the Housemaster who interviewed the candidate.

A General Place. The offer of a place at the school. The House will be finalised later, but with the Housemaster who interviewed the candidate if numbers allow.

Both offers are subject to satisfactory performance in the Election or Entrance exams.

A Reserve List place. We see the candidate has potential and we are keen to maintain dialogue with the Prep School and parents. Boys can be promoted from the Reserve List to a General Place by the Registrar at any time depending on the number of vacancies. Patient faithfulness brings dividends, as vacancies tend to occur late – sometimes March to May of the year of entry.

A rejection (with our apologies)

Offers of a House or General Place must be accepted by 1 July in Year 6. This is also the deadline to apply for bursarial assistance.

In January and February of Year 7, we invite parents and sons who have accepted a place at Winchester to Our Journey Together. This is a conference with dedicated talks on how to prepare for Winchester. It also features the opportunity to take part in activities typical of Winchester life, including a lesson of Div.

Stage 3: Final Exams: Election or Entrance (Year 8)

As in most other schools, the place is finally confirmed after the Scholarship (Election) or Winchester Entrance exams in the summer of Year 8. However, places are only offered to those expected to pass these exams and failure at this stage is, as a consequence, rare. These exams occur in the same week early in the summer term.

The school offers means tested bursaries to those unable to afford the full fee, and scholarships for those particularly gifted in academic work, music or sport.

Academic Awards

Academic awards have existed at Winchester since its foundation. The original awards are called Scholarships. The boys who hold them still live in the original boarding accommodation known as College.

All academic awards are made on the basis of an exam called Election, taken in the summer of Year 8 at Winchester. The majority of boys who sit Election have gone through the process set out above and have therefore already secured a place in a House. If successful, they win either a **Scholarship**, and with it a place in College; or an **Exhibition**, which ensures a place in one of the other Houses.

In addition, and by special arrangement and as part of the school's access arrangements, boys who for any reason have not already been part of the admissions process and who possess in the opinion of their current school, whether maintained or independent, exceptional talent, may sit Election on the basis of a Winchester College **Headmaster's Nomination**. This will also, in some cases, bring with it exemption from some papers. For successful Headmaster's Nomination candidates, Election will result in one of the following:

1. A Scholarship, and with it a place in College
2. An Exhibition, and with it a place in a House allocated by the Headmaster
3. A General Place in the school, in a House awarded by the Headmaster

In considering the allocation of bursaries, those who hold Academic Awards are considered first.

Admissions Timeline

Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request an Information Pack from admissions@wincoll.ac.uk• Headmaster's Open Mornings (x2). The school in operation• Registrar's Tour - Family tours, weekly, from April to end of Y5
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registrar's Tours and Headmaster's Open Mornings (x2) continue.• Housemaster At Home. September-June: meetings with up to 3 Housemasters.• Choose House• Register by 3rd July
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bespoke Prep School Reference: October• Common Pre-Test: October-November• Interview and assessment: in Houses for invited candidates, January-March.• Results: April
Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our Journey Together. Parent and pupil conference in January and February
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boys invited back to House: October-December• Election/Entrance exams. Simultaneous, early in the summer term• New Men's Day: June