



WINCHESTER  
COLLEGE



# INFORMATION ON THE ELECTION OF SCHOLARS AND EXHIBITIONERS



# WELCOME

College is a remarkable community to live in. A mix of ancient and modern, it embodies the Wykehamical spirit of intellectual curiosity, academic excellence and shared endeavour.

Life here is also a lot of fun. The Collegemen run countless societies for one another, spanning everything from Maths to modern dance, and enjoy unique College traditions, including Chamber Teas—where the boys cook for invited dons—and Chamber Football, the hotly contested in-house football competition. There is a great emphasis on individuality in College, but certain qualities—determination, a deep love of learning and a willingness to try new things — are common to all Collegemen.

**The Application Deadline for the 2025 Election exams will be  
Thursday 23rd January 2025**

**(see note about Election Application Forms on page 4)**

# INFORMATION ON THE ELECTION OF SCHOLARS AND EXHIBITIONERS

This information applies to Academic Awards.

Details of Music Awards may be obtained from the Music School Administrator, Miss J. Ambrose [jma@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:jma@wincoll.ac.uk) and information about Sports Awards from Mrs Samantha Drinkwater, Sports Administrator [sportsadmin@wincoll.co.uk](mailto:sportsadmin@wincoll.co.uk).

Since its founding by William of Wykeham, Scholars have played an integral role within Winchester College. In 1382, the charter foundation established 70 Scholars. Today, most features of the foundation are still in place, including 70 Scholars who live together in College. The Warden and Fellows of College appoint examiners and elect Scholars, as well as Exhibitioners. Election is the current process of selecting the incoming year of boys for Scholarships and Exhibitions. This document provides important details for parents, schools and candidates regarding Election.

About 14 Scholarships and 6 Exhibitions are awarded each year to candidates who have sat Election. A Scholarship or Exhibition is tenable during the whole of a boy's time at the School, subject to satisfactory progress.

## **AWARDS:**

The following academic awards are made on the results of the Election examination:

1. **Scholarships:** tenable only in College (the Scholars' House).
2. **Exhibitions:** tenable only in Commoner Houses
3. **Headmaster's Nominations:** tenable in Commoner Houses

Candidates who hold a conditional place in a Commoner House or a General Place may apply for Scholarship and/or Exhibition. Candidates not holding a conditional offer of a place in the school may apply for Scholarship only.

An **Exhibition** or **Headmaster's Nomination** ensures a place in a Commoner House. A Headmaster's Nomination may be awarded to a candidate who has not previously been offered a place in the school and is not elected a Scholar, but whose exam results are deemed good enough to warrant promotion to a place in the school. Headmaster's Nominations cannot be applied for and are not necessarily awarded each year.

## **THE ELECTION EXAMINATION:**

Exams and interviews will take place over three days: **Tuesday 29th April, Wednesday 30th April and Thursday 1st May 2025** and the Roll of Scholars and Exhibitioners will be published on **Tuesday 13th May 2025**.

Candidates will be resident in Winchester for the period of the exams.



The examination consists of two parts:

Compulsory papers:	Alternative papers: candidates must take at least <b>three</b> :
C1 English C2 Mathematics I C3 Science C4 General Paper I (multiple choice logical reasoning test)	A1 Latin A2 French (including French speaking: see following note) A3 Greek A4 History A5 Geography A6 Mathematics II A7 General Paper II (usually 3 questions). May include interpretation of data, a passage for comprehension, or a structured essay question).

**Languages:**

Candidates are expected to sit at least one language paper (French, Greek or, Latin) if they attend a school at which languages form part of the curriculum, unless the school feels there are exceptional reasons to preclude this. If a candidate is studying French, Greek, or Latin but plans not to take the Election paper, the **school** should contact the Head of Classics, Mr Edmund Lewis [eaml@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:eaml@wincoll.ac.uk), or the Head of Modern Languages, Mr James Livingstone [jl2@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:jl2@wincoll.ac.uk), as early as possible before Election to discuss the situation. If more than one language paper is selected, they can be in any combination of French, Greek or Latin.

**French speaking: general conversation**

- No preparation time is required and the discussion will last between 5 and 7 minutes. The examiner will ask open questions to the candidate. The candidate should be encouraged to add as much detail to their answers as they can, and to use a wide variety of tenses. The examiner will be responsive to the level of the candidate, and will tailor the discussion to make it as positive an experience as possible for both parties.
- Topics may include: self, family and friends, home life, school life, free time and holiday activities, travel and transport, eating and drinking, home town and geographical surroundings, shopping, special occasions.
- We do not offer written examinations in Spanish and German at Election, but will arrange an oral conversation during the exams in these languages for any candidate by request.

**Exam preparation:**

No books are named for preparation. Most papers are based on the appropriate Common Entrance or Key Stage 3 syllabus, although in some parts of the French and Latin papers, a wider range of vocabulary and grammar may be found. Copies of previous Election papers, with the exception of paper C4, are available on the school website. Parents of candidates not being prepared by their school are advised to seek guidance on exam preparation from the Master in College, Dr Alex Latter [athl@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:athl@wincoll.ac.uk).

Credit is given in the marking of all papers for clarity in the presentation of answers and accuracy in the use of English.



**Calculators:**

In Mathematics, calculators are not allowed in either paper. In the marking of mathematical papers, special attention is paid to the style of the answers. Calculators may be used in Science and Geography if necessary

**Optional additions:**

A short, informal music or drama test can be arranged during Election for any candidate whose ability would allow him to make a significant contribution to the life of the school. This does not apply if a candidate has already received a Music Award from the College. In the same way, a candidate may bring examples of his art or design technology work for consideration. Notice should be given beforehand by completing the relevant section of the Election Application Form.

**Application for Election:**

Candidates for Election must be under fourteen years of age and at least twelve years of age on 1st September of the year in which they take the Election examination. Application for the exams is by invitation. In awarding Scholarships and Exhibitions, allowance is made for the age of the candidates. Scholars are admitted to the College in September following Election.

The Master in College, Dr Alex Latter, is always keen to meet potential Election candidates informally before application; a visit to College, with parents or guardian, usually taking place when the candidate is in the summer term of Year 7 or in Year 8 at his current school. The parents or school of a potential candidate with a conditional offer of a House place or General Place should email Dr Latter [athl@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:athl@wincoll.ac.uk) for information.

If a boy does not already hold an offer of a House or General Place, the family must first contact the Admissions Office [admissions@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@wincoll.ac.uk), who will be happy to advise on the next steps.

Any candidate holding the offer of an academic award from another school will not be permitted to sit the Election exams, unless approved otherwise by the Registrar.

A reference will be requested from a candidate's current school.

Candidates from the maintained sector sit the compulsory papers in English, Maths 1 and General Paper 1.

They are encouraged to take any of the additional papers if they wish.



**The provision of access arrangements for ISEB tests, and Winchester Entrance/Election:**

Winchester College recognises that access arrangements may be appropriate for some candidates with Special Educational Needs taking ISEB tests, and Winchester Entrance/Election examinations. These arrangements are designed to create a level playing field, so that pupils with SEN are not unfairly disadvantaged.

The school policy is to implement the same rules and regulations for these tests as used by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) for the public examinations of secondary school pupils i.e. GCSE and A Level. The aim is to ensure a transparent system, and continuity between different educational contexts. Importantly, this system ensures that younger pupils do not get used to having a certain access arrangement which they will not be eligible for in their public examinations. e to handwrite short answers / formulae / graphs in other examinations.

From September 2021, JCQ announced that pupils will need to achieve two below average standardised scores in two different areas of speed of working in order to be eligible for 25% extra time. In addition to this, there needs to be clear evidence that extra time is the pupil's normal way of working, and that subject teachers support the arrangement. The full regulations can be read here: [Regulations and Guidance - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications](#).

Winchester College will therefore be adopting the same rules and regulations for future ISEB tests, and Winchester Entrance/Election examinations, including those to be sat during the current academic year.

Please do not hesitate to contact Christian Schofield, the Head of Learning Support [cs@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:cs@wincoll.ac.uk), if you would like any further clarification on the above.

**Accommodation:**

Accommodation may be available in some Houses during the Election exams. This is usually for boys holding a conditional House place and is very limited as a result of a change in boarding regulations. There is no accommodation available in College. We therefore ask that parents be prepared to make their own accommodation arrangements for their children during the exams. Those for whom this will be difficult should contact the Election Secretary, Mrs Rosamund Robertson [rsr@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:rsr@wincoll.ac.uk), at the earliest opportunity.

**Election Application Forms: From 2025 we are introducing a new online application process for Election, accessible via a link sent to the parents of invited applicants by the Election Secretary. Hard copy application forms will no longer be available.**

**After a potential candidate has been invited to apply for the Election exams by the Master in College, the candidate's parents will be asked to complete an application. Applications must be received by the application deadline, Thursday 23rd January 2025. Closer to the exams, parents will be sent a form asking for the candidates' chosen alternative paper choices and any other options he wishes to offer, such as music or drama.**

**In addition, there will be an option for accommodation requests and for informing us of any allergies and special dietary needs. Some basic medical details will also be required. A recent passport style photograph of the candidate must be provided for ID purposes. Enquiries about access for SEN provision should be made to Mr Christian Schofield, the Head of Learning Support at, or before, the point of application.**

**Winchester College will request a confidential reference from the Headteacher of the candidate's current school.**

**Winchester College will request a full testimonial from the Headteacher of the candidate's current school.**

### **Election Decisions and Results:**

- Election decisions will be communicated to parents by the Master in College by 6pm on Tuesday 13th May 2025.
- Headteachers of candidates elected Scholar or Exhibitioner will be informed of the results by the Master in College by 6pm on the same date.
- All other Headteachers will be contacted by email that evening.
- The roll of newly elected Scholars and Exhibitioners will be posted at the Porters' Lodge in College Street at 6pm that evening.
- Scholars and Exhibitioners are placed on the Roll in alphabetical order.
- Parents of unelected candidates with House places, having successfully gained a place in the school, will also be contacted by the relevant Housemaster that evening.
- Election Report Cards will be sent to all Headteachers within two weeks.

### **FEES:**

Details of fees can be found on the Admissions webpage <https://www.winchestercollege.org/admissions/fees>.

An academic award gives no automatic remission of the fees, instead parents/guardians who will need bursary assistance must submit an application form in accordance with the following timetable. The School will adhere strictly to stipulated closing dates.

### **Either:**

Parents/guardians of applicants for a Scholarship or Exhibition, who are already holding House or General Places at the School for September 2025 entry, will have already applied for a bursary. The last day for application was 31st January 2023 as part of the offer of a House or General Place. **New applications will not be accepted.**

### **Or:**

Parents/guardians of applicants who are applying solely for a Scholarship or Exhibition at Election must indicate that they wish to apply for support before – or at the same time as – application for Election, i.e. by **Thursday 23rd January 2025**. It is the School's expectation that parents who do not apply for a bursary at this time will not require financial support throughout the time that their son attends the School, and the School will not entertain subsequent bursary applications. Applications for bursary awards for 2025 Election entry will be made online, and only families who have expressed an interest in applying will receive a link to the application portal. The bursary application itself should be completed by each parent/guardian with parental responsibility.

Should you wish to apply, please indicate your interest by emailing the Bursaries team on [bursaries@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:bursaries@wincoll.ac.uk)







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