



KINGSTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1561

ADMISSIONS POLICY

September 2023



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ADMISSIONS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF ADMISSIONS POLICY

Kingston Grammar School is a co-educational, academically selective school offering an all-round approach to education for students aged 11 - 18 years.

The School seeks to promote accessibility, regardless of background, and provides a range of scholarships and means-tested fee assistance. We aim to identify and admit those students who show the potential to benefit from the academic education offered by the School, its ethos and opportunities, and to contribute to the active life of our community.

Admission is by selection on academic merit. All applicants are required to sit the entrance assessments as described in the rest of this Policy. The interview is an important part of the admissions process. The School also takes into consideration the applicant's age and a report from the current school. Kingston Grammar School has no sibling preference policy.

Applicants will be considered only when a completed Registration Form has been received with payment of the non-returnable Registration Fee.

If a candidate qualifies for free school meals at their current school, we will waive the registration fee. The Admissions Team will need to receive written proof of this before waiving the fee, either from the local authority or the candidate's current school.

Any applications received after the published deadline will not be accepted.

Admissions will be subject to the availability of a place and conditional on the fulfilment of the current admissions requirements. Entrance assessments may be varied and may be at times other than those published.

Admission to the School is at the Head and Chair of Governor's discretion and the right is reserved to vary these procedures and criteria where they deem there are exceptional circumstances.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We treat every application for admission in a fair and equal way. We are committed to preventing, challenging and eliminating all unlawful discrimination and to promoting equality of opportunity between people of different racial or cultural groups, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender reassignment.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Applications are welcome from all those who have the ability and aptitude to thrive in an academic environment. We welcome students with disabilities and/or Special Educational Needs (SEN) provided we can reasonably offer them the support that they require, cater for any additional needs and that our site can accommodate them.

The School policy is to apply these criteria to all students and potential students, regardless of any disability of which it is made aware by parents.

Admissions will be conducted on a fair and non-discriminatory basis guided where appropriate by the SEND Code of Practice 2015.



Parents must inform the School when submitting the Registration Form of any circumstances relating to their child (including information about their child's long term health/medical conditions, disability or SEN) which may affect their child's performance in the admissions process and/or ability to fully participate in the education provided by the School. Parents should ensure that when submitting the Registration Form they provide any relevant medical, Educational Psychologist's or other specialist teacher/assessor's report. This is so that the School can consider what adjustments may be needed and can reasonably be made. The school has a legal obligation to make reasonable adjustments not to put any disabled student or potential student at a substantial disadvantage compared with other students who are not disadvantaged because of disability.

Provided the School has received prior notification from the parents of any disabilities and/or SEN, reasonable adjustments, such as extra time or use of a laptop, will be made in the entrance assessment if supported by an Educational Psychologist's report or equivalent independent medical report. The School may also seek from a candidate's current school details of normal working provision and practices for the student.

In assessing any student or prospective student, the School may take such advice and require such assessments, e.g. Educational Psychologist's report, and recommendations as it regards as appropriate. Failure by parents to disclose this information at the time of registration may mean that the School is unable to accommodate adjustments when the candidate sits the entrance exam. In addition the School may be unable to offer an adequate level of support for the student should they be offered a place and in some circumstances this may result in the offer of a place being withdrawn.

In offering a place, the School must feel reasonably sure that throughout the student's time at the School, it will be able to educate and develop the prospective student to the best of their potential and in line with general standards achieved by the student's peers, so that there is every chance that the student will have a complete, happy and successful school career and emerge a confident, well-educated and well-rounded young adult. The School will make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that students with disabilities have full access to the curriculum, culture, policies and procedures of the School.

The School will not be able to offer a place to a child with disabilities if, after reasonable adjustments have been considered, the School feels that it cannot adequately cater for or meet their needs, or that their health and safety or that of other students and staff may be put at risk.

Sometimes, the situation of students with disabilities and/or special educational needs changes between an offer of a place being made and the student starting at the School. The School requires parents to be proactive in updating the School as to any significant changes which mean that the information provided during the application process is out of date or incomplete. In the vast majority of cases, this will not affect a student's place at the School. However the School may, in exceptional circumstances, need to reconsider the offer of a place if a student's circumstances change materially. It is in the student's interests that any such decision is made as early as possible to avoid any disruption to their education, so parents are urged to be forthcoming in their communications with the School about any material change to their child's circumstances.

ENTRANCE PROCEDURE (YEARS 7-10)

All entrance examinations are broadly in line with the expected knowledge gained from National Curriculum teaching at the appropriate Key Stage in English and Mathematics for all entry levels.

Candidates are expected to join the School into the correct year of entry for their age. Applications for students wanting to join the school 'out of year' will be considered on an individual basis, taking account of individual circumstances.

For all points of entry, references will be taken up from the candidate's current school (or where the candidate is homeschooled from a person in a position of authority who is not related to the child), normally before the date of the entrance examination.



The interview is an important part of the assessment process at all entry levels. Interviews for all entry points, except 16+, are on a one-to-one basis and can either be of a general nature or subject specific (Mathematics or English at 11+ and 12+). For 16+ entry, interviews will be on either a two-to-one or one-to-one basis and will involve general questions alongside specific questions focused on their academic interests. Only candidates being considered for a place will be interviewed, and not everyone interviewed will be offered a place.

IDENTIFICATION CHECKS

When registering to sit our assessments, all candidates must upload a current photograph to their online admissions account. If you are not a UK national, you will also need to submit your passport.

Parents/carers should ensure that the child's personal details on the Admissions Portal are up to date and correct as their identification will be matched to these details.

In order to accept an offer of a place, candidates need to submit their original birth certificate for validation by a member of the admissions team. You will also have to submit your passport or another acceptable form of photo ID, and, if appropriate, documentation, to confirm your eligibility to study in the UK, if you are not a UK national.

STUDENTS IN YEAR 5 – DEFERRED ENTRY 10+ EXAMINATION

This examination will take place in early January for candidates in Year 5 for deferred entry at 11+ in September the following year. Candidates that accept a Deferred Entry place will not need to take any further examinations for entry. Successful 10+ candidates will be invited to take part in further assessments in Year 6 which may lead into qualification to the academic scholarship assessment day in the Autumn Term of their Year 6.

They can also apply for fee assistance and/or scholarships in Art, Music and/or Sport. Further details can be obtained from the Registrar (registrar@kgs.org.uk).

Candidates who either reject or are not offered a Deferred Entry place can re-register to sit the 11+ examination in the following year. Their performance in the 10+ examination will not prejudice their application at 11+.

The 10+ examination is designed on the same principles as the 11+ but to suit the different age group; it is broadly based on the National Curriculum and the papers are appropriate for a wide range of feeder schools. Examination papers are produced in-house, and past papers are not available.

11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

ENTRY

Entry to the First Year (Year 7) is for students who will have reached the age of 11 by 1st September immediately following the entrance examination. There are approximately 125 places available (including 10+ deferred places). The examination will take place in November. The closing date for registrations is in October.

11+ candidates sit an examination consisting of Mathematics and English papers. On the basis of the examination performance, interviews will then take place for those candidates who are being considered for a place.



Broadly based on the National Curriculum, the papers are appropriate for a wide range of feeder schools. Past papers are not published.

ENGLISH

Candidates are assessed in the three National Curriculum areas:

- EN1 Speaking and Listening (informally at the interview stage)
- EN2 Reading
- EN3 Writing

The English examination will test a candidate's ability to: read, understand and respond to writing (EN2); construct and convey meaning in written language (EN3); spell and punctuate (EN3).

These abilities will be tested by asking the candidate to complete a three-part examination paper which will be based around a given passage. Section A will comprise of multiple choice questions, Section B will require candidates to identify quotations and analyse them and Section C will ask candidates to write a short composition.

The questions range from simple understanding ('why does x do y?') to more difficult matters of interpretation ('what reasons might there be for ...?'). There may also be questions about the meanings of words and phrases. In Section B, candidates are expected to identify the correct analysis of quotations. The composition is likely to be a narrative task, continuing the story of the passage or using it as stimulus material for an original piece.

Emphasis will be placed on accuracy in - following instructions and retrieving and conveying information (EN2); using correct spelling, grammar and punctuation (EN3); responding with imagination and sensitivity to what is read (EN2, EN3).

MATHEMATICS

Candidates are tested in these three National Curriculum areas:

- MA2: Number and Algebra
- MA3: Shape, Space and Measures
- MA4: Handling Data

In terms of the National Curriculum, 11+ candidates are asked to answer questions based on any of the Attainment Targets up to and including Level 5, though the main focus of the paper requires a thorough understanding of work up to and including Level 4. (For 10+ candidates, the questions will largely be based on work up to and including Level 4).

Examples of the types of questions set include:

1. Add, subtract, multiply and divide
 - a. whole numbers
 - b. decimals
 - c. fractions (simple fractions only)
2. Demonstrate an understanding of ordering and measuring.
3. Perform calculations involving:
 - a. money
 - b. time
 - c. length



- d. area
 - e. volume
 - f. speed
 - g. mass based largely on metric units but including other commonly encountered units (e.g. mph).
4. Interpret statistical information presented in a variety of simple forms.

Calculators may **not** be used.

ADMISSIONS: DECISION PROCEDURE

10+ ASSESSMENTS

Each component of the entrance examination is carefully marked by a teacher specialising in that subject.

- The feeder school report is evaluated.
- An interview list is drawn up based on the examination scores and the feeder school report.
- Applicants are interviewed individually by a member of staff.
- The interviews are scored using a four-point system.
- A final list is drawn up.
- Members of the Admissions Committee decide on those that should be offered places. Not everyone interviewed will be offered a place.
- Places will not be offered without an interview.

11+ ASSESSMENTS

Each component of the entrance examination is carefully marked by a teacher specialising in that subject.

- The feeder school report is evaluated.
- An interview list is drawn up based on the examination scores and the feeder school report.
- Potential scholars are invited back for an Academic Scholarship Challenge which will assess students' communication (speaking and listening), collaborative and problem-solving skills. Candidates will also have an interview .
- Other applicants are interviewed individually by a member of staff. These interviews are either general or subject specific, depending upon the examination score.
- The interviews are scored.
- A final list is drawn up.
- Members of the Admissions Committee estimate how many awards and main list places to offer to attempt to achieve the desired level of acceptances. Not everyone interviewed will be offered a place. Those who are not offered a main list place may be offered a place on the reserve list.
- Except in exceptional circumstances places will not be offered without an interview.

APPLICATIONS FOR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP AT 11+

Those 11+ candidates who achieve a high standard in the qualifying examination will be asked to return later in the Autumn Term to take our Academic Scholarship Challenge.



APPLICATIONS FOR CO-CURRICULAR SCHOLARSHIP AT 11+

11+ candidates may apply for scholarships in Music, Sport and Art. A separate assessment for these is carried out in Autumn Term. Candidates offered a scholarship assessment is not an indication of a likelihood of an offer but is an independent part of the admissions process.

13+ ENTRY

A small number of places will be available for entry at 13+.

The examination will be held in the Spring term prior to the year of entry (when the candidate is in Year 8). The closing date for registrations will be late November with the examinations taking place in January. A reference will be requested from the current school in November.

Papers will be taken in English and Mathematics.

Firm places will be offered and candidates from prep schools will not be required to sit Common Entrance to confirm their place. However, the prep school may still require candidates to sit the Common Entrance papers for internal marking purposes.

ASSESSMENTS

Each component of the entrance examination is carefully marked by a teacher specialising in that subject.

- The feeder school report is evaluated.
- An interview list is drawn up based on the examination scores and the feeder school report.
- Applicants are interviewed individually by a member of staff.
- The interviews are scored.
- A final list is drawn up.
- Members of the Admissions Committee estimate how many places to offer to attempt to achieve the desired level of acceptances. Not everyone interviewed will be offered a place.
- Places will not be offered without an interview.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS AT 13+

These are at the discretion of the Head.

SIXTH FORM ENTRY

Applications for 16+ candidates need to be registered in October and the interview will take place in November. Registered candidates will be asked to complete a personal statement of no more than 500 words.

Entry to the Sixth Form is based on predicted GCSE (or international equivalent) grades, personal statement, a report from the candidate's current school and, if successful at the first stage, attending an interview session. During the interview session candidates will answer general questions along with more specific questions focused on their identified academic interests.

Conditional offers, giving details of the GCSE grade requirements and any other conditions, will be made by the end of the Autumn term. Offers are not confirmed until after GCSE results are received in August and are conditional on achieving the required GCSE grades and average GCSE point score. For a conditional offer to be confirmed post-GCSE results, candidates are required to fulfil the following criteria:



- i) As a minimum, students must achieve at least Grade 7 (equivalent to A grade) in four separate subjects.
- ii) In addition, all students must achieve a minimum Grade 6 (equivalent to the top half of a B grade) in Mathematics and English GCSE or IGCSE. Please also note that a minimum of Grade 7 is required in those subjects, or closely related subjects, that students wish to study for A Level or Pre-U with the exception of Mathematics where students will require a minimum Grade 8 at GCSE and Further Mathematics where students will require a Grade 9 at GCSE.

The subjects below do not require previous study at GCSE but may require a Grade 7 in certain related GCSE subjects in order to study them at A Level (this is at the discretion of the relevant Head of Department):

SUBJECT	REQUIREMENT
Classical Civilisation, Philosophy & Theology (Pre-U), Government & Politics	Grade 7 in an essay-based subject, preferably English Literature or History
Drama & Theatre Studies	Grade 7 in English Literature
Economics (Pre-U)	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Physical Education	Grade 7 in Biology
History, Geography (if not taken at GCSE)	Grade 7 in an essay-based subject, preferably English Literature
Psychology	Grade 7 in English Literature and a science-based subject

SIXTH FORM ASSESSMENTS

- Predicted GCSE grades, report from current school and the personal statement are evaluated. The Admissions Committee will decide who to invite for interview.
- Interviews are scored.
- Members of the Admissions Committee decide which offers are to be made.
- Offers are made conditional on specific grades at GCSE (or international equivalent).

SCHOLARSHIPS AT 16+

External candidates highlighted as potential Academic Scholars during the assessment process, will be confirmed once GCSE results have been received in the Summer. External candidates applying for scholarships in Music, Art, DT, Sport and Drama will be invited for auditions/assessments in November.

Students who achieve a Drama or Art Scholarship at 16+ are required to take the subject at A Level. This does not apply to Music or Sport (Physical Education A Level).

OTHER POINTS OF ENTRY

Year 8 (12+) and Year 10 (14+): examinations for entry into these year groups will be held in March of the year of entry, provided whole school numbers indicate that spaces will be available. Please contact the Registrar for further information and before submitting a registration form.



Entry into Year 11 and Year 13 is only considered in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Head.

12+ AND 14+ ASSESSMENTS

Each component of the entrance examination is carefully marked by a teacher specialising in that subject.

- The feeder school report is evaluated.
- An interview list is drawn up based on the examination scores and the feeder school report.
- Applicants are interviewed individually by a member of staff. These interviews are either general or subject specific, depending upon the examination score.
- The interviews are scored.
- A final list is drawn up.
- Members of the Admissions Committee decide which applicants should be offered places taking into account whole school numbers. Those who are not offered a main list place may be offered a place on the reserve list.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Available for new entrants at 11+, 13+ and 16+. Review of current students takes place at 13+, 15+ and 16+.

Scholarships are awarded subject to achieving either the required academic or practical criteria. They are generally awarded for the duration of the student's time at the School subject to continued satisfactory performance, good conduct and adherence to the Terms and Conditions in force at the time.

Art, Music, Sports, Design & Technology and Drama Scholarships (see also Fees section) for external candidates

1. The Music Scholarship auditions will take place in the Autumn Term for 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry.
2. The Art Scholarship assessments will take place in the Autumn Term for 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry
3. The Sports Award assessments for candidates will take place in the Autumn Term for 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry.

The Drama Scholarship auditions and Design & Technology assessments (both 16+ only) will take place in the Autumn Term.

Students who achieve Drama, Music and Art Scholarships at 11+ and 13+ will be required to take that subject at GCSE.

The closing date for applying for the above scholarships is the same as the registration deadline.

FEE ASSISTANCE

Means-tested fee assistance is available for 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry. Fee assistance is variable according to means, up to 100% plus of full fees. The award of fee assistance is subject to reaching the required academic standard in the relevant entrance examination. If the demand exceeds the number of awards available, fee assistance will be awarded with reference to the performance in the entrance examination.

The criteria for qualifying for fee assistance are not disclosed and are confidential to the School. All aspects of the family financial situation are taken into account including salary, assets including property, additional income, siblings, dependent relatives and other relevant factors.



OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

We welcome overseas students provided that they have the legal right to enter, live and study in the UK and they have a relative or responsible adult living in the UK nominated by the parents.

Entry assessments will take place online, invigilated by a member of KGS staff or an approved examination centre.

FLUENCY IN ENGLISH

In order to cope with the high academic and social demands of the School, students must be fluent English speakers.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Marketing and Admissions Committee.

DATA RETENTION

Applicant's details will be held on file with due regard to data protection legislation and the School's Privacy Notice and Records Management Policy. The School will not hold the personal data of an applicant or parent for longer than is necessary for a lawful purpose. For unsuccessful applications, this will generally be no more than two years for 10+ applications and one year for 11+ and other applications.