



Admissions FAQs: Year 9 Entry 2027

What is the Year 9 entrance process?

The School is selective and offers are made based on entrance assessments, interview and a reference from the Headteacher of the current school. Students must have a good behaviour record, showing kindness, courtesy and respect towards others, and a positive attitude towards work.

All candidates will complete the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) assessments. The CAT4 assessments consist of Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning, Spatial Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning. In addition to this, students will sit an assessment of their English comprehension and their ability to write a balanced argument.

Each student will attend an interview which will take place at New Hall School. The interview will last approximately 15 minutes. During this time, students are invited to give a 3-minute presentation on a subject of their choice. The aim is to put students at their ease, so that they can demonstrate their individual strengths and interests.

Does the School offer a coach service?

The New Hall School coach service is managed on our behalf by Vectare, a specialist school transport management company. Their website (newhall.vectare.co.uk) offers a postcode search functionality, which provides personalised journey planning.

What are the core subjects and optional subjects available at GCSE?

The timetabled curriculum for all GCSE students consists of: Theology (1 GCSE), English Language and Literature (2 GCSEs), Mathematics (1 GCSE), Science Double Award or Separate Sciences (2 or 3 GCSEs).

In addition to the core subjects listed above, students typically select three of the following subjects: Fine Art, Computer Science, Drama, French, Ancient Greek, Geography, History, Latin, Music, Photography, PE and Spanish.

Alongside these GCSE subjects, students taking three options also study the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) and an in-house Politics course.

What are the boarding options at New Hall?

All students are able to board on a full or flexible basis, choosing from 1-7 nights, subject to availability in the Boarding House. We have four Boarding Houses: Hawley, for girls in Years 5-11, Petre, for boys in Years 5-11, Dennett, for Sixth Form girls and Champion, for Sixth Form boys.

What is the mix between boarding and day in the Senior Divisions?

Approximately, one third of students in the Senior Divisions are boarders.

What is included in the School fees?

The School fees provide for teaching and curriculum costs, including an iPad for School and home learning. There are a few exceptions, such as public examination entries and School trips. In the Senior Divisions, there is an extended School day (with provision from 8.00am–6.00pm) and an extensive co-curricular programme of clubs and activities*.

The School offers a variety of freshly prepared lunches for students to purchase. All boarders' meals are included within the fee.

Does the School have priority admissions categories?

The School has more applicants than places for points of entry, so assessment is competitive. Students will need to pass our entrance assessment to be offered a place. Listed below are the various priority categories for places, although there is no fixed weighting or ranking:

1. siblings of current New Hall students or siblings joining simultaneously
2. religious commitment
3. academic ability
4. boarders, with full or 5+ night flexible boarders prioritised

Further details can be found in the Admissions Policy on the School website.

What is the average class size?

In the Senior Divisions, there are typically between 18-24 students per teaching group, with smaller class sizes for certain subjects. Class sizes reduce overall from Year 10, with many of the optional subjects being taught in groups of fewer than 18.

What provision is made for the academically able?

In the Senior Divisions, students are set according to ability in a range of subjects including: Mathematics, Science and Languages. The School has a programme to stretch the most academically able students. Most Able or Talented (MAT) students may be offered accelerated learning in subjects where the learning matches the student's potential and capabilities and, where appropriate, a student may take GCSE or A Level subjects early. MAT students are provided with differentiated work in all subjects where they show high level potential. Differentiated work challenges the most academically able, promoting a higher level of thinking. Academic Project Qualifications and our extensive co-curricular programme offer further 'stretch and challenge' opportunities.

What support is available regarding fees?

Scholarships are available for Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 entrants. For further information about the scholarships available in Year 7, please take a look at our Bursaries and Scholarships Policy on our website.

*Some co-curricular clubs, e.g. Horse Riding, Dance and individual music lessons, incur an additional charge.