



## Admissions FAQs: Year 7 Entry 2027

### What is the Year 7 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 for entry in September 2026 will complete the Independent Schools Examinations Board (ISEB) Common Pre-Tests, with assessments in Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning, English and Mathematics. These online, multiple choice tests are used by a number of other selective, independent schools, with the benefit that students only have to complete the ISEB Common Pre-Tests once in an academic year to apply to any independent schools which utilise the tests as their assessment method. The tests can be completed at the child's current school (subject to their agreement). All students who are not completing the assessments at their current school will be invited to sit the tests at New Hall.

Each student will be asked to attend an in-person interview and creative writing assessment at New Hall. 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, so that they can demonstrate their individual strengths and interests. There will be the opportunity for students to ask questions at the end of the interview. In the creative writing assessment, students will be required to write a short piece of creative writing based on stimulus material.

### How many students sit your Year 7 entry exams each year?

On average, 350 children sit the New Hall Year 7 entrance assessments each year.

### Are practice papers available?

Previous papers are not available for the ISEB Common Pre-Tests. We recommend that students look at the information and familiarisation material, which can be found on the ISEB website here: (<https://www.iseb.co.uk/assessments/common-pre-tests/cpt-for-families>)

As the ISEB Pre-Tests are used across the independent education sector, there are a number of online suppliers of preparatory material. This material is also useful for 11+ preparation, as the examinations follow the same format. ISEB recommends using the Bond Online platform ([century.tech/bond](http://century.tech/bond)), and we have previously recommended the Atom Learning platform.

### 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.

### How many students are in Year 7, and what is the average class size?

There are 60 places available in the Girls' Division and 60 places in the Boys' Division in Year 7. 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 at GCSE, 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.

### 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](http://newhall.vectare.co.uk)) offers a postcode search functionality, which provides personalised journey planning.

### 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.