



The Downs School

Admissions – How to Apply

Both our main prospectus and Sixth Form prospectus are available to download from our website main menu or request a copy by using any of the contact details on our '[Contact Us](#)' page. The admissions process for entry into **Years 7-11 and Sixth Form are different**. Both application processes are described below:

Years 7-11 Admissions

Parents applying to The Downs School must use the application form of their 'home' Local Authority, ie the admissions authority of their home address, when applying for a place. Completed forms should be sent to the 'home' LA by the closing date for applications of the home LA. Parents are encouraged to use the 'on-line' application form provided by their home LA. Details of how to make an application can be found on the appropriate LA's website.

The application process must be co-ordinated between all Local Authorities and this means that **parents must apply to their home LA, even if applying for schools in a different LA**.

For those applying to West Berkshire for future Year 7 places information is available at:

<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3253>

For those applying to West Berkshire for in Year school admission places information is available at:

<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=23469>

All key dates are shown on the appropriate Local Authority website, including likely dates for Open Evenings. The Downs School generally holds their Open Evening for rising Year 7 towards the middle of October but the current date will be on our '[Diary Dates](#)' page of this website.

Parents and students are also welcome to request an individual tour of the school. Arrangements can be made by using any of the contact details on our '[Contact Us](#)' page.

Our admissions and other policies can be found on our '[Policies](#)' page.

Sixth Form Admissions – Key Dates

Below is a guide to important dates relating to Sixth Form Admissions. These are for general guidance only and current dates are shown on our '[Diary Dates](#)' page of this website.

Sixth Form Opportunities Evening - **end of November**

Closing date for all applications – **end of January**

External Application Interviews – **2nd week March**

Internal Application Interviews – **1st week March**

Sixth Form Induction Sessions – **2 days at the end of June/ beginning of July**

Sixth Form Admissions Process

Applications for the following **September** are usually closed at the **end of January**. Enquiries about a late application should be submitted by using any of the contact details on our '[Contact Us](#)' page, if using the general contact form please mark it clearly, 6th Form Application and include the date of entry requested.

Sixth Form Opportunities Evening

Prospective parents and sixth form students are invited to the school's Sixth Form Open Evening in the Autumn Term prior to entry the following September. During the evening, families will be introduced to key members of staff, including the Heads of Lower and Upper Sixth and the Head of Sixth Form. There is also the opportunity to meet and talk to the different Heads of Department and teachers about your preferred A-Level options. A brief introductory talk for pupils not attending The Downs will be held in the School Hall with the main presentation beginning a little later.

Sixth Form Arranging a Visit

Parents and students are also welcome to request an individual tour of the school and meeting with the Head of Sixth Form. Arrangements can be made by using any of the contact details on our 'Contact Us' page, if using the general contact form please mark it clearly, 6th Form Application and include the date of entry requested.

Sixth Form Applications

Parents who would like their son or daughter to be considered for a sixth form place are asked to complete an application form (available to download from our main menu). Once your application has been submitted you will receive a letter or email of acknowledgement. If you do not receive this within 5 working days please call 01635 270000 and ask for the Sixth Form Office.

A written reference and predicted GCSE or IGCSE grades are then requested from the candidate's current school. An offer may be made based on these predicted grades and reference. Seven GCSEs at grade A* - C are required and a B grade in all subjects taken for A Level.

Following application, candidates will be invited to attend an interview and course discussion meeting with our Head of Sixth Form.

After the interview process letters will be sent out to confirm if a place can be offered. For all offered places we require confirmation of acceptance before the deadline date stated in the letter.

Sixth Form Taster Days, Results and Enrollment

Those students offered places will be required to attend our Sixth Form taster days in June and July. Please note that the taster day confirmation slip **MUST** be returned in order for a place to be reserved as the day will be timetabled specifically to individual requirements.

You will obtain your GCSE results towards the **end of August**.

We require you to enrol at The Downs School, Sixth Form usually on **the following day** between **1pm and 3pm**. You **MUST** bring your GCSE results slips and your offer letter with you.