

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Admissions - Principles

Denstone College welcomes applicants from all backgrounds and does not discriminate on the basis of disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation in its admissions procedures. We respect the freedom and rights of all young people, though recognise that these must be carefully balanced with College regulations to protect the College community and ethos.

Should a candidate be disabled under the definition of the Equality Act 2010 or the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 then all reasonable special arrangements can be made on request. Parents of a child who has any disability or special educational needs should provide the College with full details prior to the admissions procedure, at registration, or subsequently before accepting the offer of a place. Denstone College is an independent Secondary School, and recognises that “all children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have” (KCSIE, 2016).

Admission to the College is by entrance examinations, which test future potential as well as present attainment. In addition, a written reference will be sought from the candidate’s current school along with an interview of the candidate where appropriate. Entry to the Sixth Form is also conditional upon GCSE performance. In the case of non EEA overseas pupils, UKiset will be employed.

Application procedure

Applications should be accompanied by a non-refundable registration fee, and a copy of the candidate’s passport or birth certificate if the passport is not available. Registration is acknowledged within seven days, and before the entrance examinations which traditionally take place in January each year, or in June for Common Entrance into Year 9 from independent prep schools. Overseas pupils may sit UKiset at any time during the academic year.

Entrance examinations

Pupils from a state maintained school or an independent school which finishes at Year 6 will take three Papers:

- English: comprehension and essay
- Mathematics: basic skills and problem-solving
- Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Overseas pupils will sit UKiset assessments.

Common Entrance

Independent prep school pupils will take Common Entrance Examinations at their current school in June for entry into Year 9.

Offers of Places

Places are usually offered within seven days of the entrance examination being taken. Parents may accept the offer by signing the Acceptance Form and paying a deposit. The deposit is refundable, but in the event of a withdrawal of acceptance without a term's notice, it becomes non-refundable. Otherwise the deposit is refunded in a pupil's final term at Denstone. We are unable to admit young people until financial obligations to other schools have been met.

Learning Difficulties or Disabilities (LDD)

Any existing learning difficulties or disabilities are taken into account at the application stage. Parents are asked to include on the registration form any relevant information, and educational psychologist's report where appropriate. Extra time for entrance exams can be organised where clear evidence is provided of existing arrangements with a candidate's current school. Other access arrangements, e.g. use of word processing or provision of a reader, may be requested where an educational psychologist's report exists confirming details of a specific learning difficulty or disability.

Overseas pupils

We welcome applications from candidates who live overseas. Except for holidays and exeats all full boarding pupils live and work at the College during term time. Overseas pupils are required to have a guardian in the UK who will have authority to act on behalf of the parents if necessary and make

arrangements for time away from College and travel. Overseas applicants' proficiency in English language needs to be of a sufficient standard for them to achieve academically and socially on arrival.

All non EEA applicants will be required to sit UKiset, an adaptive cognitive test measuring underlying ability and language proficiency. For more information please visit: www.ukiset.com. A copy of the applicant's passport is required for identification and visa application purposes. The information it contains will be used to obtain the Confirmation of Acceptance to Study (CAS) number for their application under Tier 4 Child Visa. The passport should be valid for at least 6 months after the entry date to the College. The CAS will be applied for by the College up to 6 months prior to entry date, and it will be emailed to the agent.

Applicants are welcomed from the EEA and other countries through a recognised education agency. Candidates are asked to complete a Registration Form and return it with a fee of £50 along with a copy of their passport. UKiset examinations take place in accredited centres and agents will guide parents in this. Parents accept the offer of a place by signing the Acceptance Form and paying a deposit.

Parents of overseas students need to remember that if their child arrives in the UK before they are due to start at the College (i.e. on a visitor or other visa), they must leave the UK and re-enter on their Tier 4 child visa issued for Denstone College, in order for it to be valid. Dependent non EEA Nationals who are living in the UK due to parental work relocation will not be required to have a Tier 4 child visa. Parents will however need to provide evidence of their "right to work" in the UK and "right of residency."

All pupils who are not resident in the UK must have a guardian arranged prior to arrival at Denstone College.

Accessibility

This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.