

ADMISSIONS POLICY 2010

The College is heavily over-subscribed and, to ensure that the quality of provision for the students is maintained, the Governors have adopted the following admissions policy. They wish to re-affirm the College's Mission to serve the local community and the surrounding area as a distinguished provider of education of the highest quality for the 16-19 sector.

The College will calculate the number of student places that can be offered in order to maintain the quality of the student experience; invitations for interview and offers of places will be made accordingly. Within a framework of equality and diversity the College aims to welcome students of all abilities regardless of race, gender or disability. Applicants should note that each course has its own specific entry criteria as stated in the Course Guide.

Applications

Applications from partner and non-partner schools are both welcome. The closing date for all applications is **26 November**; however, applications from students at non-partner, non-link schools will be considered in the order in which they are received and the effective closing date for these applications is likely to be earlier than 26 November. Using the following criteria, applicants will be offered a firm place (dependent on meeting course requirements), a place in the reserve pool, or may not be offered a place. **NB:** last year we were able to interview about 1000 non-partner, non-link school applicants. A further 700 were placed in the reserve pool in January without interview; of these just over 100 were offered interviews by September. Applicants will be informed if their application has been placed in the reserve pool by early in the new year.

When deciding which form of offer to make, the College uses the following criteria:

- **Previous school:** those attending one of the College's north-east Hampshire partner schools or a link school (other 11-16 schools within 10 miles of the College) are likely to receive a firm offer;
- **Family connections:** those with siblings who have completed qualifications at the College or are current students at the College or who are the children of staff are likely to receive a firm offer;
- **Date of application:** early applicants are more likely to receive a firm offer than later ones; later applicants may not be called for interview if the College has already reached its offer limit;
- **Other factors:** children in care who will be given high priority, school references, commitment to public or green transport (taking disabilities into account).

On-line applications are preferred but paper applications (standard or large print versions available from the College) may be used. The electronic Application Form can be found on the College web-site where there is a facility for monitoring the progress of an application. The College will send a Reference Form to the referee for completion.

Interviews

Interviews will only be arranged once a) the application form and b) the reference have been received at the College. If applicants experience difficulty in obtaining a current reference from their school, they should state the problem on the Application Form and send a copy of the most recent school report, ideally the one received at the end of Year 10. Interviews will be held from December to May.

Offers of places and confirmation of acceptance

The College will endeavour to give all successful applicants either a) a firm offer or b) a place in the reserve pool, as soon as possible after interview. Within 14 days of the offer being made, applicants must confirm their acceptance firmly or provisionally or decline the offer. Provisional acceptances not converted to firm by the last day in **April** will be placed in the reserve pool.

Reserve pool

Once the number of firm offers reaches the required number, further applicants may be offered a place in the reserve pool. Within five days of the publication of the **August** GCSE results, those still holding a reserve pool place must use the College web-site to confirm that they still wish to be considered.

Applications to transfer to the College for A2 courses

Applications to transfer to the College for A2 courses will be considered on an individual basis but are not recommended. Students will only be accepted onto such a programme in exceptional circumstances.