

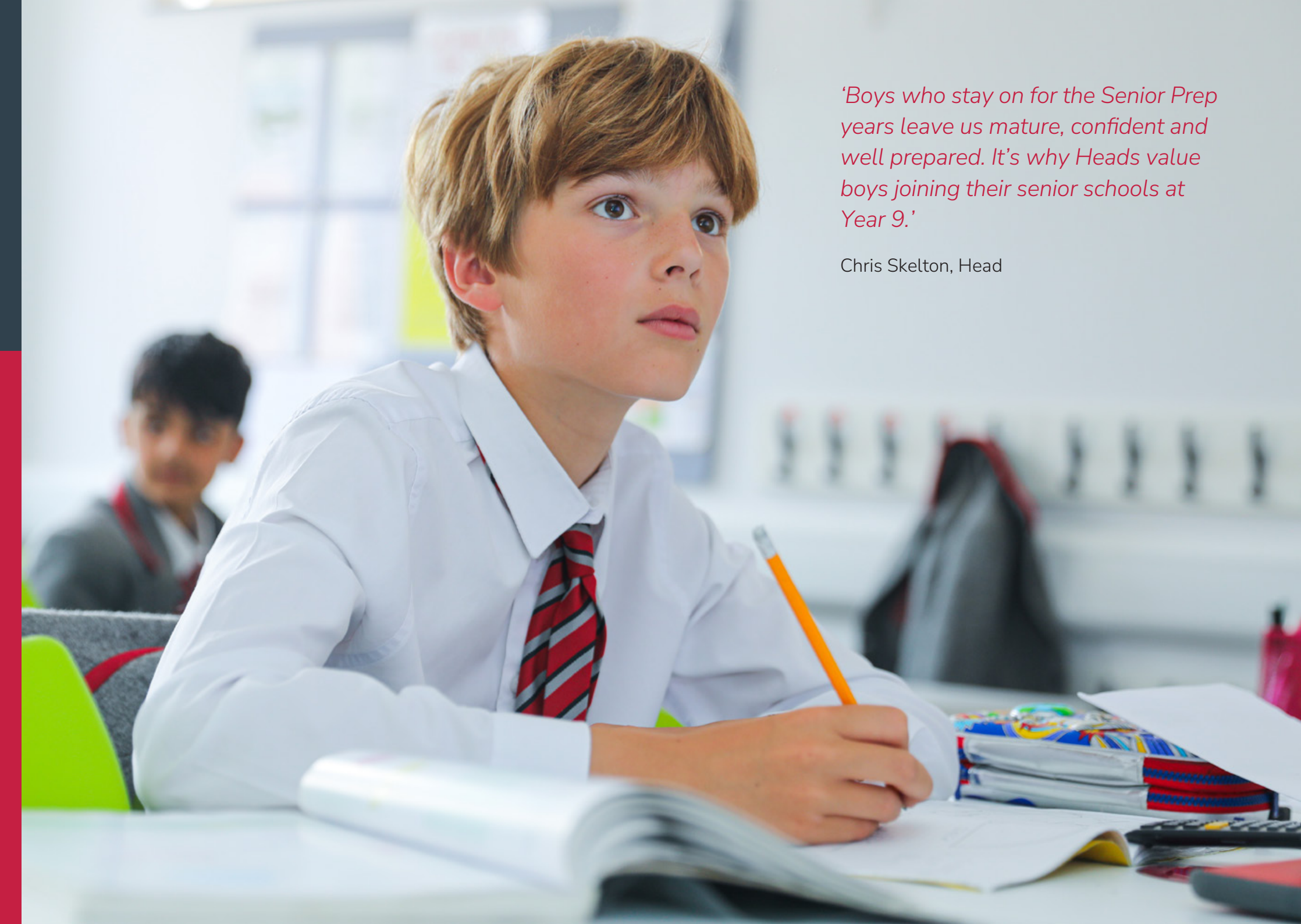


Newland House
School

SENIOR PREP

YEAR 7 AND 8





'Boys who stay on for the Senior Prep years leave us mature, confident and well prepared. It's why Heads value boys joining their senior schools at Year 9.'

Chris Skelton, Head

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WELCOME TO THE SENIOR PREP: YEARS 7 AND 8 AT NEWLAND HOUSE

The final two years at Newland House are perhaps some of the most exciting years of your child's Prep School education. They develop in maturity at the 'top' of the school, grow in confidence through opportunities for leadership and responsibility, and are academically challenged in small class sizes.

For many children, Senior Prep means that they leave us at 13 better equipped to deal with senior school life and with especially fond memories of their final years with close a cohort.

We hope that this booklet highlights the many benefits of your child continuing their educational journey with us during these important years.

We'd encourage you to speak with us and to parents with children in these Year groups if you have further questions.



Ian Bardgett
Head of Year 7 and 8



Chris Skelton
Head

OVERVIEW OF THE BENEFITS OF STAYING AT NEWLAND HOUSE FOR YEARS 7 AND 8

First of all, it is worth saying that all children will leave Newland House and progress to an excellent fit senior school, but you may be wondering where it is best for them to spend Years 7 and 8.

In the early adolescent years, children are dealing with changing emotions and hormones, and new pressures. While they begin to experience some of these changes, two extra years in a safe and known environment can be of real benefit as they start to understand themselves and develop ideas of who they want to be.

As your child progresses towards adulthood, our knowledge of them means we are able to help guide them in a positive direction. In these year groups, there is a particular focus on character development and we continue to explore key themes such as mental wellbeing, resilience and friendships in small and familiar groups.

Academically, we start to move towards GCSE preparation and the academic rigour required, often working at levels beyond your children's senior school peers. Smaller class sizes (probably the best teaching ratios you will ever get!) mean closer academic monitoring and dedicated, tailored support. We work hard to ensure children develop a maturity in their ability to learn independently, giving them the skills and confidence needed to thrive in any senior environment.

We see our Year 7 and 8 as the culmination of a child's journey with us. Children become role models and mentors and get opportunities that they would not normally get in Years 7 and 8 of a senior school. It was mentioned by the Headmaster of local extremely successful senior school during a recent Newland House parent event, that when analysing the make-up of their prefects and head boys over a number of years, boys who came from Prep Schools at 13+ were over-represented. Boys go to their senior schools knowing what real leadership looks like.

For parents, the relationship with your child's senior schools is quite different and there are many benefits for children and parents alike of two more years of being more fully involved in school life.





CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Smaller classes naturally allow a more flexible approach towards the curriculum and give opportunities for more individualised learning.

Many of our specialist teachers have come from senior schools and relish teaching the top of the school where they explore subjects at a much deeper level.

Through external workshops, pastoral support and expectation placed on pupils, we aim to further develop their learning habits and study skills to fully access the extended curriculum.

All subjects are taught by specialist teachers and pupils are set by ability in English, Mathematics, and French. This allows teachers to pitch lessons in alignment with the expectations of particular senior schools.

To support our pupils in getting the most out of our ambitious curriculum, booster groups in Maths, English and Science are available for pupils who are finding the subject matter more challenging. The Learning Enrichment team also provide further challenge to our more able pupils, alongside the additional lessons those working towards scholarships receive.

Expanding the curriculum, our senior pupils enjoy the opportunity of exploring moral and ethical 'big questions' with their peers as they discuss the complex ideas posed in Philosophy and Ethics introduced as part of the expanded RS curriculum. Languages continue to play a significant role in the curriculum as pupils from Year 8 begin to study Spanish in addition to French and Latin.

Pupils participate in numerous national competitions in Maths, Drama, Music and Public Speaking, often with great success. The Townsend-Warner History Prize was started 139 years ago and is one of the oldest institutions in the preparatory school world. Yearly participation provokes interest and delight in historical reading, facts and analysis.

Homework

In Years 7 and 8, students are expected to complete 1 hour of homework each evening, with an additional 20 minutes of reading time and any music practice they may have.



SPORT

In the combined Year 7 and 8 year groups, the Senior pupils will have a minimum of three hours of sport per week (not including clubs) delivered by our dedicated sports coaches and making the most of the off-site facilities at Bushy Park Sports Club.

They will experience a broader range of sports so, alongside rugby, football and cricket, they will be introduced to sports such as badminton, basketball and table tennis. Competitive fixtures will take place during games lessons midweek and at the weekend against local rivals such as Twickenham Prep School, Fulham Prep, Rokeby, Millbourne Lodge, Sussex House, Harrodian, Bishopsgate and Thomas's to name but a few. The fixture schedule is ever changing and caters for the ability of the children in Year 7 and 8 to ensure fair play, appropriate level of opposition, and competition. The balance of enjoyable sport is matched carefully to ensure an engaging, challenging, but most importantly, an enjoyable season of Sport.

In addition to a full and challenging fixture list, Newland House seniors take part in a number of tournaments throughout the year in football, rugby and cricket.

Each term, Sports colours are awarded to recognise outstanding contribution and we elect a Senior Sports Captain per sport. In a top of the school approach, the year culminates with the annual Senior Sports dinner and awards.

Autumn Term: Football fixtures and competitions, rugby pre-season training, tennis/table tennis

Spring Term: Rugby fixtures and competitions, recreational football, tennis/table tennis

Summer Term: Cricket fixtures, athletics, tennis/table tennis
Clubs: Basketball, cricket nets, 5 a side football, American football





MUSIC

During their weekly Music lesson boys will experience a wide range of music styles. Lessons are very practical, incorporating a variety of instrumental work and Music technology.

YEAR 7

Reggae Music and forming a class band
Looking at minimalist Music and Music from the 21st Century
Film Music with Music Technology

YEAR 8

Blues Music
Samba Music
Arrangements of songs

All boys are encouraged to join the Senior Boys Choir where they get to choose a range of popular songs, as well as joining the Newland House Choir. Boys who play instruments may be invited to join ensembles.

We encourage them to take part in school Music performances, such as the House Music competition, soloist concerts as well as external concerts like the Spring concert at the Hammond Theatre at Hampton School.

Individual Music tuition is available from our team of specialist teachers, and this can be booked via Firefly.



DRAMA

Drama helps develop important skills which will be required by every future employer and it is a timetabled lesson in Years 7 and 8.

In Year 7 and 8 the schemes of work lay the foundations for many elements that will feature in the GCSE and A-Level Drama courses. Whether or not they choose to pursue their studies in Drama, students will benefit greatly from the 4Cs, confidence; communication; collaboration and creative thinking which are all honed in Drama lessons and when performing on the stage.

Areas covered are

YEAR 7

- Improvisation
- Performance Preparation
- Silent Film

YEAR 8

- Script Writing
- Devising
- Performance Preparation



ART

In today's digital world, it is more important than ever to provide children and young adults with visual literacy. During their weekly Art lesson, pupils will develop their appreciation and understanding of the work of successful artists, craftspeople and designers – discussing, analysing and interpreting their work.

They will hone dexterity and hands on skills in a wide range of media and including drawing, painting, textiles and ceramics and see the value and positive impact of their own artwork. As well as class projects, work is exhibited within the School throughout the year and at the end of year exhibition. In addition, the Senior students have been involved with exhibitions and competitions that come up throughout the school year.

Art projects in these year groups have included 'Mechanimals' a much loved project inspired by surrealism and Steam punk style, and a collaborative project entitled 'Checkmate!' where the boys have created their own chess pieces for a game.

Extra Curricular offering

Senior Art Club, ARTiculate Scholarship Art sessions are available as well as opportunities to assist with set design for Drama productions.



BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

Personal Development Programme (PDP)

The programme offers a unique experience for our Senior students. Held every Friday afternoon during a double period, students have the invaluable opportunity to reflect upon and cultivate essential life skills that extend beyond the classroom.

At the heart of our PDP lies a diverse range of modules carefully designed to foster personal growth and character development. Each student is paired with a dedicated development mentor, ensuring tailored guidance throughout their journey. From these modules, students can choose projects that resonate with their individual interests and aspirations.

Personal development and challenge
Cultural appreciation and world affairs
Citizenship and British values
Social and environmental responsibility
Community awareness

Through these modules, we nurture vital qualities such as teamwork, flexibility, collaboration, effective communication, organisational skills, and critical thinking.

Within the PDP, we emphasise the cultivation of personal traits that shape well-rounded individuals. Traits like tolerance, empathy, perseverance, respect, happiness, and motivation are celebrated and encouraged, providing a solid foundation for future success.

Here are just a few examples of the diverse projects that students can engage in:

- **Charity Fundraising Project:** Making a positive impact in the community by organising fundraising events
- **News and Current Affairs:** Exploring and discussing pressing global issues
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** Fostering an understanding of mental health and promoting strategies for self-care and support
- **Model United Nations:** Developing diplomacy, negotiation, and public speaking skills through participation in mock United Nations conferences
- **Explore:** Expanding horizons through online interactive modules that encourage critical thinking and exploration of big ideas
- **Sports Science:** Discovering the science behind sports performance, nutrition, and physical well-being
- **Crest Awards:** Undertaking scientific investigations and experiments to achieve nationally recognised awards
- **ESB Public Speaking:** Building confidence and eloquence through structured public speaking exercises
- **Local Volunteering:** Engaging with the local community through volunteering opportunities, fostering a sense of social responsibility
- **Newland's Got Talent:** Organising a whole school extravaganza to showcase individual talents and passions



Visiting Speakers

Over the past couple of years, we have been delighted to welcome inspirational individuals to speak to our students. Visitors have included Baroness Newlove, who shared insights into the workings of the House of Lords during our Politics module. We have also hosted speakers like Ethan Pinnock, a Brentford Football Player, who imparted wisdom about resilience and life as a professional athlete and Mrs Diane Reddish, Assistant Director of the Kingston Samaritans Branch, who enlightened the students on the significance of charity volunteer work and the role of a volunteer.

Developing Mentorship

Our Senior students are actively encouraged to become role models for the younger members of the Newland House community. They regularly visit the Nursery and Pre-Prep to read with the younger children as well as offering targeted support to individual children to help stretch their learning. Taking an active role in the running of the Pre-Prep sports day is always a favourite of the Year 8 students!

Clubs

We continue to have a wide range of clubs available to the Senior students, such as golf, history, football, swimming, money matters and Classics.

Trips, Visits and Workshops

Over the course of the year there are many opportunities to extend learning outside of the classroom. In previous years, visits have included the Sutton Life Centre, Rose Theatre, Hampton Court Palace and NPL as well as travelling further afield to a 5 day 'Adventure Expedition' in the Peak District.

Leavers' Programme

During the second half of the Summer Term, the Year 8 pupils enjoy a month-long programme which is a true celebration of their time at Newland House. Activities include Go Ape, kayaking, rowing, 'The London Challenge', an environmental beach clean exercise plus additional mentoring activities with the lower Prep years. The enrichment activities on offer allow students to develop skills beyond their expectations. They are challenged, encouraged to further develop empathy and team work and extend their leadership ability.

Many past students refer fondly to the programme as their highlight of Newland House. In part, by experiencing a fantastic range of activities, trips and excursions, but primarily because they experienced it with close friends.



PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Team plays a pivotal role in ensuring the well-being and personal development of our students. Led by Mr. I Bardgett, the Head of Years 7 and 8, the team is dedicated to creating a supportive and nurturing environment where every student can thrive.

Mr Bardgett takes the lead in delivering year group assemblies, covering topics such as kindness, empathy, and diversity. Each year group is assigned a dedicated Form Tutor, Mr. P Dorrian in Year 7 and Dr. E Brooke in Year 8. The Form Tutor plays a vital role in the lives of both students and parents as they will be your main point of contact. Students will have daily form time, and PHSE lessons will be covered by the Form Tutor.

Recognizing the importance of emotional development and well-being, Mrs Chloe Chandra-Rajan, our appointed Well-being co-ordinator, facilitates small discussion groups that focus on strategies for maintaining good mental health, helping to provide students with a mental health 'tool kit'. For those pupils who require more individual levels of support, Chloe, along with her very popular therapy dog, Tilly, is available to talk through any particular concerns and worries.

Starting in September, we're excited to be introducing an empowering programme called 'Working with Boys,' developed by Andrew Hampton. The programme helps guide boys to consider and choose a form of masculinity for themselves as individuals and their group that is gentle, mutually supportive and dignified.

We have already introduced Andrew's 'Girls on Board', an approach which helps girls, their parents and their teachers to understand the

complexities and dynamics of girl friendships . This has been very well received by pupils and staff and we're looking forward to expanding our provision through the Working with Boys programme.

We believe that a comprehensive pastoral program is essential for the holistic development of our students. By providing a supportive network of staff members who are dedicated to their well-being, we ensure that every student has access to the guidance and support they need to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

Senior Student Seminars

Over the course of the year, we will extend the students' development through a series of workshops with external experts, covering topics such as online safety and navigating the digital world; drug, alcohol and substance abuse; financial awareness and mental health.

Pupil Voice

Senior students will continue to meet with Mr Skelton in his regular 'Chat with the Head', they are offered opportunity in Form Time and assembly time to discuss areas where they feel they can help improve school life.

Senior Common Room

Being at the top of the school, the Senior students benefit from their own dedicated area where they can relax and play pool in break times. During the World Cup, they really enjoyed the privilege of being able to watch some of the game together in the common room.



THE DIFFERENCE IN THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS AT 11+ AND 13+

Senior Schools generally require your child to sit an entrance exam before offering them a place. Regardless of whether your child will enter Year 7 or Year 9, these assessments typically take place in Year 6.

Traditionally, the main 11+ and 13+ entrance examinations were taken in January of Year 6. However, over the past few years, an increasing number of schools have moved these exams to November or December and this trend is likely to continue, although for some boarding schools they could happen before the October half-term.

For schools that have both 11+ and 13+ entry points, the assessments are often very similar or identical regardless of which point of entry you choose.

Scholarship Preparation and Support

At 13+ entry, scholarship applications can usually only be made after an offer of a place has been received and accepted. Unlike at 11+, an academic scholarship at 13+ is generally a separate series of papers, which children typically sit in the Spring or Summer Terms of Year 8. In the Summer Term of Year 7, Mrs McIntyre will be in contact with

the parents of children that we believe to have the potential to be academic scholars. For scholarships in other disciplines such as Art, Sport, Drama and Music, parents will need to submit an application after accepting an offer of a place.

To learn about the skills, experience and attributes required of a successful scholarship candidate please check the relevant section of Firefly.

If you wish to proceed with a scholarship application, please contact the relevant Head of Department during the Summer Term of Year 7. This will give them ample time to support your child. These members of staff are:

- Mrs McIntyre (Academic)
- Mr Bardgett and Miss Pomroy (Sport)
- Mrs Parton (Drama)
- Mr Soper (Music)
- Mrs Nayyar (Art) (from September)

It is the parents' responsibility to fill in scholarship application forms

Prior to the Scholarship examinations and final exams papers in June of Year 8, examination practice is given in November and March. This encourages pupils to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and allows teachers and pupils to pinpoint subject areas for consolidation. For children who are sitting their senior school exams during Year 7 and 8, bespoke preparation sessions will be offered.

For children sitting scholarship exams in Year 8, additional tailored support sessions will be offered from the start of Year 8 in their examinable subjects.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Won't all of the children have already made friends by the time my child joins their Senior School in Year 9?

Senior Schools with a 13+ entry point have this because they like children arriving in Year 9, having been through the Senior Prep years. They hold transition events for pupils arriving at this point and many mix up the form classes to accommodate the new pupils. Past experience shows that pupils settle quickly.

What if not many other pupils choose to go into Year 7 at Newland House in my child's cohort?

Numbers of pupils in Years 7 and 8 have fluctuated a little over the past few years but we can offer them a great experience regardless. Smaller numbers mean smaller class sizes and a more bespoke teaching environment. Year 7 and 8 come together for Sport and the Personal Development Programme, so we are able to put out successful teams and collaborate for large-scale projects regardless of exact numbers.

Having said all of that, we value every one of our pupils and very much hope that your child will be part of these in the years to come.

