



# YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

## ADMISSIONS POLICY

### **Admissions, Scholarships and Bursaries for entry in 2008-2009**

#### Admissions

##### Entry into Year 7 (11+)

Boys and girls applying to enter the Senior School at 11+ will be required to sit a Transfer Assessment or Entrance Assessment. This is normally taken in January prior to the September entry but other special arrangements can be made. This year the assessments will be taken on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January for internal candidates and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009 for external candidates. Explanatory notes summarising the process are available for parents.

There will be a combination of two computer-based assessments, designed to measure a child's ability at maths, vocabulary and problem solving, together with two written assessments, comprising of a piece of extended writing and a spelling test. More information will be sent out to all registered candidates before Christmas, but it should be noted that the computer-based tests require no specific computer skills beyond a very basic ability to use a mouse and keyboard. The Headmaster will also request a confidential reference from the applicant's current school.

##### Entry into Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at Yarm School has a strong academic ethos. The pace of work is rapid and both good academic ability and an industrious approach are required if a pupil is to succeed.

In order to secure entry to the Sixth Form all pupils must meet our General Requirement and the Specific Requirements for the four subjects they wish to pursue at AS level. All pupils are required to take four subjects.

All pupils wishing to transfer to the Sixth Form from Yarm School Fifth Year must have demonstrated the good work habits required for them to achieve their potential in the sixth form and that they are supportive of the Yarm School ethos.

### *The Sixth Form Examination*

Pupils who wish to join the Sixth Form from other schools are required to take the Sixth Form Examination which is held on a Saturday in early February. The offer of a Sixth Form place is dependent on acceptable performance in the examination. Candidates take a General Paper and select two Subject Papers from the four subjects to be followed at AS level. The examination is designed to assess potential and not to favour any particular GCSE specification. Further details of the format of the examination may be requested from School.

Yarm School pupils who do well in their Mock GCSE Examinations will also be invited to sit the Sixth Form Examination.

Scholarships may be offered on the basis of performance in the Sixth Form Examination.

### *Interview*

All pupils wishing to transfer to the Sixth Form from other school will be invited to an interview with the Headmaster before a place is offered.

### *General Entry Requirement*

Pupils who have followed GCSE courses are required to have:

- taken at least 8 subjects
- achieved grade C or better in Mathematics and English (Language).
- passed at least 4 subjects at grade B and above
- achieved a mean score of 5.5 points, averaged over the best 8 grades with points awarded for each grade as in the table.

A*	8
A	7
B	6
C	5
D	4
E	3
F	2
G	1
U	0

(e.g. from a total of eight GCSE subjects 2A, 3B, 2C and 1D grade would be acceptable, 4 B and 4 C grades would be just acceptable but 4 B, 3 C and 1 D grades would not.)

Double award subjects count as two GCSE's; we do not count GCSE short-course passes or other qualifications such as GNVQ in this average.

## SUBJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Needed to have studied before:	Minimum Grade Required in Subject:	Other Requirements:
Art	A	B	Sample of pupil's work if hasn't taken GCSE Art
Biology	Y	B	BB in Dual Award Science
Business Studies	N	B if taken	B in Maths and B in English
Chemistry	Y	B	BB in Dual Award Science
Classical Civilisation	N	C if taken	At least a B in English, History <u>or</u> Classics
Design & Technology	A	B	B in Physics or BB in Dual Award Science if no DT
Theatre Studies	N	B if taken	B in English
Economics	N		B in Business Studies or B in Maths and B in English if not
English	Y	B	
French	Y	B	
Geography	A	B	B in English and Maths if no Geography
German	Y	B	
History	A	B	B in English if no History
Latin	Y	B	
Mathematics	Y	A	
Further Mathematics	Y	A*	
Music	Y	B	Grade Six ABRSM/LCM in one or more instruments or voice
Physics	Y	B	BB in Dual Award Science
Politics	N		B in History (or B in English if History not taken)
Psychology	N		
Religious Studies	N	B if taken	B in English if no RS
Sports Studies & Physical Education	N	B if taken	BB in Dual Award Science or B in Biology if no PE

### Notes:

- Y = Must have studied this subject to GCSE;
- A = Strongly advisable to have taken the subject to GCSE but in exceptional circumstances it may be possible to take it without this.
- N = Not necessary to have studied the subject previously, however students need to ensure they are fully aware of what they are opting for.

## **Allocation of Places**

In the event of the number of children registered for any year group exceeding the places available, the following will be taken into consideration:

- The results obtained in Entrance Assessments
- The presence of siblings within the School or requiring entry
- The length of time the child has been registered for entry
- References from previous schools
- Preference may be given to families who are relocating

The criteria for admission to the School apply equally for all children, regardless of disability, ethnicity or gender.

## **Academic Scholarships**

The School offers a number of Academic Scholarships of varying levels up to 33% of school fees. Academic merit is the sole criterion. Retention of these Scholarships is subject to excellent academic progress and high standards of behaviour.

### At 11+

Academic scholarships are awarded on the basis of performance in the Entrance Assessment. The School offers up to six Academic Scholarships to external and internal candidates of varying levels up to 33% of school fees. Academic merit is the sole criterion and scholarships are offered to the top performing candidates. Retention of the scholarship is subject to excellent academic effort and progress and high standards of behaviour.

### At 16+

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of performance in the Sixth Form Entrance Examination sat in early February.

## **Music Scholarships**

Pupils entering the School at 11+, 13+ or 16+ may apply for a Music Scholarship. Candidates for these awards must, in the first instance, show reasonable all-round academic ability in the Entrance Assessment. A high standard of achievement for the age of the pupil is normally expected on two instruments; candidates may also offer voice, and/or composition at 16+. A separate Music Audition is given to candidates and these will be held this year on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January**, 9.00 am for 11+ and 13+ and **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January**, 9.00 am for 16+. Retention of such an award is subject to excellent musical progress and a high level of involvement in the musical life of the School; in addition, the pupil must make sound academic progress and display high standards of behaviour.

Applications for a Music Scholarship should be made in writing to the Headmaster (an application form is available) as soon as possible and no later than **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009**.

## **Arkwright Scholarships**

Yarm School is one of a limited number of schools which have been selected to offer Arkwright Scholarships for Design and Technology. These scholarships are tenable for the two Sixth Form years. Applications must be made by the end of January in the year the Sixth Form studies are to commence. Details from the Headmaster.

## **Ogden Trust Sixth Form 100% Science Scholarships**

Yarm School is pleased to participate in the Ogden Trust Scheme for 6<sup>th</sup> Form Science Scholarships. The aim of the scheme is to promote the benefits of an independent school Sixth Form education in Science to those previously educated in a state school and who would not otherwise be able to afford private education (joint gross parental income must be below £30,000 p.a.). Preference is given to candidates who intend to take A Level Physics and Mathematics although one of these and another Science subject may be acceptable. Scholarships of 100% off tuition fees are on offer. Candidates must secure a minimum of 5 GCSE's at Grade A and intend to read a science-related degree at University. Application forms are available from the School and must be submitted by **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009**.

We are currently able to put forward the names of two candidates to the Ogden Trust. All candidates must sit the Sixth Form Entrance Examination with mathematics and Physics as their subject papers. The candidates who perform best will be put forward for the Scholarships.

## **Bursaries**

A Bursary is a fee reduction to take account of limited parental resources. Bursaries are funded from deposits set aside for this purpose and from the general income of the School. Yarm School awards bursaries according to individual circumstances. Priority is usually given to cases involving the continuity of education of existing pupils, but new awards are also made to pupils joining the School. As a guide, assistance is given on a sliding scale, linked to family income. The School will consider making an award where the total gross family income is less than £40,000 p.a. All applications are dealt with on the understanding that enquiry will be made as a matter of routine into the financial resources of any family making a Bursary application.

For further information about any of the above please do not hesitate to contact the Headmaster's PA, Mrs Jane Herbert, on 01642 786023 or by e-mail at [dmd@yarmschool.org](mailto:dmd@yarmschool.org)

*The School undertakes to accept your child as a pupil of the School from the time of joining the School until the end of his or her Nursery/Early School/Preparatory School/GCSE's. It is anticipated that all children will make appropriate progress and hence a smooth transition through each stage of their education at Yarm School. Should this prove not to be the case, parents will be informed of any concerns at the earliest opportunity. The majority of entrants into Yarm School remain until the end of their school career.*

**Updated June 2008**