

## Questions International Agents Ask us



### **Admissions**

#### **What are the key entry years for international pupils?**

The key entry years are Year 4, Year 6 and Year 7, however we are happy to consider entry at any stage of a child's education.

#### **What academic level is required for entry?**

Each child will undergo assessment tests prior to entry which will include Maths, English and Verbal Reasoning.

#### **What English level is required?**

We accept pupils with no spoken or written English. Lessons in English As An Additional Language (EAL) can begin on arrival and pupils will be able to access the curriculum in very short space of time.

#### **Are assessments online or in person?**

We are happy to conduct assessments online according to the location of the family.

#### **How long does the admissions process take?**

Generally speaking, applications from international pupils can be processed during the term preceding entry.

#### **How many international pupils do you accept each year?**

We aim to maintain a balance between international and national pupils with some also drawn from the local area.

### **Boarding**

#### **From what age can pupils board?**

Pupils can normally board from age 7 (Year 3): in exceptional circumstances we can consider younger pupils on an individual basis.

#### **What types of boarding are available?**

We welcome full and weekly boarders and also pupils who wish to board on a flexi basis, perhaps starting from one day a week initially.

#### **How many boarders are there?**

We generally have a boarding population which represents about two thirds of the school roll.

#### **Are boys and girls housed separately?**

All boarders are housed within our main mansion, with no separate boarding houses, however boys and girls have their own boarding floors with separate dorms and facilities.

#### **What supervision is provided in boarding houses?**

Boarders are welcomed into the boarding house after evening activities and are with house parents throughout the evening until bedtime.

#### **What happens at weekends for boarders?**

We aim to provide a varied and hugely enjoyable weekend programme which combines fun activities, visits to some of the major cities of the region and some essential rest and relaxation.

## **Questions International Agents Ask us**

### **Academic Outcomes**

#### **What senior schools do pupils progress to?**

We do not send pupils to one particular senior school, we aim to work with parents to choose the right senior school for their child. Our Year 8 leavers tend to join one of between 20-25 different senior schools.

#### **What scholarships do pupils achieve?**

As well as academic scholarships, pupils regularly achieve scholarship awards in sport, art, design and technology, music and drama.

#### **How are pupils prepared for senior school entrance exams?**

We work with senior schools generally from Year 6 to help pupils prepare for initial assessment. Thereafter pupils work through Common Entrance or Scholarship curriculums and senior schools also share entrance papers with us.

#### **How does the school track academic progress?**

There is a tracking system in place to monitor individual progress throughout Key Stages one, two and three.

### **Support for International Pupils**

#### **What EAL support is available?**

We offer individual EAL lessons based on initial assessment. All EAL pupils are prepared for the Cambridge Language Exams.

#### **How do international pupils integrate into school life?**

All joining pupils are given both a day and a boarding buddy to help them settle in. They join a tutor group which provides pastoral support on a day to day basis and a regular touch point for parents and guardians to receive updates.

## Questions International Agents Ask us

### **What pastoral support is available?**

Our pastoral tutors are responsible for looking after the children on a daily basis, this feeds into our wider pastoral support structure which reviews pupil progress each week and provides support as need arises.

### **How do you support homesick pupils?**

Homesickness is an entirely normal part of the boarding process, especially for new pupils. Our aim is to encourage regular contact with home whilst keeping them busy and happily occupied until bedtime.

## **Practical Arrangements**

### **Does the school arrange airport transfers?**

We can arrange airport transfers on an individual basis. Please contact [opssecretary@orwellpark.org](mailto:opssecretary@orwellpark.org) for more information.

### **What are the nearest airports?**

The nearest airport is London Stansted. We also have excellent road access to London Heathrow and Gatwick.

### **Do pupils require a UK guardian?**

International pupils are required to have a UK guardian.

### **Can you recommend guardianship organisations?**

We do not recommend individual guardians, we are happy to share details of guardians who have worked well with some of our parents.

## **Questions International Agents Ask us**

### **Communication**

#### **How often do parents receive updates?**

Parents will receive updates regarding academic and pastoral progress before every half term break and a full report at the end of each term.

#### **Are parent meetings available online?**

We have mixture of parent meetings both in person and online. Tutors will also offer individual online meetings where needed.

#### **Can parents communicate with boarding staff directly?**

Parents are given full contact details including email addresses and telephone numbers in order for them to be able to contact boarding staff at any time.

### **Fees**

#### **What are the annual fees and what additional costs should international families expect?**

Please refer to our fees schedule available on our website.