



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ADMISSIONS **TO THE SCHOOL**

Background information

Ditcham Park School is a selective independent, co-educational school for pupils from age 4-16 years (Reception to Year 11 inclusive). Although not highly selective, we are always immensely proud of our pupils' GCSE results each year where excellent performance, significant 'value added' and achievement to full potential across the full ability range and beyond is a treasured characteristic of our annual success. The School's pass rate for 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE has been consistently at or very near to 100% in recent years and almost all pupils gain between 7-11 GCSEs at good or excellent grades. Attaining the 'Gold Standard' of 5+ GCSEs, including English, Mathematics and Science, remains a key target for 100% of our pupils and this standard was achieved in 2011 and 2103. In 2015 this statistic was 95%. All pupils progress to higher education in a range of local schools and Sixth Form Colleges before the overwhelming majority then proceed to University. Ditcham places strong emphasis on high levels of pastoral care and the development of children's confidence and skills through a wide-ranging, challenging and rewarding curriculum.

Pupils are offered places subject to their performance in our assessment procedures and in line with the criteria outlined within this policy. Entry to Ditcham Park School can be into any year group from Reception to Year 10, dependent on available places. Although the majority of pupils joining the school commence at the start of the Autumn term, for a range of specific reasons, some pupils do join the school at other points during the school year.

Registration

Parents of pupils who wish to be considered for entry to Ditcham Park School are required to complete the school registration documents.

For a copy of our Registration Form please click [here](#) to download a ".pdf" version.

Assessment

Following registration, pupils are invited into school for a visit and or assessment, dependent on proposed age of entry.

Entry into Juniors (Reception – Year 6)

Entry into the infant classes within Juniors is through a classroom visit/taster day during which a formal assessment will be made by the class teacher and Head of Juniors. For KS2 entry, in addition to the taster day an assessment day will also be required. This assessment day will include time within the classroom alongside other pupils where through the teaching and learning experience of the day, the class teacher can assess the pupil through the normal range and level of challenges expected of pupils of that age. In addition to the classroom based work formal tests in English, maths, reading and spelling are also completed by candidates as a key part of the assessment day. All pupils are required to provide a full copy of their latest school report from their current School or Nursery. It is expected that Junior pupils will continue into Seniors. However, if there are concerns

regarding academic or social performance and progress, consultation between school and parents will be initiated at the most appropriate time in our aim to support all pupils and families in the best possible way.

Junior Scholarship

The Head Teacher can award one or two academic scholarships for entry into Lower (Year 4) worth up to 30% discount on school fees for the remainder of their time in the Juniors. During the spring term of Transition Year (Year 3), high performing pupils are considered for the scholarship. All candidates are included within our consideration as to which pupils are considered to be eligible.

Pupils from within Ditcham Park School considered for the scholarship selected by the school. Parents of candidates will be informed in writing. Candidates are selected through use of assessment data, past and current classwork, performance in school tests and CAT4.

External candidates who have performed exceptionally well in our normal entrance procedures will be invited, in writing, by the Head of Juniors to sit a scholarship examination, if their entrance assessment is over 3 months old. If they have been assessed for entrance into the Juniors within 3 months, this will be used as the form of assessment.

Candidates will be informed, in writing, of whether they have or have not been awarded the Junior Scholarship. If there is not a suitable candidate the Junior Scholarship will not be awarded.

Junior Music Exhibition

The Head Teacher can award a Junior Music Exhibition for entry into Lower (Year 4). Pupils can apply to be considered for this Exhibition and full details are available from the school office. Candidates will be expected to be performing well on at least one musical instrument/singing. Progression through some recognised National Music Examinations is not a requirement but will be an important consideration. Candidates will be expected to perform in an individual music assessment which is conducted by the Head of Music. The successful candidate for the Music Exhibition will be offered free instrumental lessons for two instruments, one of which must be an orchestral instrument, for the remainder of their time in the Juniors. The recipient will be expected to take a full and active part in the musical life of the school.

Junior Academic Scholarships and the Junior Music Exhibition Award will be open to both current and new pupils at Ditcham Park and only apply to the three final school years in Juniors, from Year 4-6 inclusive (Lower Junior to Upper Junior).

All candidates will be informed, in writing, of whether they have or have not been awarded the Music Exhibition. If there is not a suitable candidate the Music scholarship will not be awarded.

Entry into Seniors (Year 7-10)

Pupils at Ditcham Park School are expected to take 9 or 10 GCSE subjects including English, Mathematics, Sciences and French at the end of Year 11.

Entry to the Seniors, (Year 7 –Year 10), is dependent on passing our entrance examinations in English, Mathematics, Non-verbal reasoning (NVR), Verbal reasoning (VR) and also an Entrance Interview.

Entrance into Year 7 (Form 1)

For Year 7 (Form 1) entry, interviews take place in late November and the Entrance Examinations scheduled for January in the expected for entry into Year 7.

For all other age groups Entrance Examinations can be scheduled at other times during the school year, subject to the availability of places.

All candidates are required to provide a full copy of their latest school report from their current school. If pupils have had an Educational Psychologist's assessment it is essential that this is shared with the school as part of the initial registration.

In offering places to candidates, the following factors are considered:

- Performance in Middle and Upper Juniors of Ditcham Park School
- Performance in School Entrance Exams
- Performance in Interview
- Review of current school report
- Review of Educational Psychologist's report if applicable
- Bursary Application
- Performance in Academic Scholarship Papers
- Performance in Music Exhibition
- Sibling(s) already in school
- Registration date

All candidates are considered by the Head Teacher, and places are offered at the discretion of the Head Teacher with regard to the above mentioned criteria. Parents will be informed by telephone and also in writing at the earliest possible opportunity following the completion of the registration requirements and assessment procedures.

With a large number of applicants for Form 1 entry, and in our endeavour to be fair to all candidates, it is important that parents are able to confirm their acceptance of an offer of a place at the school, in writing and including the required deposit, within the deadline date set out in the offer letter. Should a place not be accepted in writing within the deadline date the Head Teacher may offer the place to another suitable candidate on the waiting list.

The ability range of pupils at Ditcham Park School includes approximately 15-20% who require and benefit from specialised learning support lessons.

Senior Scholarship for Form 1 Entry

Following the January Entrance Examination, high performing pupils are invited to return to school to sit the competitive scholarship examination in February. The Head Teacher can award one or two academic scholarships for entry into Form 1 (Year 7) worth up to 30% discount on school fees.

Bursary for Form 1 Entry

The Head Teacher can also award one 'means tested' bursary for entry into Form 1 (Year 7) to a pupil from a state primary school. In line with our criteria the bursary can be worth up to 100% discount on school fees.

Music Exhibition for Form 1 Entry

A Music Exhibition is available for entry into Form 1 (Year 7). Pupils apply to be considered for the Music Exhibition and full details are available from the school website. It can be worth up to 30% discount on school fees.