



Wycombe High School Admissions to Year 7

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Response
About Wycombe High School	
What type of school is Wycombe High School?	Wycombe High School is a state grammar school for girls and has academy status. This school is NOT an independent, fee paying school. Year 7 entry is by the Secondary Transfer examination.
Ethos	
What is the ethos of Wycombe High School?	At Wycombe High School We Look Beyond Look beyond the traditional grammar school. Look beyond league tables and exam results. Look beyond stereotypes and conventions. Look beyond a world where futures are fixed. You can find out more on our website Ethos and Values - Wycombe High School (whs.bucks.sch.uk) Our vision, mission and values underpin our approach throughout a child's seven-year journey at Wycombe High School. During this time, she will be supported to further develop the learner characteristics that embody our values: brave, open minded, reflective, resilient, creative thinking and knowledgeable.
Making an application	
How and when do I make an application for Wycombe High School?	All admissions for entry in the September of Year 7 are managed centrally by Buckinghamshire Council so all enquiries should be directed to them. School admissions Buckinghamshire Council Their website has sections giving advice regarding making decisions on what order to list schools on the application form and a timeline of important deadlines, amongst other useful information Timeline for entry in 2022 Buckinghamshire Council (buckscc.gov.uk)
Secondary Transfer Test	
What are the secondary transfer tests like? When will they be held?	Information on the secondary transfer testing can be found on both the Buckinghamshire Council website Secondary Transfer Testing 2022 introduction Buckinghamshire Council (buckscc.gov.uk) and The Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools website The Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools The Secondary Transfer Test (thebucksgrammarschools.org) where you can find familiarisation materials. The test takes place in the Autumn term of Year 6, and assesses verbal, mathematical and non-verbal skills. You child will be able to take a Practice Test before taking the Secondary Transfer Test.
Wycombe High School Admissions Policy	
What are the oversubscription criteria? Are there waiting lists? What is catchment A and catchment B?	The school's Admission policy includes our oversubscription criteria and can be found on the Admissions section of the school's website Admissions - Wycombe High School (whs.bucks.sch.uk)
Fair Access	
Do Pupil Premium students get any additional help to prepare for the Secondary Transfer test? Do disadvantaged students have different entry criteria?	Wycombe High School is committed to promoting social mobility. This is facilitated through outreach work the school undertakes with primary schools. Please see the Admission policy for details of how the school's policy promotes the ability of disadvantaged students to access the school. In order to let the school know that your child qualifies as disadvantage you will need to provide evidence of this directly to Wycombe High School. Details of how to do this will be available on the school's website in the Autumn term.
Year 6 Induction and Transition	
What is done to make the transition to Year 7 easier?	A range of events take place to help students transition to Wycombe High School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April/May: Year 7 Handbook provided after National Offer Day (1 March) • June; a member of staff visits the primary schools sending more than one student OR • June; students who are the sole student from their primary school, or who are from out of county have their own event in school • July; induction evening for parents and students providing information and a chance to meet • July; induction day for students with a programme that includes taster lessons • July; new students are buddied up with a student in Year 9 to act as their 'sibling' in school • July/August; Summer camp – week long programme of sporting activities (there is a charge for this) • September; Year 7 First day – only students new to the school are present, and programme includes further induction activities September; no home learning tasks are set for the first two weeks of term

<i>Students admitted to Wycombe High School</i>	
How many pupils are admitted to Year 7 each September? How many feeder schools do they come from?	The year group has spaces for 192 students to be admitted into Year 7 each September. The students who join us in Year 7 typically come from 60 or more feeder schools. It is not uncommon for a student to be one of only a few students joining the school. This means that everyone is starting off knowing very few students, and has the opportunity to make many new friends.
<i>The school day</i>	
When does the school day start and end? How long are the lessons? How many lessons are there in a day? Is there a breakfast club? Is there a homework club?	The school site opens to students at 8.00am and students can make use of the library, dining area (where breakfast can be purchased) or outdoor spaces before they go to their first lesson at 8.45am. There are five lessons in a day, each of which lasts an hour. There is a morning break, and a lunch break that is over an hour long. This is to allow the majority of extracurricular clubs to take place during part of the lunch break, while still providing students with the time to have their midday meal. The last lesson of the day ends at 3.40pm. Students may stay on site in the library until 5.55pm.
<i>Transport</i>	
Is there a bus service my child can take to travel to Wycombe High School?	Transport to school is also administered centrally by Buckinghamshire Council and all enquiries regarding this should be directed to them. School transport Buckinghamshire Council
<i>Curriculum</i>	
What subjects are studied in Key Stage Three?	An overview of the school's curriculum can be found on our website Curriculum - Wycombe High School (whs.bucks.sch.uk) In Years 7 and 8 students study; English, Maths, Science, French, Spanish, Latin, Religious Studies, History, Geography, Technology, Art, Drama, Music, PE, and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE).
<i>Tutor groups</i>	
How are the tutor groups arranged?	Wycombe High School has a vertical tutor group model. In each tutor group there will be three to four students from each year. Throughout their seven years at Wycombe High School students remain in the same tutor group so the members of the tutor group, students and staff, know each other very well. Tutees receive advice and guidance not only from their tutor, who is their first point of call through every day contact and one to one guidance meetings, but also from the students in the years above them. The members of a tutor group also belong to one of six houses (see below).
<i>Teaching groups</i>	
How are the teaching groups arranged? Is there any setting?	In the main, Years 7 and 8 students are taught in six teaching groups of approximately 32 students that are carefully balanced to create a mixed group. Students are taught in smaller groups for their technology lessons. There are no subjects that are set in Years 7 and 8.
<i>Houses</i>	
How does the House system work?	Students are allocated to one of six houses on joining Wycombe High School; Austen, Bronte, Curie, Nightingale, Parks or Pankhurst. All members of a tutor group are in the same house, and remain so for their time at Wycombe High School. Students are awarded House Points for demonstrating the Learner Characteristics the school recognises and aims to develop. Internal competitions also contribute to the Houses' total points. Each House competes annually for the House Cup on the basis of these points. Each Head of Year is also a Head of House.
<i>Pastoral provision</i>	
What pastoral support is there?	As well as the tutors, students also have a Head of House as well as Head of Year. The Head of House focus is on pastoral matters, while the Head of Year focusses on academic matters. In addition to these members of the pastoral team students also have access to additional support from; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Support, who are always available to help students with everyday issues including minor medical matters, lost property or absences • Individual Needs, who support and guide students with SEND designations, coordinating closely with subject staff and the pastoral team • Mental Health Team, a dedicated team of eight who support and counsel students
<i>Home learning</i>	
How much homework are students set? How often are they set homework?	Students are expected to undertake homework in all subjects, the quantity varying according to the subject. Typically, students will be set home learning tasks in a few subjects each day. Home learning tasks are often 20-30 minutes in length. No home learning tasks are set in the first two weeks of the Autumn term.

<i>Catch up' curriculum</i>	Firstly, students' progress is supported through expert teaching so that every single student experiences a high quality education. Additionally, we have a summer academic camp for Year 7 to identify learning gaps and a 'catch-up' tutoring programme. Students can also be supported by older students through a peer mentoring scheme that the school coordinates.
<i>Digital</i>	Our school systems use Microsoft Office 2019. Microsoft Teams is used to support on-line learning. Wycombe High School is a 'Bring Your Own Device school' so each Year 7 student requires a tablet device. This embeds digital literacy throughout students' learning. Also, all students undertake a fortnightly Digital programme so that 'Every Girl Can Code'. External providers also visit the school to provide up-to-the-minute opportunities for students in coding and robotics.
<i>Financial assistance</i>	The transfer to secondary school can be financially demanding. The first obvious expenditure is uniform. Items of second-hand uniform can be purchased from the School Shop. If you have difficulty meeting the costs associated with uniform or other items, please contact Student Support in the first instance to discuss the options available for financial support. These are available to families claiming Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or Child Tax Credit, and any who are experiencing extenuating circumstances, though not to families claiming Working Tax Credit. If you think your daughter may be eligible for Free School Meals, an application form is available. If your daughter is eligible, her electronic purse will be automatically topped up with £2.50 each day. In addition, Pupil Premium funding from the government, is used to ensure all students are able to meet their full potential, irrespective of their family's financial circumstances. Our annual Pupil Premium Report can be found on our website Pupil Premium Grant - Wycombe High School (whs.bucks.sch.uk)
<i>Extracurricular opportunities</i>	There is a wide ranging of musical, sporting, creative and academic clubs that students can join. This year these have included for Years 7 and 8; art, athletics, band, brass group, bug house club, cheerleading, choir, cricket, drama, football, french conversation, guitar ensemble, jazz group, orchestra, rock band, rounders, rugby, science, squash, strings group, tennis, touch rugby, and ultimate frisbee! Most of these are scheduled in the lunch hour. We have in excess of 80 clubs or societies every term. There are regular music concerts, drama productions and WHTV which act as a window for our students' talents. As Covid restrictions lift the school will be reintroducing educational visits and in the past these have included trips to Warwick Castle, sports camp, and music tours (national and international). A variety of competitions are run for students within school, and external competitions are clearly communicated to students. The Wainwright Learning Centre is not only a library, offering an extensive collection of books for students to borrow, but also offers a large and pleasant work space with multiple desktop computers. You and find out more here Extracurricular Activities - Wycombe High School (whs.bucks.sch.uk) and here Wycombe High School Sports Home (whssport.co.uk)
<i>Careers guidance</i>	Wycombe High School has a full-time on-site Careers Adviser with whom students can book one-to-one appointments. There is also a fortnightly Careers programme that is tailored to each year group, an annual Inspire talk from Alumnae of the school, and a Careers day scheduled in the year. Students have access to the Unifrog and eClips digital packages as well. You can find out more here Careers - Wycombe High School (whs.bucks.sch.uk)
<i>Examination performance</i>	The government has stated that data from the Summer 2020 and 2021 is not being used in school performance measures. Every year our students perform to a very high level, placing us amongst the very best schools nationally. The latest government information on the performance of Wycombe High School can be found here Find and compare schools in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and you can find headline figures here Examinations - Wycombe High School (whs.bucks.sch.uk)

Further information or enquiries

Websites linked above, other than parts of the Wycombe High website are;

- [School admissions | Buckinghamshire Council](#)
- [Timeline for entry in 2022 | Buckinghamshire Council \(buckscc.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Secondary Transfer Testing 2022 introduction | Buckinghamshire Council \(buckscc.gov.uk\)](#)
- [The Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools | Home \(thebucksgrammarschools.org\)](#)
- [School transport | Buckinghamshire Council](#)
- [Find and compare schools in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

If you have further admissions or transport queries please contact Buckinghamshire Council in the first instance.

To find out more about Wycombe High School, please explore the school's website, follow us on Twitter [Wycombe High School \(@WycombeHighSch\) / Twitter](#) and watch recent items aired on the Wycombe High TV YouTube channel [Wycombe High TV - Wycombe High School \(whs.bucks.sch.uk\)](#)