



## **ADMISSIONS POLICY**

Northwood College for Girls GDST is a selective girls' independent day school, educating girls from the ages of 3 – 18. There are approximately 880 girls in the school.

The School aims to admit those applicants with the greatest potential to benefit from, and succeed in, academically challenging and stimulating courses of study. Therefore, academic potential is the key criterion for admission, but is not the only one. The College also looks for other factors such as the motivation and the capacity to contribute to a vibrant intellectual and social community. Extra-curricular activities are of vital importance at Northwood College for Girls GDST and girls must be willing to participate in these.

The main entry points are 3+, 4+, 7+, 11+ and 16+. Occasionally there are vacancies in other year groups. Most applicants join the school within their appropriate age group; occasionally places are sought outside the normal age group. Each case will be considered on its own merits.

All applicants, except for 16+, sit an entrance test and are interviewed. At 16+ applicants are interviewed and the school seeks a reference and all offers are conditional upon achieving specified grades at GCSE. No girl is disadvantaged as a result of religion, ethnicity or other protected characteristics. Selection procedures apply to all applicants.

Prospective pupils with special educational needs are assessed on the basis of their academic suitability for the school. The criteria and procedures will not disadvantage applicants with any learning or physical disability. Discussions about the support required for pupils will be separate from assessment of their suitability.

Prospective pupils who do not have English as a first language will be expected to have reached a satisfactory standard in the entrance assessments including the examination.

The Admissions process and policy is delegated to the Head and her decision is final. The school is not obliged to state reasons for the rejection of an applicant.

There is no guarantee that the daughter of an alumna or the sister of a present pupil will be admitted to the school.

Acceptance of an offer is an agreement of the terms and conditions in the parent contract.

### **Scholarships**

At 11+ academic, music, sport and art scholarships are available. Assessment is by performance in the entrance examinations and interview, together with other interviews and assessments

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appropriate to the subject. These scholarships continue for the time the student remains at the school, up to and including Year 13. Further details can be found in the Information Booklet. Internal and external applicants are considered.

At 16+ further academic scholarships are awarded on the basis of a scholarship examination and interview. Further scholarships may be available to those who have performed exceptionally well in GCSE examinations and who have not already been awarded a scholarship.

### **Bursaries**

The Girls' Day School Trust provides a limited number of means-tested Bursaries to enable suitably qualified girls to enter or remain in the Senior School. They are available for entry into Year 7 and Year 12.

GDST Bursaries are awarded on the basis of financial need, though academic merit is taken into account. Bursary applications are assessed independently by the Fees Office of the GDST and applications take into account parental income and assets.

Bursaries to the value of 100% of fees can be awarded depending on individual circumstances. Parents will still have to pay for travel to and from school, uniform and any optional extras. To be eligible for a bursary in Year 7 a candidate must be within the top 20% in the Consortium entrance examination. To be eligible for a bursary in Year 12, a candidate would need to achieve A/A\* or grade 7/8/9 in their GCSEs subjects. There is no right to a bursary.

To apply, the registration form needs to be completed and the box ticked indicating a bursary is needed. Log in details to the GDST Bursary Application Site will then be sent.

### **Registration and Procedures**

Parents wishing to register their daughter for a place must first complete an online registration form. The registration form is available from our website. Deadlines for registration can be found in the Information Booklet. The registration fee is £100 and this must be online when completing the application form.

### **Procedures for Selection**

Further details of the admissions process at each entry point can be found in the Information Booklet.