



Admissions Policy

Policy Owner	Head of Marketing and Admissions
Last Reviewed Date	Apr-26
Review Schedule	Annually
Next Review Date	Apr -27

Bancroft's
Independent Co-educational Day School 7–18

Admissions Policy

Purpose and Ethos

We are committed to ensuring our young people are given the opportunity to have a complete, happy and successful career at Bancroft's, leaving as confident, well-educated and competent adults, ready for the challenges ahead. We promote our school values of curiosity, integrity, kindness, balance, courage and excellence: the human qualities necessary to flourish within a community.

We are an academic school and entrance is subject to assessment as detailed below and on the School's website. We are looking for candidates who, as part of a co-educational environment, will contribute to and take advantage of the vast array of opportunities available placed on a reserve list following the examinations and interview and may be offered places if vacancies arise. Our pupils come from a diverse mix of backgrounds, and we greatly value our multi-ethnic and multi-faith community, believing it to be an ideal nurturing ground for our society, developing understanding and respect for individuality and for those around us.

Equal Opportunities and SEND

The School applies the entrance criteria to all potential pupils regardless of any disability, race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Where we are made aware of individual circumstances, we will make reasonable adjustments where possible in order not to put a pupil at a disadvantage compared to their peers. Further details can be found in the [Equal Opportunities Policy for Pupils](#).

The School requires parents and carers to inform us of any disability, specific learning need or any other issue which may be relevant to their application. In assessing candidates, the School may take advice and require assessments that are deemed necessary but will be sensitive to any requests for confidentiality. The School welcomes applications from pupils with special educational needs or other needs and has an experienced SEND department that provides learning support for all pupils who require it. Members of the SEND Department may carry out school visits for pupils with SEND, in order to gain more information regarding the level of support required. The School will not offer a place if, after all reasonable adjustments or other arrangements have been made, the School will not be able to provide adequately for the pupil's physical and/or educational needs.

Sibling Policy

Often siblings join us at Bancroft's. However, admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where the School judges that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

Admissions Process - Principles

The entrance assessments and interviews are designed to give us a rounded picture of each applicant. They allow us to see who is most likely to thrive at Bancroft's and to benefit from, as well as contribute to, the opportunities on offer. The process is not intended to be narrowly selective but to identify pupils who will flourish within our community and uphold the School's values. As part of the process we will contact the pupil's current school for a confidential reference.

Main Entry Points

There are two main ages of entry to Bancroft's: at 7+ (into Year 3) and at 11+ (into Year 7); in addition, we admit smaller numbers at 16+ (into Year 12). Places may occasionally become available in other year groups. A non-refundable registration fee is payable when submitting an application.

Out of Year

It is expected that children who are 'out of year' for their age will have been out of year since the start of their school career or will have had compelling medical or pastoral reasons for repeating a year. Evidence of this will be required before the application is accepted.

Timing of Registration

Registrations open from Easter in the year before entry. For example, for September 2027 entry, registration opens at Easter 2026. The deadline for registration is published on the School's website for each entry point and must be observed in order for a candidate to be considered.

7+ Entry (Year 3)

Entrance is by our own competitive test, held in January of the year of entry. Candidates will be invited into the Preparatory School on two separate occasions to take tests in Maths, English and Non-verbal reasoning. We recruit about 65 pupils at this age, from a very wide range of independent and state schools.

11+ Entry (Year 7)

We recruit approximately a further 65 pupils at this age, from a wide range of independent and state schools. Entrance is by our own competitive exam, held in January of the year of entry, which involves a computer-based reasoning test and written papers in English and Maths. Sample papers are available on our website. Following the exam, selected children are invited for interview and offers are made in February. A limited number of pupils are also admitted at 11+ through the Bancroft's Senior School Pathway (see below for more details).

Bancroft's Prep School pupils have automatic transfer into the Senior School.

Bancroft's Family of Schools

In September 2026, Bancroft's Senior School, Bancroft's Prep School, St Aubyn's School and Woodford Green Preparatory School formed the Bancroft's Family of Schools. Each school retains its own identity, leadership and educational provision.

Admissions arrangements for progression to Bancroft's Senior School vary according to the school a pupil currently attends.

Pupils at Bancroft's Prep School continue to follow the School's established progression arrangements into the Senior School.

Pupils at St Aubyn's School and Woodford Green Preparatory School do not have automatic entry to Bancroft's Senior School. Pupils in Year 5 who meet the published eligibility requirements may, however, be considered through the Bancroft's Senior School Pathway.

Bancroft's Senior School Pathway

The Bancroft's Senior School Pathway gives eligible Year 5 pupils at St Aubyn's School and Woodford Green Preparatory School an earlier opportunity to be considered for entry to Bancroft's Senior School.

The Pathway does not provide automatic entry. Pupils considered through the Pathway are expected to meet Bancroft's academic expectations and to be well suited to the pace, ambition and wider life of the Senior School.

Families wishing their child to be considered must opt into the Pathway and complete registration by the published deadline.

Consideration will be based on an academic and holistic picture of the pupil. This may include:

- academic performance over time
- standardised assessment information provided by the pupil's current school
- information from the pupil's current school
- the pupil's approach to learning
- a meeting with Bancroft's staff.

A limited number of conditional offers may be made through the Pathway. Any offer will remain subject to the conditions communicated to families at the point of offer.

A pupil who does not receive an offer through the Pathway may still apply to Bancroft's Senior School through the standard I1+ admissions process in Year 6. There will be no additional registration fee.

Academic Scholarships, Music Awards, other specialist awards and Bursary applications are separate from the Pathway and continue to follow the School's usual Year 6 admissions processes as outlined above.

Detailed eligibility criteria, registration deadlines, assessment arrangements, decision dates and conditions of offer are published separately by the School and may be reviewed from time to time.

I6+ Entry (Year I2)

We recruit around 20 pupils at this stage, from a wide range of independent and state schools. Entrance tests take place in November of the year before entry (in Year I1). All applicants will sit an online aptitude test along with two written exams chosen from subjects that Bancroft's teaches at GCSE level. Exams should be in subjects the candidate is intending to take at A Level or closely related subjects. Candidates wishing to study Maths at A Level must sit the Mathematics entrance paper. Places are awarded conditionally, and candidates are usually expected to achieve an overall average GCSE grade of 7 across all their GCSE subjects. Further Mathematics can only be taken as a fourth A level. Students wishing to take Further Mathematics must therefore achieve an overall GCSE average above 7.5. This ensures that students have demonstrated not only the academic strength, but also the commitment, organisation and sustained work habits required to manage successfully the demands of a four A Levels. Alongside this average GCSE grade requirement, there are GCSE grade requirements for studying each specific A Level. These are:

Subject (A Level)	GCSE Subject Requirement	GCSE Grade
Art & Design #	Art & Design	7
Biology	Biology or Trilogy Science	8
Chemistry	Chemistry or Trilogy Science	8
Classical Civilisation #	Classical Civilisation	7
Computer Science	Computer Science	8
Design Technology #	Design Technology	7
Drama #	Drama	7
English Literature	English Literature	7
Further Maths	Mathematics	9
Geography #	Geography (or a similar subject, e.g. RS or History, if Geography was not studied at GCSE)	7
Greek	Greek	7
History #	History (or a similar subject, e.g. RS or Geography, if History was not studied at GCSE)	7
Latin	Latin	7
Mathematics	Mathematics	8
Modern Languages	Specific language to be taken (i.e. French, Spanish or German)	7
Music #	Music	7
Physics	Physics or Trilogy Science, and Mathematics	8

Subjects not available until Sixth Form:

Economics	One essay-based subject and Maths	7*
Business	One essay-based subject and Maths	7
Politics	One essay-based subject	7
Philosophy	One essay-based subject	7
Psychology	Maths and Biology or Trilogy Science	7

Sixth Form Applications after GCSE Results

We may also accept further applications for Sixth Form entry once pupils have received their GCSE results. Candidates should contact the School with their GCSE exam results in August. Candidates may be invited for interview having considered their GCSE exam results; offers may be made subject to receiving a good academic reference from their current school, their GCSE grades and space available. Candidates will need to meet the GCSE grade requirements as outlined in the section above.

How to Register

Applications must be made using the School's online registration form. To begin the process, please visit our [Register Online page](#). Once the form is completed and the registration fee paid, candidates will be entered for the relevant assessments.

Offers and Acceptance

Parents and carers of applicants are informed by an agreed date of the outcome of the application. No specific marks (raw or percentage) or grades will be given. The papers themselves are not released. Examination scripts are exempt from Section 7 of the Data Protection Act. The entrance test results are final and there is no appeal process. On acceptance of a place, a deposit is payable. This deposit is credited against the final term's fees and is non-refundable if the place is not taken up. If a candidate accepts a place but then does not achieve the necessary GCSE grades in their chosen A Level subjects, the deposit will be refunded.

Reserve list

We may operate a reserve list for those pupils whom we have assessed, and are confident could cope well, but to whom we were unable to immediately offer a place. There is no ranking of this reserve list and any offers made may be influenced by the need to ensure a balanced student body.

Scholarships

The School offers a limited number of financial academic scholarships to pupils entering the Senior School at 11+. These scholarships are open to pupils from both Bancroft's Prep School and external feeder schools. They are not means tested and are awarded for academic merit.

At 11+ entry, scholarships are awarded on the basis of candidates' performance in the entrance assessments and interview. There is no separate test, and all candidates are automatically considered. Parents are informed at the point of offer if a scholarship is to be awarded.

For pupils progressing from Bancroft's Prep to the Senior School, selection is based on a review of long-term academic performance and an interview conducted in January of Year 6.

Scholarships run alongside the School's Bursary programme, which remains means tested and separately funded.

Bursaries

Bursary places are designed to support pupils of high ability whose parents /carers provide evidence that they might not otherwise be able to afford the full school fees and are awarded on the results of the entrance examinations at 11+ and 16+, with school reports and interviews playing an important part, alongside the overall funding available for Bursary support. The value of an award depends on a number of factors; please see the Bursaries Policy for further details.

Music Awards

Music Awards are granted at 11+ and 16+. Those who are shortlisted for interview and register interest in applying for the Award will be auditioned. Details of the Award can be found on our [website](#). Award holders are given free tuition on one musical instrument and take an active part in the musical life of the School. Pupils will undergo reassessment to maintain the award for the subsequent two years in years 10-11 with further evaluation at Sixth Form level.

Occasional Places

While the School's main entry points are at 7+, 11+, and 16+, places sometimes become available in other year groups when families relocate or circumstances change. These are known as **occasional places**. We may look to fill occasional places into the following year groups: years 4 and 5 in the Prep School and years 8 and 9 in the Senior School.

For Year 8 entry, applicants who previously sat the 11+ exams are only reconsidered if they reached the interview stage.

When a place is available, families will be invited to register formally. A non-refundable registration fee is payable at this point, and candidates will then be assessed and interviewed in line with the usual admissions process.

Contact Information

For Bancroft's Preparatory School enquiries, please contact:

prepoffice@bancrofts.org
telephone: 020 8506 6774

For all Bancroft's Senior School enquiries, please contact:

admissions@bancrofts.org
telephone: 020 8506 6761