



THE HIGH WEALD ACADEMY CONSULTATION ON ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019 ONWARDS

Overview

This consultation is regarding the proposed admissions arrangement for The High Weald Academy from September 2019, which are attached for your consideration.

Why Are We Consulting

Academies are required to hold a public consultation around their admission arrangements every 7 years, even if they have not changed significantly from previous years. We have taken this opportunity to review the admissions arrangements for 2019 onwards and wish to draw your attention to the following:

- The format and wording of the admissions document have been amended
- The Planned Admission Number (PAN), process and oversubscription criteria for entry to year 7 remains unchanged
- The oversubscription criteria for entry to the sixth form has been modified. Priority will still be given to High Weald's Year 11 students who meet the entry criteria, however applications from qualifying students who attend another Brook Learning Trust academy will be ranked ahead of those of students attending other institutions.

How are We Consulting

The consultation will run from Wednesday 15 November 2017 to Monday 8 January 2018. We invite responses from all those within the High Weald community, as well as prospective parents, key stakeholders and the local community.

How to Respond to the Consultation

We welcome comments on any aspect of the proposed arrangements and responses can be sent via email to Dr Alie Bird, Clerk to Trust Board, at birda@brooklearningtrust.org.uk. Alternatively, comments can be sent to the academy in a sealed envelope, marked 'Consultation on Admissions Arrangements', for the attention of Dr Alie Bird.

All responses must be received by 9am on Monday 8 January 2018.

What Happens Next

Once the deadline for consultation has passed, all responses will be carefully considered by Brook Learning Trust's Board.

The final admissions arrangements will be published on the academy's website by 28 February 2018, in line with statutory guidelines.



THE HIGH WEALD ACADEMY ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2019-20



This document sets out The High Weald Academy's admissions arrangements for entry in September 2019, as determined by Brook Learning Trust in its role as the admission authority.

The academy will comply with all relevant provisions of the Department for Education's (DfE's) School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code and will participate in the Kent County Council (KCC) coordinated admission arrangements for Year 7. Should the academy need to make any in-year changes to its admissions arrangements it will apply to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Throughout this document the term 'parent' is used to refer to parents or legal guardians.

1. Admission number

The High Weald Academy's Published Admission Number (PAN) for entry into Year 7 in September 2019 is 150.

2. The application process for students joining Year 7 in September 2019

The application procedure for admission into Year 7 will follow the agreed scheme put into place by the Secretary of State for Education which is coordinated by the KCC Local Education Authority. The application procedure will follow the timetable as set out by both the Secretary of State and KCC.

For families living in Kent, applications for a place in Year 7 should be made using the online process available at www.kent.gov.uk/ola or by completing the paper Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF). The SCAF form can be downloaded from www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions or accessed by contacting KCC's Secondary Admissions Team. The deadline for completing the online application or returning the SCAF to the Local Authority Admissions Team is 31 October 2018.

For those living outside of the county you should consult your Local Education Authority regarding the process for applying for a place in a Kent school.

Parents will be informed by the Local Education Authority on 1 March as to whether their child has been offered a place. Parents are asked to accept any offer of a place at The High Weald Academy by 15 March.

3. Consideration of applications

The High Weald Academy will consider all applications it receives and students will be offered places without reference to aptitude or ability. Where fewer than 150 applications are received, the academy will offer places to all those who have applied.

4. Oversubscription criteria

Where The High Weald Academy receives more applications than the PAN, and following the admission of children with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the academy, applications will be ranked against the following criteria in the order in which they are stated:

- a. Children in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care - A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order.

A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

- b. Students who have a sibling on roll at the time of admission to the academy

In this context a sibling is defined as children who live as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers and sisters, adopted siblings, half-brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.

- c. The proximity of the student's permanent home address to The High Weald Academy, with those living nearest being ranked highest.

The distance between the child's permanent home address and the academy is measured in a straight line using the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) address point. Distances are measured from a point defined as within the child's home to a point defined as within the academy as specified by NLPG. The same address point on the academy site is used for everybody. When we apply the distance criterion for the academy, these straight line measurements are used to determine how close each applicant's address is to the academy.

- d. In the event of two applications that cannot otherwise be separated, a clear and fair tie-breaker will be applied by drawing lots to decide between them.

5. Waiting lists

Where the academy receives more applications for places than are available, a waiting list will operate for unsuccessful applicants to Year 7. This waiting list will be managed by KCC in the first instance as part of the coordinated admissions scheme, before being passed over to the academy on the date set out in KCC's admissions process.

The High Weald Academy will also maintain waiting lists for other year groups (excluding the sixth form) and all lists will be open to any parent to ask for his or her child's name to be added. The academy's waiting lists will be re-ranked, in line with the published oversubscription criteria, every time a child is added.

6. In year admissions

Subject to any provisions in the Local Authority's co-ordinated admission arrangements, applications for admission to the academy such as:

- late applications for admission to Year 7
- applications for admission to years other than Years 7 and 12
- applications for admission to any year after the beginning of the academic year

will be handled by the academy and places will be offered, if they are available, to applicants according to the oversubscription criteria specified in paragraph 4 above.

Expressions of interest and applications for such admissions can be made directly to the academy by contacting Mrs Julie Warman, Admissions Secretary on 01580 712754 or via warmanj@highwealdacademy.kent.sch.uk.

7. Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range. All requests will be considered on their own merits, taking into account individual circumstances and the best interests of the child. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

Requests for such an admission should be put in writing and sent directly to the academy's Admissions Secretary at the time of the admission application. Parents should state the reasons for the request and submit any evidence in support of their case, for example:

- information from the child's current school, including any supportive letter or documents
- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

If necessary to help make an informed decision, the Admissions Secretary may contact the child's current school to seek their professional opinion.

Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside other applications made at the same time.

8. Right to appeal

There is a right to appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel for any unsuccessful admission application. Appeal requests should be submitted in writing and sent to the academy address, for the attention of Dr Alie Bird, Clerk to the Trust Board.

Appeals relating to Year 7 admissions will need to be submitted within the timeframe set out within KCC's coordinated admissions arrangements.

9. Admission to the Sixth Form

Admissions to Year 12 will not exceed the PAN (150 students).

Students in Year 11 at The High Weald Academy will have priority over those applying from other schools. If less than 150 High Weald students, who meet the entry criteria, apply to the sixth form then places will be open to students from other institutions on the basis that no more than 50% of the PAN will be allocated to external applicants.

Where The High Weald Academy receives more applications than the PAN, and following the admission of students who meet the entry criteria and have a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which names the academy, external applicants who meet the entry criteria will be ranked against the following criteria in the order in which it is stated:

- a. Students applying for a place in Year 12 who attend another Brook Learning Trust academy, ranked according to the oversubscription criteria in paragraph 4
- b. Students applying for a place in Year 12 who attend another institution, ranked according to the oversubscription criteria in paragraph 4.

The current entry requirements for entry into The High Weald Academy's sixth form is 5 GCSE grades or equivalent at level 4 or above (including English and maths). Specific entry requirements for each subject will be detailed in the Sixth Form prospectus.

Entry into year 13 for external applicants will depend on a number of circumstances including the courses required, availability of space in that class, compatibility of different specifications and module results from year 12. Significant evidence that the applicant will go on to complete the course successfully will be required before admission will be considered.

There is a right to appeal for internal pupils refused transfer and external applicants refused admission. Details of this can be found in paragraph 8.