

## **Borden Grammar School**

### **Admission Policy 2017**

Borden Grammar School is the 11-18 selective grammar school for boys in the town of Sittingbourne and the surrounding areas (and for girls from the age of 16). The school will admit boys to Year 7 who have been successful in the Kent Test or through a parental appeal. The main principle of admission to the school is to maintain the character of a selective, single sex school. We promote excellence and expect boys to exhibit a strong work ethic and commitment to academic study.

Only students who attain the required standard in the prescribed arrangements for selection by reference to ability and aptitude will be eligible to be considered for admission to the school

The number of planned admissions for the year commencing September 2017 will be 120.

**Free School Meal Eligibility** – up to 15% of places for admission into Year 7 will be reserved for children who have been eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) at any time during their primary school years (Years R – 6). If fewer students eligible through this FSM criterion apply, the remaining places will be allocated as per the oversubscription criteria listed below. If more students eligible through this FSM criterion apply, the places offered through this criterion will be allocated using the oversubscription criteria listed below.

#### **Oversubscription**

Where successful applications exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order laid out below

1. **Children in Local Authority Care** – a child under the age of 18 years for whom the local authority provides accommodation by agreement with the parents/carers (Section 22 of the Children Act 1989) or who ceased to do so because they were adopted or who are subject to a care order under Part IV of the Act. This applies equally to children who immediately after being looked after by the local authority become subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order (as defined by Section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or Section 8 or 14A of the Children Act 1989).
2. **Current Family Association** – a brother (or sister in the Sixth Form) attending the school when the child starts. In this context, brother or sister is taken to mean a child who lives as brother or sister in the same house, including natural brothers and sisters, adopted siblings, step-brothers or sisters and foster brothers and sisters.
3. **Health and Special Access Reasons** – medical, health, social and special access reasons will be applied in accordance with the school's legal obligations, in particular those under the Equality Act 2010. Priority will be given to those children whose mental or physical impairment means that they have a demonstrable and significant need to attend a particular school. Equally this priority will apply to children whose parents/carers' physical or mental health or social needs means that they have a demonstrable and significant need for their children to attend a particular school. Such claims will need to be supported by written evidence from a suitably qualified medical or other practitioner who can demonstrate a special connection between these needs and Borden Grammar School.
4. **Traditional School Areas** –
  - a. **Firstly** children who reside in the postcode areas beginning with the following: ME9, ME10, ME11, and ME12.
  - b. Then children who reside in the postcode areas beginning ME8 & ME13
  - c. And finally, children living in any other area

**In the case of oversubscription within one of the above criteria, places will be allocated according to the proximity of the child's home to the School** - the distance is measured between the child's permanent address and the school, measured in a straight line using Ordnance Survey address point data. Distances are measured from a central point within the child's home to a similarly defined point within the school as specified by Ordnance Survey. The school uses measurements as provided by the local authority and further information on how distances are calculated, including what is defined as 'permanent or main residence', is available in the Admissions to Secondary School in Kent booklet provided by the Local Authority. A block of flats has a single address point reference, so applicants living in the same block will be regarded as living the same distance away from the school. In the unlikely event that two or more children live in the same block and in all other ways have equal eligibility for the last available place, their names will be issued a number and drawn randomly to decide which child should be offered a place. Please note that, before the application of oversubscription criteria, children with a Statement of Special Education Needs (SEN) which names the school will be admitted. As a result of any such admission(s) the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly.

### **Appeals**

Parents/carers of pupils who are not offered a place at the school have the right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. For places in Year 7, details of the Appeals Process will normally be sent out by the Local Authority with the offer letters. Appeals should be lodged in writing to

**The Clerk to the Independent Appeals Panel, c/o Borden Grammar School**, marked 'Appeals'.

### **Casual Admissions**

The school will admit boys into Years 8 - 11 if there is a vacant place – having been successful in school based tests.

### **Late Applications**

Late applications for admission to Year 7 will be accepted and processed in line with the scheme published in the local authority's admission booklet.

### **Admission outside of the normal age group**

Requests for admission outside of the normal age group should be made to the Headteacher of each preferred school as early as possible in the admissions round associated with that child's date of birth. This will allow the school and admissions authority sufficient time to make a decision before the closing date. Such an applicant will be expected to have gained the 'grammar' classification in the Kent PESE Tests, and if a request to apply for admission outside the normal age group is granted, it does not guarantee a place at the school. Parents are not expected to provide evidence to support their request to defer their application, however where provided it must be specific to the child in question. This might include medical or Educational Psychologist reports. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional, however, failure to provide this may impede the school's ability to agree to deferral. Parents are required to complete an application for the normal point of entry at the same time, in case their request is declined. This application can be cancelled if the school agrees to accept a deferred application for entry into Year 7 the following year. Deferred applications must be made via paper SCAF to the LA, with written confirmation from each named school attached. Deferred applications will be processed in the same way as all applications for the cohort in the following admissions round, and offers will be made in accordance with each school's oversubscription criteria.

### **Waiting Lists**

Borden Grammar School will, in line with the local authority, maintain a waiting list until the first day of the Spring Term in the admission year. Offers of admission from the waiting list will be made in accordance with the oversubscription criteria as laid out above. Placing a child's name on the waiting list does not guarantee that a place will become available.

### **Withdrawal of Offers**

After a place has been offered, Borden Grammar School reserves the right to withdraw the place in the following circumstances:

1. Where a parent/carer has failed to respond to an offer within a reasonable time;
2. Where a parent/carer has failed to notify the school of important changes to the application information;
3. Where that place was offered on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent/carer.

## **Admission to the Sixth Form**

The school will admit boys and girls to Year 12 who obtain the entry requirement of:

- At least **8 GCSE passes at A\* - C** (or 9-5 in the new GCSE qualifications), with at least **four at grade B** or higher (or 9-6 in the new GCSE qualifications) including a minimum of **a grade 5** in the new GCSE qualifications in English and mathematics.
- The minimum entry requirement in subjects that are relevant for the A-level courses wishing to be followed (a grade B in the old GCSE or a grade 6 in the new GCSE qualification).

(More information about individual course requirements is available in the school's Sixth Form Prospectus.)

Priority for admission to Year 12 will be given to existing students transferring from Year 11.

The PAN for external candidates will be 30 but this figure may be exceeded in the event that this and the number of internal students transferring into Year 12 is less than the overall total figure for the year group, which is 119. Offers will be made on the basis of predicted performance at GCSE, with the requirement that the above grades are achieved in the final examinations prior to entry to the Sixth Form and the pupil's chosen subjects being accommodated on the timetable, infeasible group sizes. All offers made in Year 11 are conditional on pupils meeting the grade criteria specified and will only be realised upon confirmation of actual GCSE results. Offers will be made before the end of May 2017. Where learners have achieved better results than predicted grades they will be considered on the basis of grades achieved and ranked accordingly for any places that become available as a result of other learners failing to meet the required entry levels.

The school will admit external students to Year 13 if there is a vacant place, if the specification studied in Year 12 dovetails with the Year 13 provision at the school, and if the student would have met the entrance requirement to join the school in Y12.

In the case of oversubscription, the following criteria will be applied in the order laid out:

1. **Children in the Care of the Local Authority** – as defined above
2. **Internal candidates transferring from Year 11**
3. **Current Family Association** – as defined above
4. **Health and Special Access Reasons** – as defined above
5. **Traditional School Area** – as defined above

In the case of oversubscription within one of the above criteria, places will be allocated according to the proximity of the student's home to the School, as defined above

Parents/carers have a statutory right of appeal, should an application for a place be refused, by writing to The Clerk to the Governors, care of the school, marking the envelope 'Sixth Form Appeal'.

Later applications for places in the Sixth Form will be considered if places in appropriate subjects are still available after all other applicants have been considered.