



Princethorpe College

An independent school for 11-18 year olds

**Revised 2021
Admissions and
Entrance Examinations
(Years 7 to 10)
(Issued September 2020)**

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in Princethorpe College. Children who want to come to Princethorpe sit an entrance examination usually in the November of the year before they are due to start in September, but due to the COVID-19 situation we are moving the entrance examination for 2021 entry to January 2021. The majority of children join us in Year 7, but children are welcome to join in other year groups as space allows. Competition for places is high, as are standards, but the school also looks for young people who will contribute to the wider life of the school.

We hope you find the information in this booklet helpful in outlining the admissions process, including key dates and deadlines. You will also find comprehensive information on the full range of scholarships and bursaries available. Our Admissions Team, Vanessa Rooney, Registrar, Helen Morgan, Assistant Registrar and Catherine Rogers, Admissions Administrator, will be happy to guide you through the admissions process.

I very much hope to be able to welcome you to Princethorpe soon.

E D Hester
Headmaster

Information and visits

Traditionally there are a number of opportunities to visit the school during the course of the year, in order for prospective pupils and their parents to get a true flavour of the school before registering to take the entrance examinations.

We are hopeful that, operating within government guidelines, we will be able to offer the following opportunities for families to visit the school in the run up to the rescheduled entrance examinations in January.

These events could be subject to change and will be strictly for those looking for entry in 2021 and will operate on an appointment only basis, with a limited number of places available.

Our Foundation junior schools' Year 6 pupils will have their own dedicated Taster Experiences on Saturday 19 September 2020.

For those looking at entry in 2022 and beyond we would recommend you attend our summer Open Evening on Wednesday 9 June 2021.

Open Day

Sunday 4 October 2020

10.00am to 3.00pm (Three hour-long sessions, by appointment only)

An opportunity to hear an address by the Headmaster, have a short tour of the school and meet staff and pupils.

Year 6 Taster Experiences

Saturday 7 and 14 November 2020

Morning and afternoon sessions on each day - 9.00am to 12.15pm or 1.30pm to 4.45pm

Taster Experiences for Year 6 pupils are aimed at giving prospective pupils a taste of senior school life. Places will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Virtual Parents' Q&A Session

Monday 16 November 2020
6.30pm to 7.30pm

A chance for Year 6 parents to ask our Admissions Team questions relating to the admissions process and Entrance Examinations Day. This will be a live streamed event and will require booking.

Open Morning

Thursday 26 November 2020

10.30am to 12.30pm (By appointment only)

A final opportunity to visit the college prior to the Entrance Examinations registration deadline on Friday 4 December.

Meet the Headmaster

Alternatively, or in addition to attending an open event, you may wish to make an appointment to meet the Headmaster, Ed Hester in person or virtually.

Light refreshments are available at all events.

Please visit our website for further information and to book onto events, or contact the Registrars by emailing admissions@princethorpe.co.uk or calling 01926 634201/ 01926 634262 or 07930 601877/07951 075247.



Entrance Examinations 2021

Saturday 23 January 2021 – 9.30am to 3.30pm

All candidates must be registered before sitting the entrance examinations. Registrations, bursary and scholarship applications must be received by the deadline of **Friday 4 December 2020** to allow us to process the registration and contact schools for references.

Following receipt of the registration form, any candidate with a learning need will have an assessment with a member of our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team, prior to the entrance examination. In this instance, early submission of the registration form is advised in order that this appointment can be made in good time.

Format of the day

Candidates are requested to report to the college for 9.30am and entry to the building will be from no earlier than 9.00am. Candidates should wear their current school uniform and should bring a pen, two pencils, eraser and ruler.

Candidates for Years 9 and 10 should bring a scientific calculator, a protractor, a compass and a relevant language dictionary.

Candidates sit papers in English and Maths and for those looking at Year 9 and 10 a language paper. The papers vary in length from 45 minutes to 1 hour 15 minutes. All candidates also sit a 50 minute online assessment which includes Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning and Numerical Reasoning. More information is available under the relevant age group information on pages 4 and 5 of this booklet.

The online assessment will be provided by Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM). The test is designed to enable all children to demonstrate their academic potential without the need for excessive preparation.

For more information on the online assessment please visit the CEM website at <https://www.intuproject.org/CEMSelect/fam/CSFamiliarisation.html>

There are no practice papers available for the online assessment. CEM advises parents that children can best prepare for their online assessment by learning to work quietly on their own, completing homework set by their school, and by reading and making sure they understand all the words in any books they read. Children should also, wherever possible, be encouraged to try to solve problems by looking things up for themselves. Children should be familiar with using a keyboard and a mouse including the ability to click, drag and slide with a mouse.

The following practice papers may prove helpful:

- Bond How to do 11+ Verbal Reasoning published by Nelson Thornes (ISBN 9 780192 742292)
- Bond How to do 11+ Non-Verbal Reasoning published by Nelson Thornes (ISBN 9 780192 742285)
- Bond How to do 11+ Maths published by Nelson Thornes (ISBN 9 780192 742278)

They can be ordered online from Waterstones or from the store at 1 Priorsgate, Warwick Street, Leamington Spa, CV32 4QG, Tel 01926 883804.

A copy of a past English paper is included in the prospectus pack.





Access Arrangements

All children with a SEND will need to be assessed by a member of our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Team prior to the entrance exams taking place. Please ensure the admissions team receive the registration form in good time, to enable this important appointment to take place.

Children with a special educational need or disability may be considered for access arrangements in the entrance examinations. Any access arrangements will usually be based on the child's normal way of working in their current educational environment, for which evidence will be required.

Personal Interviews (Years 8, 9 and 10)

Additionally for those entering Years 8, 9 and 10 personal interviews will take place if possible from September 2020 to week commencing Monday 18 January 2021. This is an informal 15 minute interview in English with Susan Harris, Head of Transition and Induction, or another senior member of staff, covering the candidate's interests, achievements, aspirations and communication skills.

Offers Made

After the entrance examinations are marked the Admissions Panel sits to discuss applications. The Panel will take into consideration the entrance examinations results, references from feeder schools and, for those with Special Educational Needs, the assessment by the Special Educational Needs professional prior to the entrance examinations.

Those entering Years 8, 9 and 10 will also have their personal interviews considered.

Exam results will be posted, first class, on **Thursday 11 February 2021**. No information will be available beforehand.

For those offered a place in **Year 7, 8, 9 or 10** confirmation of acceptance with a £300 deposit is required to secure the place, by **Thursday 4 March 2021**.

This deposit is refunded after the end of the final term which the pupil spends at Princethorpe.

The Year 7 acceptance deadline for places is, by a nationally agreed code of practice, the same for all independent schools, allowing parents and children time to review all their options, including those from the maintained sector, before making a final decision.

Once you have confirmed your acceptance of a place and sent your £300 deposit you will receive an acknowledgment and a receipt. A Joining Pack will then be sent to you during the Easter holidays, this will include various permission forms and essential information on school life.

In the event that there is a higher number of suitable candidates than places available it is possible that we will move into a waiting group situation. The parents of these candidates will be invited to express their interest in joining the waiting group and will be advised accordingly should additional places become available after the acceptance deadline of **Thursday 4 March 2021**.

Information for candidates entering Years 7 and 8 (ages 11 and 12 by 31 August 2021)

Candidates take three tests, English, Mathematics and a CEM online test including Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning and Numerical Reasoning. The CEM online test lasts for 50 minutes.

Candidates who can combine speed with accuracy are likely to perform well.

English

The English test, consisting of a short comprehension and an essay, lasts for one hour. A short piece of free writing is also required. The topic is often a hobby, interest, holiday or memorable event.

Mathematics

The Mathematics paper is non-calculator and lasts for 1 hour.

The four rules of arithmetic should be thoroughly known and practised; a good grasp of multiplication tables will be very useful.

Candidates should also be familiar with:

- money calculations
- fractions and decimals
- directed numbers
- rounding and place value
- inequality signs
- time
- compass bearings
- reflection and translation
- averages

Simple graphs and statistical charts should be understood. Basic shapes should be known and how to calculate their perimeter and area.

Past Mathematics papers are not available.

Information for candidates entering Year 9 (aged 13 by 31 August 2021)

- Formal English paper – comprehension and essay (1hr)
- Language paper (Candidate's choice of French or Spanish) (1hr)
- Mathematics paper (1hr)
- CEM online test including Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning and Numerical Reasoning (50min)

English

The following elements may be examined:

- Correct and appropriate use of sentence structures such as statement, command, exclamation, question etc.
- Punctuation use of full stop, comma, question mark, exclamation mark, apostrophe, hyphen and inverted commas
- Use of paragraphs
- Similes
- Metaphors
- Ability to write in letter form
- Ability to write imaginatively and descriptively
- Spelling and vocabulary
- General comprehension, neatness and presentation of work

French or Spanish

Candidates will sit a language reading/writing paper, the following areas may be covered:

- Describing self and others
- School subjects and routine
- Hobbies
- Sports
- Pets
- Colours
- My home town
- Weather

Mathematics

Candidates should bring a ruler, compass, protractor and scientific calculator.

Candidates should be confident with the content from previous years, together with the following topics:

The following topics may be examined:

- Number**
 - Place value
 - Negative numbers
 - Arithmetic
 - Fractions
- Geometry**
 - Names of shapes
 - Angles
 - Scales and compass points
 - Symmetry
- Algebra**
 - Collecting like terms
 - Substitution
 - Solve linear equations
- Graphs**
 - Plot coordinates in 4 quadrants
- Statistics**
 - Pictograms, bar charts and pie charts

Past Mathematics papers are not available.

Information for candidates entering Year 10 (aged 14 by 31 August 2021)

- Formal English paper – comprehension and essay (1hr)
Same elements may be examined as per Year 9, but papers will be marked age appropriately.
- Language paper (1hr) If the candidate is planning to take a language or languages at GCSE please speak to the Registrar to discuss their language choice/choices. IGCSE French or Spanish are offered.
Candidates will sit a Foundation Level GCSE-style reading paper based on a wide range of topics. They will be asked to write an essay based around the theme of 'where I live'. All candidates will be asked to show evidence of knowledge of past, present and future tenses.
- Mathematics paper (1hr 15min)
- CEM online test including Verbal Reasoning, Non-Verbal Reasoning and Numerical Reasoning (50min)

Mathematics

Candidates should bring a ruler, compass, protractor and scientific calculator.

Candidates should be confident with the content from previous years, together with the following topics:

- Number**
 - Fractions, decimals, percentages
 - Powers and roots
 - Ratio and proportion
- Geometry**
 - Area and perimeter
 - Angle facts
 - Constructions and scale drawing
- Algebra**
 - Indices and brackets
 - Inequalities
- Graphs**
 - Linear Graphs
- Statistics**
 - Averages and range

Past Mathematics papers are not available.





Scholarships and bursaries

There is a variety of Scholarships available for particularly able or talented candidates ranging from Academic, Art and Music to All-Rounder. Scholarships to a maximum reduction of 50% of tuition fees are available and are awarded at point of entry. Scholarship awards may be revoked if scholars fail to fulfil the conditions on which they were awarded.

Academic Scholarships

Candidates applying for entry to Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be automatically considered for an Academic Scholarship when taking the entrance examinations.

During their time at Princethorpe academic scholars are invited to attend guest lectures and will be offered a variety of opportunities for stretch and challenge, such as undertaking a Project Qualification.

All-Rounder Scholarships

Children who are both academically able and gifted in a variety of areas are invited to apply for an All-Rounder Scholarship

Please complete the All-Rounder Scholarship form and provide supporting evidence to show the areas of talent or expertise and standards achieved. This should include, for example, references from team coaches or activity leaders, certificates and awards. This information should be presented in a portfolio format with a covering letter from the child to the Headmaster.

Applications for the All-Rounder Scholarship and supporting portfolio should be submitted to the Registrars by **Friday 4 December 2020**. Please note that portfolios are returned after results letters have been sent out in February.

Scholarship Interviews

Prospective Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils who are being considered for either major Academic or All-Rounder Scholarships will be invited to an interview with the Headmaster or the Assistant Head - Co-Curricular following the entrance examinations. The parents/guardians of these candidates will be contacted by telephone from **Wednesday 27 January 2021**. **Only those being considered for these awards will be contacted.** The interviews will take place on **Saturday 30 January 2021** and during week commencing **Monday 1 February 2021**.

Bursaries and Thomas More Scholarship

Bursaries are available for up to 100% of tuition fees. Application forms are available from the Foundation Bursar's office and from our website. Completed applications should be forwarded to the Foundation Bursar with supporting documentary evidence.

Applications for bursaries are means-tested and reviewed by external consultants. The deadline for bursary applications is **Friday 4 December 2020**.

The Thomas More Scholarship is a means-tested scholarship for Catholic children aged 11 by 31 August 2021, who attend a Catholic school. Applications for this scholarship need to be accompanied by letters of recommendation signed by the Parish Priest and current Headteacher. The letters should include details of the length of time that the candidate has been known to them and confirmation of the candidate's date of baptism. Applications for the Thomas More Scholarship should be received by **Friday 4 December 2020**.

Art Scholarships

Deadline for applications: Friday 4 December 2020

Art Scholarship Day: Wednesday 20 January 2021

All candidates wishing to be considered must complete an Art Scholarship application form and return it by **Friday 4 December 2020**.

Princethorpe Art Scholarships will be awarded to those pupils who, in the opinion of the Head of Art, Paul Hubball, demonstrate an ability to express ideas clearly in visual terms, to tackle and solve problems in an imaginative, original and expressive way and to be studious and single-minded in their approach to their study of Art. Art Scholars are expected to continue with Art on the curriculum at least until Year 11, and usually in the Sixth Form.

Wednesday 20 January 2021 will be set aside for scholarship interviews and examinations. Candidates should report to the Theatre Entrance at 9.30am. All materials and lunch will be provided. Candidates should be collected from the Theatre Entrance at 3.00pm.

The Examination

The Examination will consist of two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The morning will involve studies in various media of still life objects. Candidates should practice drawing and painting manmade and organic forms.

Afternoon Session - Still Life in the Style of an Artist

Candidates should select an artist of their choice. The artist should have a distinct and recognisable style, e.g. Picasso, Matisse, Cezanne, Van Gogh, Hockney or Lichtenstein (these are just suggestions, you may wish to choose another).

Preparatory studies should be made beforehand. These may consist of drawings and colour studies in any appropriate medium of the artist's work.

Candidates are required to prepare for a still life piece which emulates their chosen artist's work; it cannot be a direct copy of an existing piece.

Candidates will need to set up a still life with objects that are similar or the same as those in their chosen painting and either take photos of the still life or work directly from life. They may bring their objects or photographs with them on the day. They must also submit their preparatory studies in support of their final piece.



Candidates will be given one and a half hours to complete their still life in the style of an artist.

Candidates will be assessed on their skill in using their chosen medium as well as their ability to show a clear understanding of the style of their chosen artist in the final piece which should be A3 in size. All materials will be provided by the College and will include pencil, crayon, charcoal, chalk, pastel (oil and chalk) and paint.

Interview and presentation of a portfolio

Candidates will also be expected to present a portfolio of some recent work during the day. Their portfolio should be brought along to the College on the day of the Art Scholarship Examination.

Candidates should be able to answer general questions on Art and specific questions relative to their own work; they should be able to express ideas clearly and fluently. The portfolio will be returned to the candidate when they leave.

The portfolio should consist of 10 pieces of work only and no larger than A2.

5 pieces must demonstrate the candidate's ability to draw the following:

- 1 x A4** tonal drawing of a sliced red pepper (slightly larger than life size)
- 1 x A4** colour drawing of a sliced tomato (larger than life size to fit page)
- 1 x A3** tonal drawing of a pair of laced shoes (life size - be creative with the composition of the drawing)
- 1 x A3** colour drawing of a reflective object (size depends on object)
- 1 x A3** tonal self portrait drawing (life size)

Plus 5 pieces of your choice (no larger than A2):

These pieces should aim to demonstrate the candidate's ability to tackle problems, to experiment with various media and techniques, to display visual awareness, to gather, investigate, analyse and record visual information. Photographs of any three-dimensional work can also be included.

Music Scholarships - Instrumental and Choral

Deadline for applications: Friday 4 December 2020

Auditions: Week commencing Monday 18 January 2021

Auditions for Music Scholarships will be held during the week commencing **Monday 18 January 2021** with Gil Cowlshaw, the Director of Music. The Registrars will advise all candidates of the time of their auditions.

All candidates wishing to be considered must complete a Music Scholarship application form and return it by **Friday 4 December 2020**.

It is a stipulation that all Music Scholars sing in the College Choir, play in the orchestra and are available for any tours, stage productions and concerts, putting rehearsals as a priority over other co-curricular activities. Music Scholars are expected to continue with Music on the curriculum at least until Year 11, and usually in the Sixth Form.

Requirements for Music Scholarship candidates

This is a guide only, as candidates' background will vary.

Entry to Year 7	A standard of Grade 4 ABRSM or equivalent, on woodwind, brass, percussion, piano or voice. Grade 3 on any stringed instrument.
Entry to Year 8	A standard of Grade 5 ABRSM or equivalent, on woodwind, brass, percussion or voice. Grade 4 on any stringed instrument or piano.
Entry to Year 9 or 10	A standard of Grade 6 ABRSM or equivalent, on woodwind, brass, percussion or voice. Grade 5 on any stringed instrument or piano.

The Audition

All candidates must attend a practical examination. At the audition they will be required to:

- Perform 2 pieces on the instrument of their first choice.
- Perform 1 piece on the instrument of their second choice.
- Sing a song of their own choice.
- Play the panel's selection of scales and arpeggios from the ABRSM grade that best reflects their current standard, and undertake an aural test of the same standard.
- Participate in a viva voce, where they will be asked about their music-making, hobbies, etc.

Piano accompaniments should be brought to the audition. An accompanist will be provided unless a candidate prefers to be accompanied by an external accompanist they elect to bring with them. Candidates are advised to perform music with which they are comfortable, rather than playing music which is technically beyond them. We are looking for potential, commitment and reliability.

Names and addresses of two referees must be supplied, one of which should be the school music teacher or conductor of a choir or orchestra in which the candidate regularly performs.



The
Princethorpe
Foundation

Updated Key Admissions Dates 2021 entry

Open Day

Sunday 4 October 2020 – 10.00am to 3.00pm
Three sessions, by appointment only.

Year 6 Taster Experiences

Saturday 7 and 14 November - 9.00am to 12.15pm
or 1.30pm to 4.45pm
Four sessions, by appointment only.

Virtual Parents' Q&A Session

Monday 16 November 2020 – 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Open Morning

Thursday 26 November 2020 – 10.30am to 12.30pm
By appointment only.

Deadline for Registrations, Scholarship and Bursary Applications (Year 7 to 10 entry)

Friday 4 December 2020

Entrance Examinations Day (Year 7 to 10 entry)

Saturday 23 January 2021 - 9.30am to 3.30pm

Offers Made

Thursday 11 February 2021

Acceptance Deadline

Thursday 4 March 2021

The above events are aimed strictly at candidates interested in September 2021 entry only and could be subject to change.



Princethorpe College

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