

Why do we have a selection process?

We would like as many students as possible to enjoy a Bootham education. However, we also wish to maintain the benefits of being a relatively small school. We focus on a broadly academic curriculum, leading to GCSEs and A levels, and prepare the vast majority of our students for higher education after Bootham. We therefore have to exercise some selection procedure to ensure that those who come to Bootham can benefit from the education we provide. While we appreciate that 'there is that of God' in everyone, it would be unkind for us to accept students for whom Bootham doesn't have the right resources or skills.

How do we find out about your child's abilities?

Admission at 11+ is about finding out as much as possible about your child as an individual. We want our decision-making to be as well-informed as we can. We will seek information in the following ways:

1. A meeting with you and your child for a conversation

The Headmaster sees all the prospective students, usually with a parent present (who on this occasion takes second place to the child!) preferably in the autumn term prior to enrolment. The conversation is about what the child enjoys most or least at school, and how s/he spends her/his leisure time. There is opportunity for parents and child to ask questions; the whole interview lasts about half an hour.

2. A Reference from your child's current school

3. We ask your child's current Head Teacher to comment on your child's achievements, interests and progress. This confidential reference will include reading, writing and maths scores/levels and predictions. We ask whether there is any reason why your child should not proceed to GCSEs. Essentially, we want to have confirmation that your child is going to have reached, at least, the national average score/level in reading, writing and maths in Year 6.

4. A Taster Morning at Bootham (optional)

All 11+ candidates are invited to spend a Saturday morning at Bootham when, through a programme of activities and lessons, they meet some teachers, make friends with other applicants, and get a feel for the way the school works. This is designed to be a helpful part of the transition to Bootham, but is not essential. Taster Mornings are held in the autumn term prior to entry.

5. An Assessment Day

On a given date towards the end of January, all our 11+ candidates come to Bootham for a day of activities - rather like a Taster Morning. There will be exciting sessions in the science labs, in the art room; they will be given some challenges to solve, and will, along the way, have brief assessments in Maths and in English comprehension. In this way, we will see your child as an individual across a range of activities, and

undoubtedly be able to see their real strengths and abilities shine through. For those applying for scholarships and bursaries, attendance at the Assessment Day is a requirement (see below).

How do we make our decisions?

Before your child has gone through the admission process, you will have spoken to our Registrar, and to the Headmaster if you wish. These conversations can include discussions on the suitability of Bootham for your child. It is unlikely, therefore, that we would put someone forward for admission without having a good sense that they would be successful. Our decision-making will be based on all the information we have gained through the above process, and we will make offers within a fortnight or so of the Assessment Day.

How are decisions made about scholarships and bursaries?

Details about our scholarships and bursaries are provided elsewhere - please ask the Registrar. To qualify, applicants not at Bootham Junior School will have to follow the full Admissions process, including the Assessment Day in January. Academic Scholarships (which are honorary) are awarded annually at the end of each academic year; bursaries, which are means-tested, will be awarded according to performance and need. It won't always be possible to afford bursary help for all who might need it.

Music Scholarships are decided on the basis of auditions as well as on satisfactory performance in the Admissions process - our music scholars are expected to be academically competent, too.

Who can answer any other questions for me?

Please contact the Registrar, Jenny Daly, or her assistant, Helen Armstrong, on 01904 623261 or email admissions@boothamschool.com for further assistance. They will either know the answer, or know someone else who does!