



BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

2021 Entry

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for enquiring about a place at Bromsgrove School for your child. This booklet will help guide you through the admissions procedure and give you some useful background information about the School.

Pupils can gain admission to Bromsgrove School in any year group, but the main points of intake are:

Pre-Preparatory	Nursery and Reception
Preparatory	Year 3, Year 5, Year 7
Senior	Year 9, Sixth Form

The Admissions staff are always happy to talk to parents looking for a place outside of these main intake points. They can advise about the availability of places and give guidance about applying for a place. Please do contact them if you require any additional information either before registering for a place or during the application process.

Admissions Contact Details

Email:	admissions@bromsgrove-school.co.uk
Telephone:	01527 579679
Mrs Liberty Chance, Admissions Manager ext 347	
	Day entrants: pre-prep, prep and senior school, and junior boarders aged 7 -12
Mrs Jo Courtney	ext 273 International boarders Senior School
Mrs Tracey Collard	ext 318 International boarders Sixth Form

We are currently not able to offer personal visits to the School but our Admissions team are happy to meet with you online to talk through any questions you have. We have a full range of videos which give a taste of School life and which can be sent to you on request. In normal times we offer taster boarding sessions for Prep boarding applicants, subject to spaces being available, and this is something we would still hope to be able to organise in advance of Admission in 2021.

We can organise online meetings with the Admissions team, Academic and Boarding staff – please contact our visits co-ordinator to arrange this.

Mrs Amanda James ext 383 Visits and online meeting co-ordinator
email ajames@bromsgrove-school.co.uk

GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY

All pupils wishing to gain entry to Bromsgrove School must sit our entrance examinations. A registration form must be completed prior to sitting the examination. Following registration, a confidential report from the current school will be requested, this is also taken into consideration. Offers of a place will be based on performance in the examination.

Details of the entrance examination structure are available from the Admissions Office.

For pupils wishing to enter the Sixth Form from other British schools, admission is based on predicted GCSE results. Sixth Form candidates wishing to be considered for an Academic Scholarship should submit a scholarship application form at the time of registration.

All international pupils, including those for Sixth Form entry, sit our entrance tests in their own country by arrangement with one of our representatives, alternatively, they may sit the examinations during a visit to Bromsgrove.

The policy for Nursery and Pre-Preparatory admissions can be obtained directly from Mrs Liberty Chance in the Admissions office.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION DATES

Prep School (Year 7 / 11+)	Friday 27th November 2020
Prep School (Years 3 to 6)	Saturday 16 th January 2021
Senior School (13+)	Monday 18 th January 2021
Sixth Form (Scholarship Candidates)	Tuesday 26 th January 2021

These dates are provisional and may be subject to change

SCHOLARSHIPS

11+ and 13+ candidates whose performance in the entrance examinations is deemed worthy of consideration for an Academic Scholarship will be invited back for interview by the Headmaster and senior staff. There is no separate Academic Scholarship application form for external 11+ and 13+ candidates, however, all 16+ candidates need to complete a Scholarship form. All candidates for Music, Art, Drama and Sport Scholarships need to complete a Scholarship form.

Full details of all Scholarships are available on the School website. There is much competition both external and internal for Scholarship places so please do manage your expectations and that of your child. Scholarships carry a very small financial award but carry much kudos and are held until the next round of Scholarship examinations. All Scholarships can be supplemented by means-tested bursaries.

The following awards are usually made annually:

11+	4 Academic Awards, 1 Music Award
13+	6 Academic Awards, 2 Music Awards, up to 2 Art Awards, up to 2 Drama Awards and up to 4 Sports Awards
16+	6 Academic Awards, 2 Music Awards, up to 2 Art Awards, up to 2 Drama Awards and up to 5 Sports Awards

Foundation Scholarships

Bromsgrove maintains a number of places for Foundation Scholars. These awards only operate in respect of day places and preference is given to candidates from Bromsgrove and the surrounding area. Foundation Scholarships are awarded to very able pupils in need of financial assistance. The maximum award is 50% of the day fee (means-tested), which may be augmented by a further means-tested bursary. Candidates wishing to be considered for a Foundation Scholarship should apply in writing to Miss Rachel Scannell, Assistant Head, at the Senior School.

Academic Scholarships (11+, 13+, 16+)

Fee remission of between 2.5 – 5%.

11+ and 13+ candidates will be invited for interview following the entrance examinations.

Sixth Form (exam)	Tuesday 26 th January 2021
11+ candidates (interview)	Wednesday 27 th January 2021
13+ candidates (interview)	Thursday 28 th January 2021

Music Scholarships (11+, 13+ 16+)

Fees remission on lessons for up to two instruments.

Scholarship auditions:

16+	Wednesday 20 th January 2021
11+/13+	Thursday 21 st /Friday 22 nd January 2021

Sports Scholarships (13+, 16+)

An annual award of £400 towards payment of sports equipment or sports tour.

13+ Assessment:	Monday 23 rd November 2020
16+ Assessment:	Tuesday 24 th November 2020

Art Scholarships (13+), Art or Textiles Scholarships (16+)

An annual award to of £400 help with the cost of materials or art associated trips and visits.

Scholarship interviews: Friday 22nd January 2021

Drama Scholarships (13+ 16+)

An annual award of £400 to help with the cost of drama associated trips and visits.

Scholarship auditions: Thursday 21st/Friday 22nd January 2021

Scholars are recognised within the School community and should be good role models in all areas of School life. A number of Scholar events are organised annually, either within departments or by the member of staff in charge of scholars.

Please note all dates are provisional and subject to change. The Administration Manager will be in touch with confirmation nearer the time.

BURSARY INFORMATION

Bromsgrove offers a generous provision of scholarships and bursaries. Scholarships reward excellent performance in academe, sport, music and the arts, and carry little or no financial assistance. Bursaries are means-tested and offer assistance with fees. It is possible to apply for both a bursary and scholarship at the same time.

Bromsgrove is committed as far as possible to helping those pupils who would benefit from a Bromsgrove education but whose parents or guardians cannot afford full fees. Parents and guardians wanting assistance with fees are required to fill out a means-test form when applying for a bursary, which can be found on the School website this should be sent through marked *private and confidential* as the form indicates.

We recommend that a bursary application form is submitted at the same time as the registration form since early submission is advised. Although Bromsgrove has a generous bursarial fund, all bursaries are allocated from a limited fund; and late applicants may be disappointed if they would need bursarial help in order to accept a place when offered. Bursary awards are reviewed on an annual basis.

Bursary recipients are expected to work hard and contribute positively to all aspects of a Bromsgrove education. If a bursary recipient were to fall short of expectations of behaviour and performance, then the bursary award would be reviewed. We want all bursary recipients to make the most of the opportunities offered to them, to thrive and succeed and hopefully in later life think about supporting our bursary funds in order to allow others to also benefit.

Full details of the bursary application process and the bursary application form can be found on the School website.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

WHAT	WHEN	INFORMATION
Enquiry	Any time of the year.	Please contact Admissions by telephone 01527 579679 or email admissions@bromsgrove-school.co.uk .
Individual Visit	Not currently possible due to Covid-19	We can organise online meetings with the Admissions team, Academic and Boarding staff – please contact our visits co-ordinator to arrange this.
Registration	Any time	Completed Registration Form and payment of the Registration Fee (£100 day place/£200 boarding place) should be sent to the Admissions office; these are needed before we can proceed to apply for confidential school reports from current schools.
Entrance Examinations	November* for 11+ candidates, Lent Term for all other candidates.	Alternative entrance examination dates may be offered at the discretion of the Assistant Head. All examinations are held at Bromsgrove School.
Scholarship Examination or Interview	November* for Sports Scholarships and January for all other Scholarships.	The Admissions office will advise on deadlines for application. Prior registration is required for Sports Scholars attending the Assessment Days. Sports Scholars must meet our entrance requirements and successful candidates (13+) will be required to sit our entrance examinations. For Sixth Form candidates, entry is dependent on achieving specific GCSE grades.
Bursaries	Deadline for bursary applications is 4 th January 2021.	Bursaries are means-tested. Full details and the bursary application form are available to download on the website. The Administration Manager can advise on the bursary application process: kelvy@bromsgrove-school.co.uk
Taster Days and Nights	Prep boarding candidates may have a taster session (space allowing) after registration and before accepting a place. Taster days are available for Pre-Preparatory applicants.	The Admissions office will advise on the availability of dates for boarder taster sessions.
Places Offered and Accepted	Lent Term for all points of entry.	Acceptance of a place is required within three weeks of the offer being made.

*provisional dates, subject to change

FEES as of September 2020

DEPOSITS

Registration Fee	
Day Place	£100
Boarding Place	£200
Acceptance Deposit	
Day Place / Forces Boarder	£500*
Boarding Place	£3,000*
Additional Deposit	
Non-European Boarding Place	£9,740*

*this amount is refunded once the final term's fees and extras have been settled.

FEES

SENIOR SCHOOL

	Fees per term
All Years Day	£5,695 (including lunches)
Weekly Boarder	£8,445
Boarder	£12,740

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Years 3 – 6 Day	£3,980 (including lunches)
Weekly Boarder	£6,040
Boarder	£8,280
Years 7 & 8 Day	£5,160 (including lunches)
Weekly Boarder	£7,310
Boarder	£10,215

Please note that the prompt payment allowance for settlement within seven days of the start of term is £200 per term, applicable to Senior and Prep School fees. The fee shown is net of this deduction.

ADDITIONAL CHARGES

Music Charges

Per 40 minute lesson	£30.25
Hire of Instrument per term	£30.25

Please note that ten teaching weeks' notice is required for cessation of music lessons and such notice must be given to the Director of Music

PRE-PREPARATORY & NURSERY SCHOOL

PRE-PREPARATORY

Reception	Fees per term £2,730
Year 1, Year 2	£3,000

There is no prompt payment allowance for the Nursery and Pre-Preparatory School.

Nursery

	per session
Half Day (8.00am – 12.15pm)	£33.00
Full Day (8.00am – 3.00pm)	£52.50

Please note a minimum of 5 sessions must be booked.

Aftercare is available from 3.15pm – 6.00pm at £7.10 per hour (charged in half hour sessions).

Nursery Education Funding

Funding for the free nursery education entitlement of 15 hours for eligible three and four year olds is determined by the Early Years Single Funding Formula.

Each eligible child is entitled to a maximum of 5 sessions of 3 hours per week.

The rates charged for the additional hours, including lunch, after the allocation of the NEF sessions are shown below:

Half Day (8.00am – 12.15pm)	One Session	£11.85
Full Day (8.00am – 3.00pm)	Two Sessions	£10.05

After-care (Pre-Prep)

Per hour (3.15pm - 6.00pm)	£7.10
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Late collection (Pre-Prep)

Charge per 15 minutes (after 6.00pm)	£20.00
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Fees may be changed with one term's notice - please refer to the Terms and Conditions

TRANSPORT

As well as our own fleet of minibuses we contract with companies such as BNC Taxis and Aston Coaches to provide a daily service to and from School. The daily routes are organised to accommodate the geographical spread of pupils and can vary from term to term, depending on the location and numbers of pupils requiring transport and the length of the journey involved. All drivers and contract company staff hold an enhanced DBS Disclosure. School drivers are assessed by the LEA for driving competence and their health is checked on an annual basis.

The School transport service currently covers the following areas:

Halesowen/Edgbaston
Hall Green/Cotteridge/Northfield
Solihull/Knowle
Worcester/Droitwich/Hanbury
Earlwood/Dickens Heath/Wythall/Rowney Green/Alvechurch
Henley in Arden/Danzey Green/Tanworth in Arden/Beoley/Tardebigge
Ardens Grafton/Inlberrow/Redditch
Stourbridge
Hartlebury/Kidderminster/Chaddesley Corbett
Rubery/Barnt Green/Blackwell
Stratford/Wilmcote/Redditch
Hagley/Blakedown/Belbroughton

The cost is £5.50 per student per journey. We offer the following discounts;

2nd child 10% deduction
3rd & 4th child 15 % deduction

To secure a place on our daily bussing, a minimum of five journeys per week need to be booked.

The Transport Manager, Mrs Rachel O'Neill, is happy to talk to parents requiring more information. Mrs O'Neill can be contacted by email on roneill@bromsgrove-school.co.uk or by phone on ext 256.

BOARDING HOUSES

Bromsgrove School has recently made massive investments into its boarding accommodation and is proud to offer facilities of the very highest standard.

Preparatory School

Page House caters for eighty boys and girls aged from seven to thirteen. These young boarders are cared for by resident Houseparents, supported by a team of tutors and resident staff.

Senior School

There are six boarding houses:

Oakley	Girls
Mary Windsor	Girls
Elmshurst	Boys
Wendron-Gordon	Boys
Housman Hall	Boys and Girls, Sixth Form only
Webber House	Boys and Girls, Sixth Form only

All the accommodation within the boarding houses is of a very high standard. A rolling refurbishment programme means that all the boarding accommodation is updated and decorated regularly.

Pupils board full time, or there is a limited number of spaces for weekly boarders. The weekly boarding fee includes transport on Monday morning and Friday afternoon. We do not operate exeat weekends, so full time boarders are not required to leave the School at any time during term time, other than for School holidays. This means that there is always a large number of boarders on site and that an exciting activity programme is available to them.

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

Bromsgrove was inspected by the Good Schools Guide in February 2017:

What The Good Schools Guide says

Headmaster

Following a glittering career in New Zealand that embraced the state and independent sector, Peter Clague joined Bromsgrove as head in 2014. Attracted by its sense of heritage and purpose, Peter says it was Bromsgrove's challenge to the traditional public school image that clinched the deal for him. He is a huge supporter of IB and believes that its genuinely international spirit suffuses the whole school, bringing with it a progressive liberalism and excitement about modern educational developments. He has introduced more flexibility in the timetable, with longer lunch breaks for pupils to pursue co-curricular interests, and aligned the prep and senior school more closely, but perhaps the biggest changes are in the importance he is giving to the arts. There is more music and drama than ever before and a huge investment into the building of a new theatre at the prep school and concert hall at the senior school.

'He is not as scary as he looks', said one girl to us, which is more a comment on his height and presence than anything else because he is universally seen as charming and warm. The school is proud of its international leader and feel he mirrors the increasingly global outlook of the

school. They like also the way in which he respects the traditions of the school but helps them all to look critically at what works and change what could be better. He is described as a visionary and also praised for being in touch with reality. 'He's not all idealism – he has his finger on the business pulse and is very data focused', one senior member of staff told us. He is a skilled wood turner and works beside staff and students building stage sets. He is an 'awesome' public speaker, pupils told us: 'we never know where his metaphors are taking us'.

His litmus test for everything is 'Is it good for the pupils?'

Academic matters

This is a school that really does embrace and value the vocational and the academic. A Level, IB and BTec are all on offer in the sixth form and each has its strong supporters. The IB group loves the small, but growing, tightly knit IB community and tells us that they get all the very best teachers – but the other groups said the same, so we assume there are just a splendid lot of wonderful teachers. A Level students assured us they get the breadth through all taking the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). Geography is 'amazing', politics is 'brilliant' and both attract large A level groups. Science and maths flourish. There are currently nine sets taking single maths and three further maths groups. Results are strong. At GCSE, 64 per cent A*/A grades in 2016. At the end of the sixth form, virtually all BTec results are double distinctions, the average IB diploma score was 38 in 2016 and at A level, 86 per cent are A*-B pretty and 60% at A*/A. The government contextual value added tables put Bromsgrove as the top independent school in the Midlands in 2016.

The only criticism on curriculum breadth came from parents who wanted the school to be offering

much more on the home economics and cookery side of things, but apparently the school is taking this on, and other than that there is an impressive range of opportunities.

Saturday mornings are not compulsory but a large proportion of pupils are likely to be there, not least because that is when some of the additional academic classes take place – whether in the form of catch-up and support 'surgeries' or Oxbridge preparation. There are plenty of other academic interest groups running too for anyone not falling into those categories. For those who miss a Saturday, there are departmental tweets that keep you interested.

Learning support is highly rated, though one parent gave a word of caution that moderate learning difficulties were beyond the scope of the school. There is a very attractive and well used learning resources centre on three levels and we were delighted to hear it is open till 10.00 in the evening and at weekends. This is the sort of opportunity that makes boarding so attractive to the serious student as well as those who want one long sleepover.

Games, options, the arts

Everyone was at pains to tell us that this is not just a rugby school. Well it certainly brings home the rugby silverware, winning the last two national finals, but then the girls' netball team are national champions too. There is genuinely a big variety of sport on offer with D teams that inspire just as much enthusiasm as the A teams. The school was ranked fourth in the country this year in School Sports Magazine. The elite senior rugby players do have to make the sort of serious commitment you would expect at national level, so it is not really an option to be in the U18 squad and play the lead in the school play. Sports facilities are excellent as you would expect, with a particularly impressive new

indoor arena with pull-out seating for 400 where the national indoor hockey finals take place. The pool and gym are open at weekends for boarders.

There is an exciting variety of clubs and societies and the school has invested heavily in staff on the co-curricular side to make a strong offering for all. Everyone was rightly proud of a girl who had entered an international competition to build an electric car and had ended up racing it at Rockingham. Drama, even before the new theatre is completed, is big and lots of departments - including art and DT - contribute to productions. Music is getting stronger all the time with smaller lunchtime concerts as well as the big school showpieces. There is Model United Nations and the school sends pupils to the European Youth Parliament. Pupils and parents were keen to tell us that the school looks for what every individual is good at and helps them find their niche and passion.

All year 10s do CCF. Some continue and others take up Duke of Edinburgh awards separately. There are service projects running so everyone makes a community contribution at some stage.

Boarders

At first the size may be a little intimidating but it is that which ensures the wide opportunities and it is ameliorated by the house system. Each house has its own internal family structure with older pupils acting as mothers and fathers and the younger ones as children. At the end of year 11, students can move to a sixth form house, but some can't bear to leave their first boarding house, home from home, at that stage. Apart from those in the sixth form house, everyone eats in a central dining room. There are some separate day houses and one with day pupils and boarders. A full cycle of impressive refurbishment is just about completed.

House tutors have about eight in a group and, with a 50 minute weekly session timetabled, get to know their tutees well. Sixth formers say that if you act like an adult, tutors treat you like an adult. Houses are good at communicating with parents and pupils – there are house newsletters and blogs as well as balls that help create a strong house identity. House competitions are seen as big bonding experiences and we were urged to get onto the school website to enjoy the full splendour of house music competitions.

The medical centre is highly praised. The nurses visit each boarding house every night to check all is fine and the focus on well-being, which includes bringing in outside speakers, is welcomed. Boarders say it is a 'full on' school. If you want to spend your weekends and evenings on a couch, the Bromsgrove experience would be wasted on you.

Background and atmosphere

Teaching staff come from a range of educational backgrounds – Oxbridge as well as the old polys – and this gives a sense that the school is grounded in the realities of life outside. There is a drive to ensure an authentic connection with the local community, who use the sports facilities and will be enjoying the new performing arts additions. Senior pupils have links with local state schools through CCF, D of E and university preparation. There's a sense of energy and hard work. The days are long for boarders and day pupils but they are full of purposeful activities.

It is a large campus, 100 acres, in the middle of Bromsgrove, a medium sized Midlands town. Buildings vary in age and the overall impression is of a site loved, cherished and very well maintained. Teaching blocks are attractive with wide corridors and big classrooms, all well lit. There is a delightful

little school museum in the old chapel which is just one of a number of reminders of the school's heritage. There are 11 houses, all but one single sex, some in modern buildings, some in charming older ones; the only co-ed house, in a converted hotel a few minutes from the main campus that was once the home of A E Housman, is a real stunner. The 'new' chapel is very prominent on the school site and there are assemblies three times a week for everyone.

There is a popular café, open all day, for older pupils – but we were assured by earnest sixth formers 'it is never a substitute for a proper lunch'.

We were impressed by the careers department where there has been a serious investment in staffing. Year 11 and sixth form pupils have a number of one-to-one interviews and these are supplemented by a Bromsgrove Futures programme of weekly visiting speakers. The contact with ex-pupils is also strong, so current pupils can get advice on careers and university choices and the chance to practise interview technique. There is a diverse intake and the careers department is well aware it is catering for wide range of needs – another example of how, despite its size, the school is interested in individuals.

Pupils clearly feel the school is good at listening. The head boy and girl lead regular school forums with no member of staff present and they told us the very positive results from these meetings. Pupil voice is increasingly bedded into all aspects and creates an atmosphere that pupils really are at the centre of this school.

Pastoral care, well-being and discipline

The pupils do need a degree of self-discipline to flourish, parents told us. They need to manage themselves to some extent especially as they get

older – which is seen as excellent preparation for life beyond Bromsgrove for those who succeed, but some parents knew pupils who had struggled with it. Discipline is seen as being robust and fair and pupils need to be prepared to accept it without arguing the toss. Uniform regulations are enforced strictly. Punishments for serious breaches of school rules ('but it's very rare,' pupils assured us) are consistent and take sensible account of the culprit's previous history, but there is very little debate round drugs or sex – you are out. The underpinning rule is that you must not stop others from learning.

Pupils and parents spoke very warmly and appreciatively about members of staff both on the academic and pastoral side. The overriding sense is that well-being and the whole person really do matter to staff.

Pupils and parents

The school sits somewhere between highly competitive Birmingham and posh boarding school clientele. Families typically have both parents working and are fairly diverse, but probably not a lot of old money and quite a number of military families. It attracts English families who want an international community - there are boarders from all over the world - and a choice of routes post-16. Bucking national trends, there has been an increase in British boarders and prep boarding in recent years. The pupils we met were delightful and genuine. They were articulate and thoughtful and all quite different from each other, which was refreshing. The situation of the school is an asset – it is in a good central England location, easy to reach from all corners of the country.

Entrance

At 13+ tests in English, maths, verbal and non-verbal reasoning and essay writing. The largest

cohort from the school's own prep. No automatic entry, but parents seem to feel that plenty of warning and advice is given if a child is unlikely to be accepted to move through. At sixth form level, entry depends on GCSE results and an interview for UK candidates.

Exit

There is a seriously impressive range of courses, universities and countries in terms of pupil destination that reflects the wide sixth form clientele. In recent years, pupils have gone on to do catering, boat building, digital games study as well as maths at Cambridge, PPE at Oxford and mainstream academic subjects at strong UK and global universities, including lots of future doctors and engineers. Five to Oxbridge in 2016 and seven medics.

Money matters

You are paying for the excellent facilities and opportunities as a boarder or a day pupil. Learning support is included in the fees as is ESL tuition. The head is very conscious of the need to widen access and play a part in promoting social mobility. He is actively building a bursary fund and currently there are 98 children on significant fee reduction. He tells us that past pupils are very receptive to raising funds for bursary support. Scholarships are on offer for academic, sporting, artistic and musical talents.

Our view

Bromsgrove manages to combine the feel of a local family day school with an international boarding school, attracting pupils both for its sporting reputation and also its academic offer and results. It is a carefully crafted hybrid that works. There is a culture of hard work and hard play and an earnestness about the pupils that is beguiling, far from the arrogant outcome some parents fear in

independent schools. The arts side of the school is definitely in ascendancy, both in terms of the huge financial investment and in the mindset of the community. We want to be invited back for the first performances in the new theatre and concert hall - we expect them to be world class.