

# ADMISSION AT 7+ (YEAR 3)

## BEFORE THE TESTS

### What happens before the 7+ tests?

All those who have registered for the 7+ entrance tests receive an email from the Registrar formally inviting them to attend the admissions tests. The email contains details of the day itself, including the timings of the different tests, and instructions on where to go and what to bring. It also contains a reply slip which will need to be completed and returned to us. At this time, we also contact the applicant's current school for a written reference.

The tests will take place in the January before the September entry. All boys registered for the 7+, 8+, 9+ and 10+ tests all come in on the same day.

### What to wear and what to bring?

Boys need to bring a pencil, rubber, and a ruler. They should wear whatever they feel comfortable in, though it is worth bearing in mind that the day includes plenty of opportunities for physically letting off steam (including a session led by Junior School Sports staff). We shall provide boys with a snack and a drink during the morning, and lunch, too. Boys may also bring their own packed lunches if preferred.

### What should I do if I have a question?

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Registrar, at any stage of the admissions and applications process ([registrar@mcsoxford.org](mailto:registrar@mcsoxford.org)).

## ON THE TEST DAY

### Which tests will my son take?

Boys take tests in English (spelling, descriptive writing and comprehension) and Maths. Tests are relatively short (approximately 15-20 minutes each for each part of the English test and approximately 45 minutes for the Maths test) and there are breaks between them. All candidates are tested together and many of the tests are teacher led.

### What else happens on the day?

There is a break in the morning for a drink and biscuit, followed by some outdoor play (weather permitting). There is also a break for lunch and an activity led by Junior School Sports staff in the Sports Hall.

### How can I help my son prepare for the tests?

There is no need to prepare your son for the tests. Our tests are designed to allow us to assess each candidate's potential, not simply their current academic attainment. The most important thing is that your son feels relaxed about coming

for the day. We do not expect or require pupils to receive any coaching for the tests. Sample English and Maths papers are available on the school website to give you an idea of the format of the papers and the type of questions that will be asked.

## AFTER THE TESTS

### What happens at an observation lesson?

Most boys will be invited back to MCS for observation lessons about a week after the 7+ test day. These will be in small groups, and the lesson is 2 hours long (either 9–11am or 1–3pm). In the course of this lesson, your son will leave the group to meet the Head Teacher, Mr Tim Skipwith, for a short interview.

### How will my son be interviewed?

The interview will last approximately ten minutes, and will be a relaxed chat following the applicant's own interests. He will be invited to bring an object (or picture) to use as an icebreaker (no live animals please!). The interview is not something that you or your son needs to feel any anxiety about.

Please be reassured that the boys will have a good time when they are with us for both tests and interviews. A parent of one of our candidates said:

*I have been meaning to write to you for weeks to say how wonderful the 7+ was from a parental perspective! Our son came out of the test day and said "that was so much fun, when can I go back to MCS for more tests?" Clearly, for him the word test means "to have a go at various things and it doesn't matter if you can't do them all" This is very much down to the atmosphere created by the Junior School staff on the day and I for one was deeply grateful.*



For any queries please contact the Registrar at [registrar@mcsoxford.org](mailto:registrar@mcsoxford.org) or on 01865 242191.