

### What to do next if you want to apply on behalf of your daughter (External Candidates only):

If you wish to make your application, **please download a copy of the application form** from the website ([www.boltonschool.org.uk](http://www.boltonschool.org.uk)) and send it with the application fee **by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December** (so that we can get in touch with you before Christmas about sitting the Entrance Examination)

*Either by post:* to Miss Hannah Caulfield at Bolton School Girls' Division, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4PB

*Or by email:* to [hcaulfield@boltonschool.org.uk](mailto:hcaulfield@boltonschool.org.uk) with payment of the application fee to Barclays Bank/ Account name: Bolton School/ Account number: 20547301/ Sort code: 20-10-89, making sure that your daughter's full name is quoted as the payment reference.

On the Application form, say if you are applying for a Bursary or Scholarship\*(See below). Also say if your daughter has a Special Educational Need or Disability for which a reasonable adjustment is required.

### How We Select Part 1: The Entrance Testing Day

If you have sent us your application form in good time, we shall contact you in December about your daughter sitting the Entrance Examination. The Entrance Examination is on **Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**, and your daughter will need the morning off school to attend. Please let your daughter's current Headteacher know that she is sitting the Examination- he or she will need to complete a reference for your daughter and send it to us. Please note that, if you are applying for a Bursary for your daughter, you must send in the Foundation Grant Application Form by **the morning of the Entrance Testing Day** in order for your request to be considered.

What normally happens	What will happen if Covid 19 is still an issue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Come to Great Hall at the same time</li><li>• Go to form rooms for tests: English, Maths, VR &amp; Non-VR (GL Assessments)</li><li>• Lunch</li><li>• Activity</li><li>• (Extra time)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examinations in different sessions on same day</li><li>• Examinations taken in socially distanced way in large venues</li><li>• Potentially fewer tests from English, Maths, VR &amp; Non-VR (GL Assessments)</li><li>• No lunch</li><li>• No Activity</li></ul>

The Entrance Test is a competitive entrance examination; therefore, there is no set pass/ fail mark (unlike Grammar Schools). We do not release candidates' results at any point in the process.

If your daughter is applying for a **Full Fee place**, she will normally be invited for an interview after the Entrance Examination, unless her scores are so low that it is clear that Bolton School is not the right place for her. If she has done very well in the Entrance Examination, she may be invited for a Scholarship Interview.

If your daughter is applying for a **Bursary place**, she will be invited for a Bursary interview if her scores in the Entrance Examination suggest that your family may be eligible for a Bursary. If she has done well enough to be considered for a full fee place, but not well enough to be invited for a Bursary, she may be invited in for a Full Fee interview. (You should only accept this invitation on your daughter's behalf if you might be able to pay full fees). If your daughter has applied for a Bursary but her scores are so low that it is clear that Bolton School is not the right place for her, she will not be invited in for an interview.

### How We Select Part 2: The Interview

What normally happens	What will happen if Covid 19 is still an issue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading &amp; Comprehension; General questions</li><li>• Longer interviews for Bursary or Scholarship candidates inc more questions on passage; Maths problem-solving questions</li><li>• Scholarship candidates will be asked about books on the Reading List</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading &amp; Comprehension sent by email short time in advance</li><li>• Interview via 'zoom': General questions</li><li>• Longer interviews for Bursary or Scholarship candidates inc more questions on passage; Maths problem-solving questions</li><li>• Scholarship candidates will be asked about books on the Reading List</li></ul>

- Whilst pupil prepares reading, interviewer chats with parents

- Separate chat with parents (on line whilst candidate prepares reading)

### **How We Select Part 3: Additional Tests**

Some girls may be asked to complete an extended piece of writing during the selection process. This test may be set for girls applying for a Bursary/ Scholarship or for girls whose performance in the English and/or Vocab section of the examination falls short of the standard in their other two papers. In exceptional circumstances, additional mathematics questions or an additional English comprehension paper may be set.

### **For Your Information: How We Select Bursary and Scholarship Candidates**

<b>Bursary (Means-tested award)</b>	<b>Scholarship (Non-means-tested award)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By ticking for a Bursary on the application form, you tell us that your household income is of a certain level</li> <li>• You will need to fill in the FG1 form and hand it in on or before 14<sup>th</sup> January</li> <li>• If your daughter does very well in the Entrance Test, she will be called back for a Bursary interview</li> <li>• If your daughter does well in the Bursary interview, you will be invited to talk to the Finance Office who will calculate the award you may be eligible to receive</li> <li>• The Headmistress will make the final decision about who is awarded a Bursary according to a) who has done best in the Entrance Test/ Interview and b) how much Bursary money she has available to give out</li> <li>• A Bursary may be awarded up to 100% full fees</li> <li>• If you are not awarded a Bursary for your daughter, she may still be eligible for a full fee place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By filling in the Scholarship section of the application form, you tell us about the contribution your daughter would make to school life in terms of music, sport, dance, drama, or other aspects</li> <li>• If your daughter does very well in the Entrance Test (ie is in the top 20), she will be invited in for a Scholarship interview if you have not applied for a Bursary for her</li> <li>• (If you have not filled in the relevant section and she does very well, we'll still ask you if you want to apply for a Scholarship for her)</li> <li>• At the Scholarship interview, your daughter will be asked about her reading from the Reading List</li> <li>• A Scholarship is a token amount (5% or 10% fees) as it is not means-tested</li> </ul>

### **How To Prepare for Entrance Testing Day & the Interview:**

Please look at the section of the website ([www.boltonschool.org.uk](http://www.boltonschool.org.uk)) entitled 'How to Join Us' for information about the Entrance Examination. There, you will find the address to contact if you wish to obtain some sample multiple choice VR, NVR, English and Maths papers. These are set by the organisation *GL Assessment*. Your daughter is advised to have two or three practices of these types of papers- there is no need to do more, as girls won't continue to progress after two or three trial runs!

In January 2021, there will be up to four parts to the Entrance Examination- a verbal reasoning test, a non-verbal reasoning test, an English reasoning test and a mathematical reasoning test. Please note that we no longer set an English essay question on the Entrance Testing Day itself, although we may ask girls to complete some extended writing at the interview stage (below).

*In addition, please make sure that you read the Admissions Policy on the website, particularly if your daughter has a specific learning difficulty or there are other circumstances requiring special consideration in the examination. You must inform us of these circumstances before your daughter sits the papers.*

If your daughter is hoping for a Scholarship, she should read as many books as possible from the Reading List in preparation for her interview. All other girls should prepare to talk about themselves and their interests.

### What happens next? The Offer Letter

Bolton School belongs to the Manchester Consortium of Schools, along with the following Schools:

Alderley Edge School	King's School, Macclesfield	North Cestrian Grammar
Manchester High	St Bede's College	Bury Girls
Stockport School	Cheadle Hulme School	Withington School

All of these schools have the same procedures for offering places for Year 7:

- We will post our offers on Monday, 22nd February and we will email our offers (if we have your email address) from **9am on Tuesday, 23rd February**. The offer will be one of the following:
  - A full fee offer (for girls who have reached the standard required at Bolton School and did not apply for a Bursary/ Scholarship- most girls receiving an offer receive a full fee offer)
  - A Bursary offer (for girls who have reached the excellent standard in the Entrance Tests and Interview required for a Bursary and whose families qualify on financial grounds, following assessment by the Finance Office- between 15 and 25 girls may receive this sort of offer)
  - A Scholarship offer (for girls who have excelled in the Entrance Tests and Interview, demonstrating that they will make a significant contribution to School life but who are not eligible for a Bursary on financial grounds- between 5 and 10 girls may receive this sort of offer)
  - A full fee offer without a Bursary or Scholarship (for girls who initially applied for a Bursary or Scholarship and who have reached the standard required at Bolton School but who have not been placed high enough in the rankings to receive a Bursary or Scholarship)
  - A reserve full fee offer (for girls who will be offered a place if one becomes available)
  - A Bursary Waiting List offer (for a limited number of girls who may be offered a Bursary if one becomes available)
- If we offer your daughter a Bursary or a Scholarship, you will need to let us know that you are accepting our offer by **noon on Tuesday, 2nd March**. If you have not let us know by that date, we may ring you to request a reply. (If you don't let us know by the Tuesday, the place will still be kept for you until Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March but the Bursary or Scholarship may be withdrawn and offered to someone else).
- If we offer you a Full-Fee place, you will need to let us know that you are accepting our offer by **noon on Thursday, 4th March**. If you do not let us know by then, we may offer your place to another candidate. If we have not heard from you by the day before, we may ring you to ask you to let us have your decision by the following day. **Please note that, in three out of the past four years, we had received acceptances for all our places by the deadline for accepting offers; any candidates replying after this time were placed on the Reserve List.**
- If you were initially placed on the **Reserve List or the Bursary Waiting List**, we shall keep you updated with the progress of our Acceptances so that you do not lose a place elsewhere because you are holding on to a place at Bolton School.
- If you are applying for a Full Fee place and we know that your application to come to our School has definitely been **unsuccessful**, we may send you a rejection letter *before* 22nd February, so that you know that you will need to look for another School.
- If another School (which is not in the Consortium) is putting pressure on you for a quick decision prior to the offer date *or* if you have a younger child who has been offered a place at Park Road, Hesketh House or Beech House, you can ring us up and we will give you *oral* confirmation whether or not your daughter is going to be offered a place. We will then send you *written* confirmation on the offer date itself.

### What happens next: to Help your Daughter Settle In

We will invite all the girls who are going to join us in September 2021 to a Day in School on **Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June**. A member of our staff will also come to the girls' schools to visit them and to speak to their teacher. We shall invite all of the girls' parents to learn more about the School and the year ahead on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. *Please save these dates!* We look forward to getting to know you properly in the months ahead.

Sue Hincks, Headmistress, September 2020