



Admissions Policy

General

Lancing is an academically selective co-educational independent boarding and day school for pupils aged 13 to 18 years. Currently some 580 pupils attend Lancing; of these approximately 60% are full boarders. Day pupils and boarders are spread across ten different Houses which will include pupils from across different year groups aged between 13 and 18 years. By arrangement and where space permits, we welcome day pupils staying overnight in order to participate fully in the life of the school.

Most pupils start in the Third Form (Year 9) and progress through the Senior School, remaining at Lancing for the Sixth Form. The College has a thriving Sixth Form which also attracts new pupils to study A' Levels and prepare for university entrance, directly for the world of work or to make the most of a gap year.

Our pupils are traditionally drawn from a wide range of preparatory schools across the South East region, South London and more locally. We are in contact with over 150 schools, some 40 of which are regular feeders of new pupils. There is a tremendous variety in these schools although many share a similar ethos and educational approach to Lancing. A significant number of pupils join Lancing in the Third Form from the two Lancing College prep schools in Hove and Worthing. Lancing also attracts overseas pupils from a wide range of countries. In any year over 30 nationalities will be represented in the school.

From the moment that pupils join Lancing they become part of a community, and all benefit from the overarching care and support of a boarding school ethos. Lancing is a place of scholarship where pupils learn with integrity. We teach our students to be curious and to think deeply, for themselves and for the right reasons. Our school is not an exam factory and our teachers take delight in going far beyond teaching to the test. Our learning is deep and our excellent exam results are a wonderful by-product of the profound and long-lasting scholarly rigour that underpins all that we do.

Visiting the College

The College holds two major Open Mornings each year where families can come and experience the school on a Saturday morning. We also organise an increasing number of days for prep school children to come to Lancing for sports tournaments, plays, music days, science challenges, exhibitions and other events. We encourage parents to come and visit the College at least once and many come several times as they go through the process of deciding which school is right for their child. During term time, we host a great many personal visits to the school which involve meeting the Head Master, Registrar and House staff, having a tour of the school by a pupil. Lancing is a popular school and parents considering Lancing for their child at the age of 13 years should be looking at least three years ahead. The College has

recently introduced the Advance Programme for parents of pupils in Year 6 looking to gain an unconditional place at the College in Year 9.

The Admissions Department

Admissions to Lancing are under the personal control of the Head Master. The role of the Admissions Department is to recruit new pupils and to ensure a smooth transition for all parents and pupils entering the school. The Registrar cultivates contacts with prep schools and agents and deals with all formal correspondence relating to admissions. He sees all prospective pupils and their families, organises the weekly programme of visits and confers with Housemasters, Housemistresses, the Deputy Heads and the Head Master about the selection and placing of all new pupils. The Registrar is ably supported by the Admissions Manager and wider Admissions team.

The Admissions Manager deals with all initial enquiries, administers all pre-testing, testing and assessment, Common Entrance and Scholarship procedures, the 'call up' list and the creation of House lists as new pupils confirm their places. A dedicated Marketing team is also closely involved in all aspects of the admissions process, as well as handling advertising and publicity. All the staff in the Head Master's Office are actively involved in welcoming new and prospective pupils to the school.

Points of Entry and Assessment

Our objective is to attract pupils with a broad range of skills, willing to contribute to a vibrant and strong community and also possessing an appetite to learn and to excel.

Lancing has a holistic, well-developed and forward-looking approach to education; a coherent view of what education is about and how the various elements of an education here combine to allow each pupil to grow in their own way throughout their time at the College.

Lancing recognises that children and young people develop and learn as individuals and we therefore make every effort to ensure that all our assessments stem from a broad base of information. In addition to the usual academic assessments required, we will also review and take into consideration: references, interviews with different members of Lancing staff, opportunities to present and demonstrate personal work and skills. Any special requirements pertinent to the child's education and development at Lancing must be disclosed to the Registrar.

In the Third Form (Year 9)

Many schools prepare their pupils for the Independent Schools Examination Board (ISEB) Common Entrance and Common Academic Scholarship examinations in Year 8. These are the standard entrance tests for Lancing and a minimum average of 55% at Common Entrance is required. Lancing encourages applications from children who are also talented in Sport, Drama, Music and Art, but these are not criteria for admission in themselves.

Candidates from overseas and from the maintained sector will take cognitive ability tests or UK Independent Schools Entry Tests (UKiset) as a means of assessment.

Early entrance options are now available via the Advance Programme from 2020 entry onwards or by arrangement with the Registrar in 2019.

Further details and a timeline of the different routes are available on our website.

In the Fourth Form (Year 10)

A number of pupils join Lancing in the Fourth Form at the start of GCSE courses, from UK independent or state schools or from international schools. This works well as an entry point to enable pupils to join us at this stage if spaces are available.

In the Fifth Form (Year 11)

Mismatches in the syllabus usually make it extremely difficult to admit candidates into Years 11 and 13 and Lancing is cautious when considering those who have left their schools in mid-course. However Lancing has connections with a number of German and French agents and offers places for one year study. This enables these pupils the experience of a traditional UK boarding school and each year a number of pupils choose then to continue with us into the Sixth Form.

In the Sixth Form (Years 12)

Lancing also attracts an increasing 16+ entry into the Lower Sixth for A' Level. Here entry is selective, more varied and more cosmopolitan. Capacity for girls is greater than for boys at this point in order to cater for what had been a tradition of girls moving from independent single-sex or state schools at this stage. The College also recruits overseas students with good English language skills to the Sixth Form.

Confirmed progression into the Sixth Form for both existing and new pupils is dependent on academic success. New Sixth Form pupils are usually assessed in November and places offered in early December to successful candidates, subject to their meeting the normal qualifications for Sixth Form entry (a minimum of five Grade 6s at GCSE, which would usually include English, Mathematics and a foreign language). Admission to study A' Levels in some subjects requires a minimum Grade 7 or 8 in that subject at GCSE.

Sibling Policy

The school welcomes siblings and many families choose Lancing for all their children. We seek actively to engage with parents as part of the entry process regarding the allocation of Houses. A discount is usually offered to siblings. This will be indicated in our annual Financial Information.

International Pupils

Lancing is well-regarded by international families as a high quality British boarding school with a modern and global approach to education. International pupils join Lancing from all over the world including: Hong Kong, China, Korea, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, the Middle East, Bulgaria, other former Soviet and European countries, Australia, Canada and the USA. At any one time there will be pupils from over 30 nationalities in the school. We believe that the College must prepare young people to study and work in a global world, aware and excited by everything that this offers.

Pupils studying in international schools overseas take cognitive ability tests or the UKiset and their applications and educational background are considered by our Registrar and Deputy Head. They are sometimes recommended by educational agents, who also introduce candidates for any places which become vacant in Year 10. Lancing has close working relationships with a number of international educational agencies worldwide and has campaigned successfully to increase the number of nationalities represented.

Applicants tend to be very able potential university entrants, often with other impressive talents. Whenever possible we prefer overseas candidates to come to Lancing for testing and assessment. When they can do so, they sit our cognitive ability tests (CAT). They are informally interviewed by the Head Master and Registrar, as well as a Housemaster or Housemistress. If pupils cannot get to England, we provide an online link to our CATs or they sit a UKiset. In all cases school reports or references are required. The academic testing is rigorous: we seek a high level of English and other aptitudes which might help them to integrate effectively and contribute to school life are considered. International pupils joining Lancing to do A' Levels are expected to have a high standard of verbal and written English to enable them to access the curriculum and also the additional enrichment that Lancing offers in the Sixth Form.

In the case of Hong Kong candidates, some are pre-screened or interviewed by us through the auspices of Academic Asia. Academic Asia is, however, only one of the excellent agents who recommend candidates from Hong Kong, China and other parts of Asia.

Opportunities for students to be interviewed via Skype are also available.

International pupils and visas

Some international pupils will require student visas in order to come to England to study. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that the necessary requirements are submitted correctly and on time to enable a timely start at school. We recommend all parents check the latest visa requirements to study. The College has appointed a specialist provider in this area to manage the visa/Tier 4 process on our behalf, for entry and ongoing compliance requirements. There is a small termly charge for this service which is added to pupils' bills. More information is available on the Lancing College website.

International pupils and Guardians

All international pupils studying at Lancing College, irrespective of age, must have an appointed guardian who will provide accommodation when the school is closed or in the event of illness or other emergency. Guardians are adults who the pupils can turn to for assistance or advice, attend parents' meetings and other key school events on behalf of overseas parents.

As the person with shared delegated parental responsibility, the role of guardian complements the requirement of Housemasters and Housemistresses to act 'in loco parentis'. For this reason the appointed guardian must be aged over 25 years. Effective partnership between Housemasters and Housemistresses, parents and guardians ensures the welfare of international students. Some parents choose to appoint a family friend or relative, but where this is not practicable professional guardians can be appointed using reputable, and ideally accredited, guardianship agencies. Please refer to our Guardian Policy for further information.

The Contractual Terms and Conditions

Lancing College fees are designed to be as inclusive as possible of all usual charges to enable parents to budget with a degree of certainty. Fees include academic books and provision of an iPad, all meals, laundry (excluding dry cleaning) and personal accident insurance. Details of additional charges are included in the Financial Information available on the College website.

Termly fees are charged in advance and are due before the first day of term. Extras (including for occasional overnight stays) are usually charged in arrears.

No pupil can be admitted to the school unless we have received an acceptance form signed by both parents and we are in receipt of the relevant deposit (which will be refunded when the child leaves the school). Parents are bound by our Standard Terms and Conditions.

Scholarships and Bursaries

A wide range of Scholarships are available to those entering the Third Form. We also offer a generous range of Music, Art, Sport and Drama awards. The Ken Shearwood Awards are designed to reward and encourage all-round achievements. Here Sport, Music, Art and other talents, including personal contribution to the previous school, are the criteria, as well as the verbal reasoning score and a requirement to achieve over 60% in Common Entrance or an equivalent test.

Scholarships are also available for Sixth Form pupils.

The selection for all Lancing Scholarships involves tests, interviews and references from previous schools. This is carried out in accordance with HMC protocols.

All awards may be augmented from bursary funds in cases of financial need demonstrated through a means test. On occasions a Head Master's Discretionary Award may also be offered. It is the policy of Lancing to attract and retain as many first rate students as possible, as fairly as this system permits.

Please note that there are strict deadlines for scholarship applications; dates are available on the College website.

Transformational Bursaries

In addition to bursaries associated with the grant of an Award, the College has recently introduced a Transformational Bursary programme for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who would not otherwise have a chance to receive the kind of education that Lancing offers. Pupils will come from a wide variety of schools, both local and national; pupils will join in the Third Form and also the Sixth Form; they will be part of the wider Lancing community and receive extensive support and guidance during their time at the school.

Transformational Bursaries are limited and are based on strict entry criteria. Pupils are generally identified through established relationships with a number of agencies and state schools.

Religious Beliefs

Lancing College's foundation was distinctly Christian and within the Anglican tradition and the College Chapel stands at the heart of the community. Alongside this, the College welcomes and includes those of all faiths, or of none.

All pupils are required to attend the weekly Eucharist celebrated in the Chapel. This is an important part of pupils' participation in the College community and a celebration of our collective identity.

Lancing's remarkable Chapel plays a very significant role in the lives of pupils and of the school community. It provides a place for reflection and quiet for all and has a major influence on pupils' strong sense of moral and spiritual awareness.

Disabilities

Human rights and freedoms are respected. At present, our physical facilities for the disabled are limited due to the constraints of largely 19th Century buildings. We are improving this as we build and adapt provision and do all that is reasonable to ensure that the College's culture, policies and procedures are made accessible to children who have disabilities and to comply with our legal and moral responsibilities under equality legislation to accommodate the needs of all applicants.

Learning Support

Lancing College aims to enrich and extend the learning of all pupils in accordance with the SENDA (Special Educational Needs and Disability Act) code of practice. The ethos of the school is to promote learning potential and emotional well-being. We recognise that children learn at different rates and have individual needs; our aim is to empower pupils to fulfil their goals.

There is a variety of support available which can be tailored to suit individual needs, and examination access arrangements can be organised for pupils who qualify. The progress of students is carefully recorded and monitored to ensure that the level of intervention remains appropriate.

Members of the Learning Support Department are available to assist any student identified as having difficulty in accessing the curriculum. We have expertise in dealing with a range of specific learning difficulties, to more general problems such as poor organisation and exam anxiety. Parents with concerns about their child's performance are encouraged to contact the Learning Support Department so that advice and any necessary support can be arranged promptly.

Complaints

We hope that the process of joining Lancing is straightforward and supportive. If however you feel that we have fallen short of what you would have expected we would appreciate the opportunity to address this either informally or via the College's complaints procedure, which is available on the school website.

Safeguarding in the Admissions Process

The Admissions process is an integral part of our College-wide commitment to promoting the safety and welfare of every child in the school, in line with the school's Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy. Staff receive regular training and are aware of the importance of this for every child. As part of the Admissions process the previous Head is required to provide a reference for the prospective pupil including any information relevant to the education and wellbeing.

After admission to the school the College's Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the previous school to request any specific information concerning previous safeguarding issues. We collect, record and share this information as appropriate and in the interests of the child.

It is important that parents also share any information that they are aware of with the Registrar to ensure that our expert pastoral team at Lancing is able to support their child.

Data Protection in the Admissions Office

As part of the Admissions process it is necessary for the College to process relevant personal data regarding potential pupils. The school will process data in accordance with its Data Protection policy and in line with the forthcoming GDPR (Guide to the General Data Protection Regulation). Only data that is necessary for the Admissions process will be collected. Following an enquiry for a place at Lancing it is assumed that a legitimate interest exists for both parties to be in contact, that parents have a genuine interest in the school and are therefore pleased to receive relevant information and news. Once a child is withdrawn from the Admissions process, parents will not receive further information from the school. Lancing will be responding to the requirements of the new legislation in 2018 as they become clearer. Parents can ask at any time not to receive further contact. Please contact the Admissions Office if you would like to be removed from our database.

Entry Process

This is the first formal part of application to attend Lancing. Lancing is a popular school and we would recommend that parents complete and submit this form in Year 5 for pupils entering at 13 years and at least 12 months ahead of entry to the Sixth Form. There are varied routes to gaining a place at Lancing depending on the timeline involved and previous experience of the school. The Admissions team is always happy to guide parents through the different steps and to answer questions. We recognise that this is an important decision and commitment for parents and they are likely to have many and varied questions.

In general the key steps in the process are:

1. Registration

Completing a Registration Form is the first formal stage of the journey to joining Lancing. A small non-returnable fee is payable on Registration. An application cannot be considered completed until the fee has been paid and all the necessary documents have been received.

2. Offer of a place

Following a visit/interview and assessment (which may take place at different times depending on the year and route of entry) it is most likely that the Admissions Department will send an offer of a place at the College. At this stage we will also require a satisfactory reference from the current school. Offers may vary so it is important that this reflects the nature of the place that is applied for. The offer letter will also give the terms for acceptance. Offers can frequently be time sensitive so it is important that this is adhered to. Other conditions include the successful outcome of entry examinations such as Common Entrance or GCSEs.

3. Acceptance of a place

If parents wish to accept the offer of a place then they need to complete and return an Acceptance Form. This form is a legal document and at this stage parents are agreeing to our Terms and Conditions (available on the website). There is a requirement on parents to inform the College at this stage about a number of things influencing the child's ability to participate in school life and also relevant family circumstances.

4. Payment of a deposit

The timing of deposit payment is dependent on the year and nature of entry. We will advise in the offer letter how this applies to individual circumstances. Acceptance of a place is not considered final until payment of the deposit has been received.

5. Joining Lancing

As soon as the deposit has been paid, parents will start to become more involved in the school and be invited to events. There is a dedicated area on our website for incoming parents and we use this to share advance information; this might include the forward calendar of term dates. We will provide a detailed Joining Information pack in the May of the year that the child is starting in the school. This pack includes some forms to complete and return disclosing, for example, detailed information concerning the child's medical history and learning support needs.

There is a welcome event for pupils and their parents in June with an opportunity to meet other new pupils and talk to House staff.

Allocation of Houses

We have ten Houses which tender a slightly different character whilst offering the same expert level of care and support. In allocating Houses we seek to achieve the best balance of pupils and also retain the flexibility necessary in running a successful school. Pupils remain within the same House across their time at Lancing and their House is the primary focus for their pastoral care, for friendships and for a sense of particular community.

Lancing has become an increasingly popular choice of Senior School across local, regional, London and overseas families. In order to take account of the changing nature of parental demand and the availability of space, we will be introducing a new flexi-boarding status for the 2019 intake, and onwards.

The options available are:

1. Boarding up to seven days per week

Boarders will always be housed in a Boarding House. Parents may express a preference for a particular House if they wish. Whilst we will make all reasonable efforts to facilitate this, Lancing cannot guarantee that this will always be met.

2. A new Flexi-Boarding offer

In a few Boarding Houses a limited number of flexi-boarding spaces will be identified. These will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. They will be most suitable for day pupils who regularly stay over for up to three nights per week. In this instance accommodation is guaranteed for this pupil and as with boarders, where possible House choice will be available but is not guaranteed. Parents should notify Houses by Friday morning of the three flexi nights required in the following week. Additional nights will be by exception only and with the agreement of the Head Master. A new termly fee will apply.

3. Day pupils

It is not possible for day pupils to pre-select a House. Allocation will usually be to a Day House. House allocation will be made by the College in order to create the best balance of pupils across the Houses.

By arrangement and where space permits, we enable day pupils to remain in school for occasional overnight stays (up to three nights a week) in order to participate fully in the life of the school. These are charged at a nightly rate and will be in a House that has available overnight space. Overnight stays for pupils who are required by the College to stay for particular events after 9.00pm will not be charged.

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