

## **BLUNDELL'S ADMISSIONS POLICY (2011-2012)**

### **ADMISSIONS POLICY (11-18 YEARS)**

Blundell's is a co-educational independent HMC school for pupils from ages 11 to 18. The school has 570 pupils, of whom 205 are Full/Weekly boarders, 175 Flexi boarders with the remainder being Day students. We believe that a personal visit is invaluable and so we hope our website will encourage you to contact our Registrars in order to gain a prospectus and to arrange for a personalised tour.

#### **ENTRY PROCEDURE**

Blundell's is an academically selective school. Selection is based upon academic merit, which is assessed through the relevant entry examinations, an interview at the school if at all possible and by references/reports from the candidate's previous school. Our selection process is designed to identify pupils who are able to benefit from our balanced and well rounded education and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the School.

#### **Registration:**

A Registration Form accompanies the prospectus; this requires a non-refundable fee of £50 (no fee for Blundell's Prep School transfers or Foundation applicants). All pupils taking entrance examinations, at any level, must be registered prior to the examination.

This reserves a provisional place for your child, conditional on satisfying the entrance criteria, and enters your details on our computer. You will then receive termly updates on events such as concerts, open days, plays, school matches and curriculum developments. This will obviously enable us to keep communication channels very much open and help to keep our records up to date with your intentions and changes of circumstances/address etc.

There really is only one way to fully appreciate the lovely grounds and excellent facilities, but also to understand the very happy and fulfilling all-round education being enjoyed by so many Blundellians today. We hold an Open Morning on a Saturday morning in early September each year – the next one will be on:

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011.**

[registrars@blundells.org](mailto:registrars@blundells.org)  
[www.blundells.org](http://www.blundells.org)

#### **Confirmation:**

Confirmation of Intention forms will be issued to all registered families at the appropriate time in the year prior to admission. This will confirm that Blundell's is your first choice school and guarantees your child a place, and a bed where appropriate, subject to them satisfying the relevant entrance requirements. The earlier this is received the more confident we can be of offering you your first choice House and of avoiding any disappointment of places being unavailable.

Once a place has been formally offered, you will be asked to complete an Acceptance Form, parent contract, and forward a £300 deposit - £1,000 for pupils outside the EU - (the deposit is refunded on completion of a child's education at Blundell's); Foundation Scholars are the only exemptions to the deposit. Your new pupil documents, bursarial information, parental handbook and medical questionnaire will be sent to you in early July prior to your child's arrival.

Methods of Entry	
<b>11+ Entry</b>	By the Blundell's Entry Tests in English, Mathematics and Non Verbal Reasoning. These are taken in January at Blundell's. Late entrants can be tested separately by arrangement, dependent on places still being available.
<b>13+ Entry</b>	By the 13+ Common Entrance, which is taken in June at Preparatory Schools, or via the Scholarship programme. Those not at Preparatory Schools take the Blundell's Entry Tests in English and Mathematics by arrangement.
<b>16+ Entry</b>	The minimum requirement for entry to the Sixth Form is 5 GCSE passes at grade C or above. We also require at least an A or B grade in any subject to be taken at A2 Level. A report will be requested from the present school and, where possible, candidates will be interviewed at Blundell's. There are various scholarship options available.

## EQUAL TREATMENT

Our aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as is possible. This enriches the Blundell's community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. A generous system of bursaries is offered in order to make it possible for as many as possible, who meet the school's admission criteria, to attend the school.

Blundell's is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social background. See **Scholarships, Exhibitions and Bursaries** for more information.

## SPECIAL NEEDS

Blundell's welcomes pupils with special educational requirements, providing that our Learning Support Department can offer them the support that they require. We welcome pupils with physical disabilities provided that our site can cope with them. However, we advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their individual child's requirements with the school's Registrars before he or she sits an entrance examination, so that we can make adequate provision for him/her.

Parents should provide a copy of an Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report to support their request, for example for extra time or other special arrangements.

We will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisors the adjustments that can reasonably be made for their child if he/she becomes a pupil at the school.

## SIBLING POLICY

Most siblings join us at Blundell's. However, admission is not automatic, and there may be occasions where we judge that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different academic environment.

There is an automatic sibling discount of 7% remission of fees off the elder of two, 10% off the eldest and 7% off the second of three.

## SCHOLARSHIPS, EXHIBITIONS & BURSARIES

### The Ethos of Scholarship at Blundell's

Any great school should nurture academic performance through the encouragement of scholarship and scholarly example. At Blundell's there is a wide cross-section of awards aimed at encouraging balance, breadth and a will to lead from the front through attaining the highest standards. Blundell's has generous **Foundation & Bursary** arrangements (see questions below) following the precepts of Peter Blundell himself. Four hundred years after his death, local students still go out from this school strengthened by the learning which was the important part of our founder's vision.

Whilst acknowledging that academic performance is of the greatest importance and all pupils must work towards high levels of achievement, Blundell's also has a range of awards

to reflect sporting, artistic or musical achievement. Whilst at Blundell's the holders should be shining examples within their individual field. Finally, All-rounder Awards exist for those who show real capability in several areas, including evidence of reasonable academic potential. These awards suit the sort of Blundellian who will get maximum benefit from our wide range of facilities and educational experience.

Scholars and Award holders at Blundell's are expected to give a lead and each year performance is reviewed and goals are set. There are specially designed programmes to stimulate them and to encourage a wide vision, and scholars should demonstrate a lively interest in the events designed to stretch them. Energy and an enquiring mind are vital to the fulfilment of potential.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### In what areas are Awards offered?

We offer the following awards:

- academic
- music
- art (not at 11+)
- sport (not at 11+)
- all-rounders (not at 11+)
- Performing Art (not at 11+ or 16+)

#### At what age can a boy or girl sit for an Award?

Awards are made at the following stages in a child's education:

- **at 11+** for entry into the Junior Department; pupils are in Year 6 when they take the exam and must be under 12 on the 1st September 2012.
- **at 13+** for entry into the Senior School; pupils are in Year 8 when they take the exam and must be under 14 on the 1st September 2012.
- **at 16+** for entry into the Sixth Form; pupils are in Year 11 when they take the exam and must be under 17 on the 1st September 2012.

#### Are there special terms for children whose parents are serving in H.M. Forces?

A Services Boarding Package is available; please contact the Registrars for further details.

#### Do Awards made at 11+ continue into the Senior School?

All awards continue into the Senior School, but pupils are subject to regular performance reviews throughout.

#### Can a pupil who holds an Award try for one again at a later stage?

Candidates who win an award at 11+ can sit for one at 13+ to see if he or she can improve. If a higher standard is achieved, relative to their age, then a higher award can be made. However, the original award will not be lost if the reverse is true! This is also the case at 16+.

#### Can internal candidates apply for a scholarship?

Pupils in Year 8 or Year 11 may apply to sit the scholarship examinations even if they failed to receive an award at an earlier stage. Pupils are not automatically entered, however, and must apply by the appropriate closing date.

### What are the value of Awards?

As an HMC School the maximum value of any award is 50% of fees, with the exception of the means tested Foundation Awards. There are three levels of awards:

- Major Scholarship up to 50% (not at 11+)
- Scholarship up to 25% (not at 11+)
- Exhibition up to 15%

Music Scholars and Exhibitioners will also receive their instrumental tuition free of charge.

### What is a Foundation Award or Bursary?

The School is fortunate to be able to offer these to applicants whose parents need financial assistance for their son or daughter and who, in the opinion of the Head Master, would derive great benefit from an education at Blundell's. These awards are means-tested and vary according to parental need but can extend to a full remission of the basic tuition fee. Parents and candidates must arrange to visit the School and complete a statement of financial means form to provide proof of income and assets of both parents, prior to the examination closing date.

Bursaries are always offered for 12 months at a time. The family is required to provide fresh information about its circumstances for every year that their child attends the school.

## 11+ ENTRANCE

11+ Entrance Examinations & Scholarships	
Examination Date	Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2012
Closing Date	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2011

All candidates will sit the same entry papers in:

- English (1 hour)
- Mathematics (1 hour) - Calculators not allowed
- Non-verbal reasoning (1 hour)

Those who show outstanding academic performance in the entrance exams will be considered for academic scholarships.

### Foundation Awards

Blundell's is fortunate to be able to offer a number of Foundation Awards to applicants whose parents need financial assistance. These awards are competed for via the 11+ Entrance Tests and a means-test form should be submitted before the examination date. Candidates should be registered (no fee required for Foundation applicants) and are requested to visit the school before the closing date for the 11+ examinations.

### Will Blundell's request a school report?

On receipt of the scholarship application form Blundell's will request a confidential report from the candidate's current school and this will form an important part of the assessment process.

### Where do the exams or tests take place?

All exams and tests are sat at Blundell's. When candidates live abroad it may be possible, given enough notice, to arrange for papers to be sat at the candidate's school.

### Will my child be able to stay at Blundell's during the scholarship examinations?

Candidates may stay in a boarding house overnight during the examination period.

### Are sample papers available?

Sample papers are available from the Registrars upon request.

### How do candidates apply for an award?

Please contact the Registrars for the appropriate entry forms.

### Music Awards

Music Awards at 11+ will be sat in the Spring Term and will usually entail an audition and interview. Candidates should bring their instruments with them and music for the accompanist if required.

Audition Date	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2012
Closing Date	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2012

Candidates at 11+ should be able to offer two instruments. Considerable importance is attached to general musical knowledge, aural ability and sight reading. Candidates will be required to play two contrasting pieces on their first study plus another piece of their choice on their second study. Music Scholars are expected to make a valuable contribution to the musical life of the School. Parents and Head Teachers are invited to contact the Director of Music for further information and advice.

Enquiries: Mrs E Thane: 01884 232310

Email: [e.thane@blundells.org](mailto:e.thane@blundells.org)

or via our website: [www.blundells.org](http://www.blundells.org)

## 13+ ENTRANCE

13+ Scholarships & Awards	
<b>Academic Scholarships &amp; Foundation Awards All-rounders Awards</b>	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2012 (Closing date – Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2012)
<b>Art Awards</b>	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2012 (Closing date – Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2012)
<b>Music Awards</b>	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2012 (Closing date – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2012)
<b>Sports Awards</b>	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2012 (Closing date – Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2012)
<b>Performing Arts Awards</b>	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2012 (Closing date – Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2012)

Entrance to Blundell's is via one of three routes:

- 1 Common Entrance.** This is sat in June at the candidate's Preparatory School.
- 2 Blundell's Entrance Test (BET).** Those who have not been tutored for the Common Entrance examination can sit the BET by arrangement with the Registrars. Papers are set in English, Mathematics and Non-verbal Reasoning.
- 3 Blundell's Scholarship Examinations** taken in the Spring Term, usually at the beginning of March.

### Academic Scholarships

These are taken over two days in March and will include academic interviews and papers in the following subjects.

- English • Language: *French, German or Spanish*
- Mathematics • Science
- Geography • Critical Thinking
- History • Latin (optional)

### **All-rounder Awards**

Candidates who can offer a high standard in a specialist area and who are also of proven academic merit can enter for an All-rounder Award. Candidates will be tested in their specialist area(s) and can expect to be interviewed by the Head Master. Candidates may offer skills in the following areas:

- **Art**

Candidates should bring their portfolio with them and they will be interviewed by the Director of Art.

- **Drama**

Candidates should prepare in advance, a short monologue of no more than two minutes. Candidates will be seen individually for a further 5-10 minutes. If there are more than 3 candidates they will also be asked to participate in group activity lasting about 20 minutes.

- **Performing Arts Award**

Candidates should prepare in advance, a short monologue of no more than two minutes. Candidates will be seen individually for a further 5-10 minutes. If there are more than 3 candidates they will also be asked to participate in group activity lasting about 20 minutes.

- **Music**

Candidates should be able to offer two instruments and will be asked to play/sing two contrasting pieces of their own choice. Please ensure that they bring with them their musical instruments and/or music on the day of the assessment

- **Sport**

Candidates will be assessed in the Sports Hall and on the games field. Various skills will be tested e.g. speed tests, agility tests, hand/eye co-ordination tests. Candidates should arrive with suitable kit, including indoor shoes. A Curriculum Vitae of the candidate's sporting achievements should be submitted with the scholarship application form.

### **Foundation Awards**

Blundell's is fortunate to be able to offer Foundation awards to applicants whose parents need financial assistance to afford a place at the school for their son or daughter. Assessment will be through the 13+ scholarship examination and a means test form. Candidates are requested to visit the school before the closing date for the 13+ examinations.

### **Art Awards**

Art awards at 13+ will be sat in March. Candidates will spend the day at Blundell's, during which time they will be asked to draw a still life. Candidates should bring their portfolio with them, which will be assessed for evidence of imagination, creativity, and range of interest.

Candidates will be interviewed by the Director of Art and the Head Master.

External candidates who are not entered for the academic scholarships must satisfy the entry requirements by sitting Common Entrance at their Preparatory School, or the Blundell's Entry Test.

### **Music Awards**

Music awards at 13+ will be sat in January and will usually entail an audition and interview. Candidates should bring their instruments with them and music for the accompanist if required.

Candidates at 13+ should be able to offer two or more instruments. Although the standard of pieces and technical requirements are expected to be about Grade 5 of the Associated Board, Blundell's is looking for genuine musical potential. Considerable importance is attached to general musical knowledge, aural ability and sight reading. Candidates will be required to play two contrasting pieces on their first study plus another piece of their choice on their second study. Music Scholars are expected to make a valuable contribution to the musical life of the School. Parents and Head Teachers are invited to contact the Director of Music for further information and advice.

External candidates who are not entered for the academic scholarships must also satisfy the entry requirements by sitting Common Entrance at their Preparatory School, or the Blundell's Entry Test.

### **Sport Awards**

Sports Awards are offered for excellence in sport. A Curriculum Vitae detailing the candidate's sporting achievements must be submitted with the scholarship application form. School reports will be requested in support of the candidate's application and external candidates will be expected to sit Common Entrance papers or take the Blundell's Entry Tests in English and Mathematics.

Awards will be made to those who will make an active contribution to the sporting life of the school. They will be expected to provide leadership at their own level and will have achieved or be of a standard to achieve representative honours at County, Regional or National level.

Enquiries: Mrs E Thane: 01884 232310

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## SIXTH FORM 16+ ENTRANCE

16+ Scholarships & Awards	
<b>Academic Scholarships</b>	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2011 (Closing date – Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2011)
<b>All-rounder Awards</b> • Art   Drama   Music   Sport	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2011 (Closing date – Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2011)
<b>Music Awards</b>	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2012 (Closing date – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2012)
<b>Sports Awards</b>	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2011 (Closing date – Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2011)

This will be based on an interview and a satisfactory performance in the GCSE examinations. Candidates are expected to have a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade C or above. Sixth Form entrants should send a report from their present school with their predicted grades.

### **Academic Scholarships**

Academic Scholarships are sat in November and will include papers in English, and Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning. Candidates are also asked to declare a specialist subject of their choice. This will usually be in a subject that they are seriously considering for 'A' level. They will also be interviewed.

### **All-rounder Awards**

Candidates who can offer a high standard in a specialist area and who are also of proven academic merit, as determined by the Scholarship examinations, can enter for an all-rounder award. These are taken at the same time as the academic awards. Candidates will sit the academic scholarship in November and will, in addition, be tested in their specialist area(s). Skills in the following areas may be considered:

- **Art**

Candidates should bring their portfolio with them and they will be interviewed by the Director of Art.

- **Drama**

Candidates should prepare in advance, a short monologue of no more than two minutes. Candidates will be seen individually for a further 5-10 minutes. If there are more than 3 candidates they will also be asked to participate in group activity lasting about 20 minutes.

- **Music**

Candidates should be able to offer two instruments and will be asked to play/sing two contrasting pieces of their own choice. They should bring their musical instruments and/or music on the day of the assessment.

- **Sport**

A Curriculum Vitae detailing the candidate's sporting achievements should be submitted with the scholarship application form. Candidates will be interviewed by the Director of Sport.

### **Foundation Awards**

Blundell's is fortunate to be able to offer Foundation awards to applicants whose parents need financial assistance to afford a place at the school for their son or daughter. Assessment will be through the 16+ scholarship examination and a means test form. Candidates are requested to visit the school before the closing date for the 16+ examinations.

### **Music Awards**

Music awards at Sixth Form level will be sat in February and will usually entail an audition and interview.

Candidates should bring their instruments with them and music for the accompanist if required.

Candidates at 16+ should be able to offer two or more instruments. They are expected to have achieved substantially beyond Grade 5 of the Associated Board.

Considerable importance will be attached to general musical knowledge, aural ability and sight reading.

Candidates will be required to play two contrasting pieces on their first study plus another piece of their choice on their second study. Music Scholars are expected to make a valuable contribution to the musical life of the School.

Parents and Head Teachers are invited to contact the Director of Music for further information and advice.

### **Sport Awards**

Sports Awards are offered for excellence in sport. A Curriculum Vitae detailing the candidate's sporting achievements must be submitted with the scholarship application form. School reports will be requested in support of the candidate's application and candidates will be interviewed.

Awards will be made to those who will make an active contribution to the sporting life of the school. They will be expected to provide leadership at their own level and will have achieved or be of a standard to achieve representative honours at County, Regional or National level.

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## **OVERSEAS STUDENTS**

Throughout its 400 year history Blundell's has provided for pupils from overseas. Improvements in travel and communication over the last two decades, has produced a wider range of International students than in the past and they usually make up about 8% of the total number of 575. Overseas students are fully integrated into the school and the boarding houses are always open at weekends, even on Leave Weekends. All overseas students require a UK based Guardian. Prospective students can expect to be tested in English and Mathematics before entry and by interview if at all possible. Blundell's does not generally run a short term study programme and expects overseas pupils to finish a complete course of study. However, some termly arrangements can sometimes be made in the Junior Department (11-13) when beds are available.

One of our greatest Old Blundellian benefactors, Sir Christopher Ondaatje OC, CBE, when opening the magnificently appointed Ondaatje Theatre, declared his wish that the building should symbolise international understanding and accord. We feel we are offering a truly international education whilst restricting numbers of students from each country so that the ethos of an English boarding school is enriched rather than diluted. Friendships quickly spring up between the English and International students at Blundell's, leading to greater understanding for all.

## **SCHOOL'S CONTRACTUAL TERMS & CONDITIONS**

Copies can be found on the School's website and will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

## **COMPLAINTS**

We hope that you and your child do not have any complaints about our admissions process; however,

### **Fluency in English:**

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of Blundell's, pupils must have a good grounding in English. They will be required to take a Mathematics paper and an English paper before entry; these can be taken here or arrangements can be made for them to be taken at either their present school, or under supervision at the offices of their Educational Agency.

### **TESOL Provision:**

Overseas students must be able to attend the majority of a normal timetable with support from the TESOL teachers. Blundell's has a full-time TESOL Department which can provide pupils with additional English tuition, either on an individual basis or in small groups. These lessons are an extra cost to parents.

### **Religious Beliefs:**

Although Blundell's has Christian roots, we do not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and we offer the opportunity for all to practise their own faiths. However, parents should be aware that there is compulsory morning Chapel (Mon – Fri) and Saturday morning school (13-18 Senior School only), and that all pupils are expected to attend.

a copy of the School's complaints procedure can be found on the website or can be sent to you on request.  
*(Revised June 2011)*