

Your Questions Answered

Day Boys – 2011/12



Westminster Cathedral Choir School

HOW MANY YEAR GROUPS ARE THERE AT WCCS?

There are six year groups at WCCS:

Year 3 (Age 7-8)

Year 4 (Age 8-9)

Year 5 (Age 9-10)

Year 6 (Age 10-11)

Year 7 (Age 11-12)

Year 8 (Age 12-13)

AT WHAT AGE ARE DAY BOYS ADMITTED TO WCCS?

Day boys are normally admitted into Year 3 in the September following their seventh birthday, or into Year 4 in the September following their eighth birthday.

HOW MANY BOYS ARE THERE AT THE SCHOOL?

There are about one hundred and fifty five boys at the School currently, spread over six Year Groups.

HOW MANY DAY BOYS ARE THERE?

There are about one hundred and twenty five day boys at WCCS.

DOES MY SON HAVE TO BE MUSICAL TO JOIN WCCS AS A DAY BOY?

Many of the day boys play a musical instrument, or sing in the Gallery Choir, or play in an ensemble group, but none is obliged to do so.

DOES WCCS PREPARE BOYS FOR COMMON ENTRANCE AT 13+?

Yes.

Many of the boys will also sit 13+ academic and music scholarships at leading public schools in London and beyond.

WHAT ARE THE FEES?

Fees, payable termly and in advance, for the academic year 2011/12 are £4,665.

HOW DOES A BOY GAIN ADMISSION TO WCCS?

All day boys undergo academic and pastoral assessments at WCCS before they seek to join.

Boys sit papers in English (comprehension and composition), Mathematics (basic arithmetic) and general reasoning. The School does not issue specimen papers in advance.

At 7+, places are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

At 8+, assessments are generally organised in groups from the central London pre-prep schools, in January.

WHAT IF MY SON DOES NOT ATTEND A CENTRAL LONDON PRE-PREP SCHOOL?

Westminster Cathedral Choir School is keen to attract bright day pupils from all over London.

If your son does not attend a central London pre-prep school, and you would like him to be considered for entry to Westminster Cathedral Choir School, please contact the School office and we will arrange for him to be assessed separately.

Tel 020 7798 9081 Email office@choirschool.com

DOES MY SON HAVE TO BE ROMAN CATHOLIC?

The majority of day boys at the School are Roman Catholic, but the School warmly welcomes boys from other denominations.

WHEN DOES THE ACADEMIC SCHOOL DAY START AND END?

The School day runs from 8.45 am to 3.45 pm, Monday to Friday, during term time.

HOW IS THE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM ORGANISED AT WCCS?

In Years 3, 4 and 5 boys are taught the following subjects, largely by specialist teachers.

Art and Design

Classics

Drama

English

French

Geography

History

ICT

Mathematics

Music

Religious Studies

Science

Boys are examined in all subjects twice a year: once during the Michaelmas term and once during the Trinity term.

Year 6 (2 sets)

Subject-specialist teaching in all subjects is introduced in Year 6. Boys are taught the following subjects.

Art and Design

Classics

Drama

English

French

Geography

History

ICT

Classics

Mathematics

Music

Religious Studies

Science

Boys in Year 6 are examined in all subjects twice a year: once during the Michaelmas term and once during the Trinity term.

Years 7 and 8 (2 sets)

Setting in Year 7 is based on the average of each boy's examination results in Year 6, plus a careful assessment of his character and needs. Classical Greek is added to the curriculum for academically-able boys.

Boys in Year 7 are examined in all subjects twice a year: once during the Michaelmas term and once during the Trinity term.

Boys in Year 8 sit mock Common Entrance examinations, set by the Independent Schools' Examination Board (ISEB), in November and March. Final Common Entrance examinations are sat in the first week of June, and marked by boys' senior schools.

HOW MUCH PREP (HOMEWORK) DO THE BOYS RECEIVE?

Years 3, 4 and 5

Day boys have one half-hour prep every night from Monday to Thursday, and three half-hour preps to complete over the weekend.

Years 6, 7 and 8

Day boys have one forty-minute prep every night from Monday to Thursday, and four forty-minute preps to complete over the weekend.

CAN DAY BOYS COMPLETE THEIR PREP (HOMEWORK) IN SCHOOL?

Yes.

The School offers supervised prep (homework) every weekday from 4.00 pm to 4.45 pm during term time.

DOES THE SCHOOL RUN AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS?

The School runs a wide variety of after-school clubs, which change according to demand and season.

A typical schedule would be:

Monday	1.00 pm – 1.30 pm	Junior maths clinic
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Senior maths clinic
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Junior football
Tuesday	1.00 pm – 1.30 pm	Chess & scrabble club
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Mandarin club
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	U11 football squad
	4.00 pm – 4.45 pm	Fencing
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Senior maths clinic
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	French clinic
Wednesday	1.00 pm – 1.30 pm	Junior maths clinic
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Rugby club
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Drama club
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Art club
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Senior maths clinic
	4.30 pm – 5.15 pm	Fencing
Thursday	1.00 pm – 1.30 pm	Photography club
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	History club
	4.00 pm – 4.45 pm	ICT Club
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Senior maths clinic
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Senior football squad
Friday	12.55 pm – 1.30 pm	Fencing squad
	1.00 pm – 1.30 pm	Photography club
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Senior maths clinic
	4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Rugby club

WHAT ABOUT MUSIC TUITION?

Day boys may choose to have tuition in up to two instruments per week, from the following list.

- Bassoon
- Cello
- Clarinet
- Double Bass
- Flute
- French Horn
- Oboe
- Piano
- Saxophone
- Tenor Horn
- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Viola
- Violin

Instrumental tuition takes place during academic class time, with parents' permission.

Currently, parents are charged £34.80 per hour.

WHAT SPORTS ARE ON OFFER?

The main sports are

Michaelmas Term	Football
Lent Term	Rugby
Trinity Term	Cricket

Boys also go swimming at the Queen Mother Sports Centre, Pimlico.

WHAT KIND OF REPORTS DO PARENTS RECEIVE ABOUT THEIR SON'S ACADEMIC PROGRESS?

Years 3-7

Michaelmas Term

Half-termly reports containing effort and achievement grades

Lent Term

Half-termly reports containing effort and achievement grades

Full end-of-term reports in every subject

Trinity Term

Half-termly reports containing effort and achievement grades

Full end-of-term report on examination results in every subject

Year 8

Michaelmas Term

Half-termly reports containing effort and achievement grades

Full end-of-term reports on mock Common Entrance examination results in every subject

Lent Term

Half-termly reports containing effort and achievement grades

Full end-of-term reports on mock Common Entrance examination results in every subject

Trinity Term

Half-termly examination targets

HOW OFTEN DOES THE SCHOOL HAVE PARENTS' MEETINGS?

Parents' Meetings for day boys in all year groups are held between 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm on Monday evenings throughout the year.

HOW ELSE DOES THE SCHOOL MONITOR BOYS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?

The School takes boys' academic work seriously, and has systems in place to ensure that every boy is working to his full potential.

- Form Tutors check boys' prep diaries daily, to ensure a complete record of the work set.
- Form Tutors inform parents immediately there is any cause for concern in a boy's academic performance.
- If a boy persistently under-performs academically, he will be referred to the Deputy Head for immediate action, in consultation with his parents.
- Academic staff meet regularly to discuss boys' academic progress.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS AT WCCS?

Years 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Boys in Years 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 sit examinations in all subjects in the Michaelmas and Trinity terms.

Year 8

Boys in Year 8 sit mock Common Entrance examinations, set by the **Independent Schools' Examination Board (ISEB)**, in November and March. Final Common Entrance examinations are sat in the first week of June, and marked by boys' senior schools.

Boys entered for 13+ academic scholarships sit examinations as required by their chosen destination senior schools throughout the year. Boys who have sat Scholarship examinations are not normally required to sit Common Entrance in addition.

WHERE DO WCCS BOYS GO ON TO AT 13+?

WCCS boys go to top London schools, top boarding schools and top Catholic schools.

13+ Leavers' Destinations 2011

Ampleforth College x 2 (1 Academic and 2 Music Scholarships)

Brighton College

Charterhouse

City of London School

Downside School (Music and Academic Scholarship)

Emanuel School

Eton College

Harrow School

Merchant Taylors' School

Stonyhurst College x 2 (2 x St Francis Xavier Awards)

St Edward's Oxford

St Paul's School x 2

Westminster School

Winchester College x 3

13+ Leavers' Destinations 2010

Ampleforth College x 2 (Academic and Music Scholarship)

Canford School (Music Scholarship)

City of London School x 2

Downside School x 2

Eton College x 2

King's College School, Wimbledon

Lancing College

Oratory School, London

Oratory School, Reading x 2 (Music Scholarship)

Rugby School

St Paul's School x 4

Westminster School x 2

Worth School

13+ Leavers' Destinations 2009

Ampleforth College x 2 (Music Scholarship)

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School x 1 (Specialist Music Place)

Charterhouse School

City of London School x 2

Downside School x 4 (Music Scholarship & Classics Exhibition)

Eton College x 2

The Harrodian School

Harrow School x 3 (Music Exhibition)

St Paul's School x 4

St Edward's, Oxford

Sevenoaks School

Tonbridge School x 2 (Music Scholarship)

Winchester College

13+ Leavers' Destinations 2008

Ampleforth College x 4 (Music Scholarship & Academic & Music Scholarship)

Charterhouse School

Downside School x 2 (Music Scholarship)

Eton College x 2

Harrow School x 2

KCS, Wimbledon

St Joseph's College, Sydney

St Paul's School

The Harrodian School

The Oratory School, Reading (Tomlinson Music Scholarship)

Tonbridge School x 2 (Music Scholarship)

Westminster School x 2

WHOM DO WE CONTACT TO ARRANGE A VISIT TO THE SCHOOL?

Please contact Miss Madeline Smith in the School office.

Tel 020 7798 9081 Email msmith@choirschool.com

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