

Miss S Jones
Orsett C of E (VA) Primary School
School Lane
Orsett
Essex
RM16 3JR

11 September 2020

Dear Miss Jones

Year 7 Entry to New Hall School in September 2021

This is to confirm information regarding the process for Year 7 entry to New Hall in 2021, including some important changes in the light of the pandemic. Following expressions of interest in places at New Hall from families at your school, this letter contains the updated information for ease of reference.

Thank you for all that you do to let your families know about the New Hall option. We value the links we have with you.

Entrance process for September 2021 entry

In light of the current pandemic and for the safety of our students and prospective families, we will not be inviting prospective students into School to complete entrance assessments this academic year. We are, therefore, asking that you arrange for students to sit online assessments at your school. We have chosen to use the Independent Schools Examinations Board (ISEB) Common Pre-Tests. These assessments will follow a similar format to our usual entrance assessments. They take approximately two and a half hours to complete and are used by a number of other selective, independent schools. Indeed, you may already have pupils taking this assessment and will be pleased to know that the results of the assessment will be passed on to us and these pupils will not be required to take the test more than once. Further information about the Common Pre-Test can be found here:

<https://www.iseb.co.uk/Schools/General-information/Common-Pre-Tests>

The assessments will be available from 1 October 2020. The deadline for prospective candidates to register with us is **16 October 2020**. Copies of our Registration Form are enclosed for this purpose. We recommend that you arrange for your students to sit the assessments between **26 October 2020 and no later than 13 November 2020**. Online registration will be available in coming months.

Page 1 of 4

Once registration has closed, we will circulate a list of students that have applied to New Hall from your School, along with an online Reference Form for you to complete and the individual login details for the ISEB Common Pre-Test. We ask that reference forms are completed at your earliest convenience and no later than **13 November 2020**.

All candidates will still be interviewed by a senior member of staff via Zoom. Parents will be asked to join the meeting with their child. The candidates will need to prepare a short presentation or performance (approximately 3 minutes) on a topic of their choice. These will take place over a two week period starting from **2 November 2020**. The calls will run for approximately 15 minutes, held between 4.00pm-6.00pm on weekdays and 9.00am-3.00pm on Saturday 7 November 2020. We will arrange the times and details of these directly with parents. Offers will be based on school reference, the results of the assessments and the interview. Details of music and sport scholarship assessments will be circulated in due course.

I should be grateful if you would pass on information about the entrance process to any candidates from your school who may be interested in applying to New Hall School.

For the academic year 2021-22, the Governors have established a hardship fund to support existing students to remain at New Hall School. Priority will be given to those students in examination year groups. There are no additional funds for new bursary applications. We hope that this variation will apply for one year only.

Meet the Senior Leadership Team

This year, we will be inviting prospective parents to join Zoom meetings that take place on Wednesday morning throughout the term. There will be an opportunity to hear from members of the Senior Leadership Team, as well as to ask them questions. Individual virtual meetings and external tours of the School site can also be arranged. Parents can sign up for a virtual meeting online. Alternatively, they can email the Admissions team on admissions@newhallschool.co.uk.

USEFUL INFORMATION

To help you give relevant and up-to-date information to your parents about New Hall. Please find below key information about New Hall that may be helpful.

At New Hall, we operate the highly successful 'diamond model' structure, i.e. co-education in the Nursery & Preparatory Divisions (ages 1-11), single-sex education in the Girls' Division & Boys' Division (11-16) and co-education in the Sixth Form (16-18). In this way, New Hall provides the best of both worlds: the benefits of a co-educational environment together with the advantages of girls and boys being taught separately throughout the 11-16 age range. The provision of single-sex education during the formative years enables students to grow in confidence, whilst enjoying an education that is specifically tailored and recognises the different ways in which girls and boys learn.

Overall, New Hall School has a roll of 1,350 from ages 1-18. There are 935 students in the Senior Divisions. New Hall is a boarding and day school, with boarding available from Years 3-13 (ages 8-18). We welcome students of all faiths who are in sympathy with our ethos. Entry points to New Hall Senior Divisions are primarily at Year 7, Year 9 and Sixth Form and scholarships are available at each of these stages. Occasionally, admission to other year groups is possible.

Academic

New Hall School has a strong tradition of academic success. In 2020, record results were achieved at A Level and GCSE. At GCSE, 73% of grades were at 7+ (A*/A), with 46% at 8+ and over 20% at 9. Six students achieved ten or more grade 9s. 29 students achieved at least eight grade 8s. At A Level, 92% of grades were at A*-B, with 65% at A*/A and 32% at A*. 43 students achieved all A* or A grades, with 15 achieving at least three A* grades.

Boarding

There are four Boarding Houses, 2 for girls and 2 for boys, and around one quarter of the Senior School are full or weekly boarders, with many other students choosing to flexi-board (2 or 3 nights per week). All boarders from Year 10 upwards, and most younger boarders are able to have a modern single-study bedroom in our recently refurbished boarding facilities. We have some shared rooms available for younger students, who sometimes prefer to share.

Co-curriculum

Our varied co-curricular programme on weekday evenings and at weekends is designed to enrich the curriculum and to provide a range of educational, sporting, cultural and social activities. Popular activities include dancing, skiing, golf, horse riding, debating, public speaking and drama. A lively social diary includes regular formal dinners on Friday nights. We have numerous music ensembles, orchestra and choirs. In addition, New Hall has its own Dance Company for students who display exceptional talent and commitment in this area.

Campus and Facilities

Founded in 1642, New Hall is one of the oldest Catholic schools in the country and is set in the magnificent former Tudor palace of Beaulieu. New Hall students enjoy a stunning, spacious campus with excellent facilities in a historic setting. New facilities on the campus in the last three years include: the New Hall Nursery (1-4 years old); a second all-weather sports pitch; 3G pitch; additional PE changing rooms; 12 golf nets and launch monitor; New Hall Farm; Heritage Room; recreational and hospitality facilities.

Up-to-date news

To keep up-to-date on developments at New Hall, as well as your former students, please follow our social media platforms:

- Twitter: @NewHallSchool
- Instagram: newhallschool_1642
- Facebook: New Hall School
- YouTube: New Hall School

News and photographs are also available on the School website: www.newhallschool.co.uk.

Coach Services

During term time, coach and mini bus services operate to and from the following areas:

- Bishop's Stortford
- Burnham
- Chingford
- Chipping Ongar
- Grays
- Great Baddow
- Great Dunmow
- Hawkwell
- Langford
- North Fambridge
- Shenfield
- Sible Hedingham
- Stanway (Colchester)
- Thorpe Bay
- Tiptree
- Wickford
- Upminster
- Woodford Green
- Sandon Park & Ride
- Boreham Park & Ride
- Brentwood (Early Coach)
- Chelmsford Station (Early Coach)

Attached is a copy of the coach service map which shows the routes these coaches take. We hope that this will be helpful when speaking with parents.

Invitation to Meet

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to meet with me, virtually, so that I may learn about your school news. If it is helpful, I can also update you on developments at New Hall, our revised process for Year 7 entry in 2021, as well as to discuss any prospective students who might be thinking of coming to New Hall. Please contact Jane Swadling, External Communications Manager, on j.swadling@newhallschool.co.uk to arrange a mutually convenient date and time.

I hope that this summary is useful for your parents. It is very helpful for us to know the key issues of relevance to your parents in looking at future schools. I would of course be grateful for any further information you may be able to give us in this regard. Should any further detail or clarification be required, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to meeting any prospective students that you may introduce to us.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Katherine Jeffrey
PRINCIPAL

Mobile: 07710 116 846

Email: k.jeffrey@newhallschool.co.uk

encs: Registration Form
Coach service map