

ADMISSIONS AND AWARDS

CONTENTS

ADMISSIONS POLICY	4
ADMISSIONS PROCESS	6
11+ Admissions step by step	7
13+ Admissions step by step	8
16+ Admissions step by step	10
ENTRANCE AWARDS	12
BURSARIES	13
AWARDS AT 11+	14
Academic Awards	14
Music Awards	14
Choral Awards	14
AWARDS AT 13+	15
Academic Awards	15
Music Awards	15
Choral Awards	16
Art Awards	16
Sports Awards	16
All Rounder Awards	17
AWARDS AT 16+	18
Academic Awards	18
Music Awards	18
Choral Awards	19
Sports Awards	19
2010/11 SCHOLARSHIP AND ENTRY EXAMINATION DATES	20



ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Downside School's Admissions procedure aims to ensure that boys and girls who join Downside School are able to be happy, successful and secure within its academic, cultural, pastoral and spiritual environment, whether they are boarders or day pupils.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

No applicant will be treated less favourably during the application process or during assessment on the grounds of their skin colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin, gender, religious faith, disability, orientation, or socio-economic group. Those intending to join Downside School are expected, however, to be comfortable with the demands set by our Catholic and Benedictine foundation and character.

The School is inclusive and welcomes applicants with disabilities and special educational needs. It maintains a positive culture towards inclusion of disabled people and those with special educational needs and it will not treat an applicant less favourably on these grounds without justification. However, at present, its facilities, physical and otherwise, for the disabled and those with special educational needs are limited but it will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001) in order to accommodate the needs of applicants who have disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the School can cater adequately.

Parents or guardians of an applicant who has any disability or special educational needs should provide the Registrar with full written details when submitting a Registration Form. The School needs this information so that, in the case of any applicant with particular needs, we can assess those needs and make sure the School can provide adequately for them throughout the admission process. The School will consult with parents or guardians about the adjustments which can reasonably be made for the applicant both during the admission process and later as a pupil.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

The admissions and selection criteria are determined and reviewed from time to time by the Head Master in consultation with the Director of Admissions. The Admissions Department is responsible for all aspects of the registration and entry of a pupil to Downside. Admission to the School is at the discretion of the Head Master.

The preconditions for admission are that:

- The applicant is of the appropriate age and sufficient maturity.
- The School is able to provide adequately for any special educational needs the applicant may have following an assessment of the pupil by the Head of Learning Support if required.
- The School, having made reasonable adjustment, has the capacity to cope with any disability the applicant may have.
- The applicant fulfils any conditions set out when offered a place.
- Fees (if applicable) at the present school have been paid.

The selection criteria to be fulfilled by the application will be determined by the School. The selection criteria aim to identify applicants whose academic and other abilities appear to match the ethos and standards of the School and whose personal qualities suggest they have the potential to contribute sufficiently to the School community and benefit from the many opportunities that are offered at the School.

The selection criteria include provision of satisfactory evidence, through the School's own age-appropriate assessment tests, of academic ability sufficient to access the School curriculum, and a satisfactory reference from the applicant's current school. The School is academically selective but also recognises the central value of Art, Drama, Music, Sport and other co-curricular activities, and enthusiasm in these fields is expected and encouraged.

The School values its connections with Old Gregorians (alumni) but is also keen to foster new associations and links. The School intends to widen access to the school to boys and girls who can clearly and substantially benefit from a Downside education regardless of their parents' or guardians' financial circumstances. The School is therefore committed to offering to eligible parents or guardians means-tested financial support with the payment of school fees. Such support is known as a bursary and these may be awarded in the form of a discount of up to 100% of fees, depending on the financial, compassionate or other pertinent circumstances of applicants.

ADMISSIONS RECORDS

Confidential records will be completed for each applicant by the Admissions Department. Current pupils' details can only be amended by the Head Master's Office.

THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

ENTRY POINTS

Admission for boys and girls to Downside is normally at 11+ into the First Form (Year 7), at 13+ into the Third Form (Year 9), or at 16+ into the Lower Sixth Form (Year 12). Places occasionally become available for boys and girls for admission at 12+ into the Second Form (Year 8)) or at 14+ into the Fourth Form (Year 10).

Occasionally, an applicant may have fallen behind in his/her education due to illness etc. In such a case, the School may offer a place in a year lower than the applicant's age would normally imply. Parents or guardians will be consulted before such an offer is made, but the decision as to the appropriate year for the applicant, taking into account all the relevant circumstances, is a matter for the Head Master, whose decision is final.

VISITS

Parents and prospective pupils are warmly welcomed at Downside. There are many opportunities to visit Downside and prospective pupils would normally have visited several times on different occasions and events during the admissions cycle before joining the School.

Open Days are held on several Saturday mornings during the academic year. All Open Days, which start at 10.00 am and finish after lunch, include talks by the Head Master and by pupils, a pupil-guided tour of the School, and the chance to meet House and teaching staff. Children and extended family are most welcome to attend. A crèche facility is available for infants aged four and under and there are subsidiary activities for young children. Numbers are restricted to around forty families at each Open Day.

Open Days 2010/11

Saturday 25th September 2010

Saturday 6th November 2010

Saturday 26th March 2011

To request a place invitation to our Open Days please either fill in the form accompanying the prospectus, submit a request through the website: www.downside.co.uk, or contact the Registrar on 01761 235103 or email registrar@downside.co.uk

Private Visits are possible throughout the academic year. Private visits, which last between two and three hours, would normally include a meeting with the Head Master, a pupil-guide tour of the School, and a meeting with the Director of Admissions and a House Master/Mistress, and other members of the teaching staff when appropriate.

To arrange a private visit, please contact the Registrar on 01761 235103 or email registrar@downside.co.uk

11+ ADMISSIONS

There are two year groups in Plunkett House, the junior section of Downside School.

First Form or Year 7 (Age 11-12)

Second Form or Year 8 (Age 12-13)

Boys and girls are admitted in both Year Groups as boarders and day pupils when places are available. Admission, either at 11+ into the First Form (Year 7) or at 12+ into the Second Form (Year 8), is via the Downside Junior Assessment Test, consisting of papers in English, Mathematics, and general reasoning. The Junior Assessment Test is held at Downside, although assessment papers can be sent to schools overseas.

Subsequent admissions to the Senior School: It is expected that all the boys and girls who have met the 11+ admissions criteria will pass into the Senior School. Second Form (Year 8) pupils are prepared for the Common Entrance examinations and/or for the Common Scholarship examinations.

Guaranteed Places are offered to those who have performed well in the Downside Junior Assessment Test. Pupils holding a Guaranteed Place will not be required to pass a further entrance examination to the Senior School. However, it is expected that their academic attainment will surpass the Common Entrance examination threshold (a minimum of 50% across all subjects); the results are used for setting purposes in the Third Form.

Conditional Places are offered to those who fare less confidently in the Downside Junior Assessment Test but who Downside feels will make good progress in Plunkett House and so secure entry to the Senior School. The pupil is required to pass the Common Entrance examination threshold (a minimum of 50% across all subjects). A pupil awarded a Conditional Place may be offered a Guaranteed Place prior to sitting the Common Entrance examinations if he/she is clearly making good academic progress.

Step 1

Visit Downside at an Open Day or arrange a private visit with the Registrar.

Step 2

Complete a Registration Form (online or from the Prospectus) and send it to the Registrar.

Step 3

Year of entry: Downside obtains reports and references from the applicant's current school and applicants sit the Downside Junior Assessment Test, in English, Mathematics and general reasoning, usually six months prior to entry, although this can be taken at an earlier or later date. The assessment is usually held at Downside but assessment papers can be sent to schools overseas.

Step 4

Applicants are offered a Guaranteed Place or a Conditional Place (see above) or their application is rejected.

Step 6

Confirmation of entry: Parents are asked to pay a £900 deposit to confirm the acceptance of their child's place. £450 is returned against the first term's fees, the remainder against the final bill on leaving Downside.

Step 7

The pupil starts at Downside in September in the Michaelmas Term.

13+ ADMISSIONS

Most boys and girls join Downside School in the Third Form (Year 9) at 13+, either as boarders or day pupils. If space is available, it may occasionally be possible to join the School at 14+ into the Fourth Form (Year 10) for the start of GCSE/IGCSE courses.

Admission at 13+ is normally via the Downside Assessment Test and/or the Common Entrance examinations (the average mark in recent Common Entrance candidates is 65% but 50% is the minimum requirement across all subjects) or the Common Scholarship Examinations. Pupils whose schools cannot prepare them for the Common Entrance Examination will sit Downside's own examinations in English, Mathematics, Science and a modern language.

Details of the Common Entrance or Common Scholarship Examinations are available from the Independent Schools Examination Board at www.iseb.co.uk

The Downside Assessment Test, which comprises a computerised aptitude test (for which there is no preparation possible), interviews and reports from the pupil's current school, is designed to reduce the pressure of the Common Entrance examinations and to allow the School to confirm places to pupils 18 months prior to entry. The Admissions Department is in regular contact with all prospective pupils' current schools to monitor their progress during the final year before entry to Downside. Late applicants will also normally be offered the opportunity to sit the Downside Assessment Test where appropriate.

Guaranteed Places are offered to those who have performed well in the Downside Assessment Test. The places are not dependent on Common Entrance examination results. However, all pupils are required to sit Common Entrance and are expected to pass the threshold; the results are also used for setting purposes in the Third Form.

Conditional Places are offered to those who fare less confidently in the Downside Assessment Test but who Downside feels, after close consultation with the pupil's current school, will make good progress in the remaining year and so secure entry to the School. The pupil is required to pass the Common Entrance examination threshold. Progress reports are requested from the pupil's current school and Conditional Places may become Guaranteed during the months prior to admission.

Step 1

Visit Downside at an Open Day or arrange a private visit with the Registrar.

Step 2

Complete a Registration Form (online or from this booklet) and send it to the Registrar.

Step 3

18 months prior to entry (or sometimes later depending on time of application): Downside obtains reports and references from the applicant's current school and conducts interviews and its own assessment tests (see above) here at the School.

Step 4

Applicants are offered a Guaranteed Place or Conditional Place or their application is rejected.

Step 5

12 months prior to entry applicants are invited to an Introduction Day for a chance to familiarise themselves further with the School by attending some classes, activities and sports.

Step 6

Following the Introduction Day parents are asked to pay a £900 deposit to confirm the acceptance of their child's place. £450 is returned against the first term's fees, the remainder against the final bill on leaving Downside.

Parents are invited to apply for individual boarding-houses although choices cannot of course be guaranteed.

Step 7

Applicants take the Common Scholarship examinations in February or the Common Entrance examinations or Downside's own examination in May/June.

Step 8

The pupil starts at Downside in September in the Michaelmas Term.

16+ ADMISSIONS

A few places become available every year for admission into the Lower Sixth Form (Year 12) for both boarders and day pupils. The number of places varies from year to year but there are usually around a dozen places available. It is not possible to join the School in the Upper Sixth Form (Year 13).

Admission at 16+ for boys and girls is by means of reports and references from the applicant's current school, interviews at Downside, and by tests in subjects already studied and which will also be taken at A Level. The tests are held at Downside in either November or February in the year of entry. 16+ scholarships are also held at the same time.

Good passes at GCSE are expected with an A grade normally the minimum requirement to continue a subject at A Level.

Step 1

Visit Downside at an Open Day or arrange a private visit with the Registrar.

Step 2

Complete a Registration Form (online or from this booklet) and send it to the Registrar.

Step 3

Year of entry: applicants sit Downside's own assessments in subjects already studied and which will also be taken at A Level. The assessments are usually held at Downside but assessment papers can be sent to schools overseas.

Downside obtains reports and references from the applicant's current school and will arrange to interview the applicant if this has not already taken place.

Step 4

Applicants are offered a place or their application is rejected.

Parents are asked to pay a £900 deposit to confirm the acceptance of their child's place. £450 is returned against the first term's fees, the remainder against the final bill on leaving Downside.

Step 5

The pupil starts at Downside in September in the Michaelmas Term.



ENTRANCE AWARDS

Downside School offers a substantial number of Entrance Awards (scholarships and exhibitions) for pupils hoping to enter the School at the principal ages of entry of 11+, 13+ and 16+. The number and size of awards in any particular year are at the discretion of the Head Master. A scholarship or exhibition is a recognition of exceptional ability and promise and is usually accompanied by a financial reward. In cases of need, the Trustees will consider applications to supplement an award with a means-tested bursary to enable the award and place at the School to be taken up.

The bestowal of any award carries with it privilege and responsibility, as well as financial reward. Every award holder is expected to set an example for other pupils in their approach to academic study and participation in the fuller life of the School. The tenure of any award is intended to be for the duration of a holder's education at Downside, provided that the holder's academic progress and general conduct remain satisfactory and provided that the holder continues enthusiastically to fulfil the obligations associated with the award. Awards are reviewed annually.

Application forms and further details of the awards available can be obtained from the Registrar. Deadlines for submissions are listed on page 20. The Head of an applicant's current school will be asked to submit a reference.

The Director of Studies and the respective Heads of Department are also happy to speak informally to applicants and their parents; music pre-auditions are particularly encouraged.

BURSARIES

The Abbot and community of Downside have established a bursary fund from which grants can be made to those parents who may need financial assistance to enable their children to attend the School. All bursaries are means-tested and are available to pupils entering the School at all age levels. Bursaries can also be awarded to parents of current Downside pupils whose financial circumstances may have changed unexpectedly. Bursaries are normally subject to a limit of 50% of the school fees but awards to the amount of 100% of the school fees can be awarded in exceptional circumstances.

Bursary applications are also be accepted from the holder of a Scholarship or Exhibition, if the award is insufficient to enable a place at the School to be taken up. Grants are normally subject to a limit of half of the total fees.

Bursary application forms can be obtained from the Registrar. All applications are treated in the strictest confidence. Fee-concessions are also available for siblings and for children of Old Gregorians (alumni):

SIBLINGS

Second and subsequent siblings are eligible for a 10% concession on the school fees once they have joined the School.

OLD GREGORIANS

A concession of 2½% on the school fees is available for each child of an Old Gregorian.

AWARDS AT 11+

There are a number of scholarships and exhibitions available to pupils hoping to enter Downside in the First Form (Year 7). On rare occasions awards may also be made available to outstanding candidates joining the Second Form (Year 8). Awards are based upon an assessment of potential as well as achievement.

The following awards available include:

- academic scholarships and exhibitions
- music scholarships and exhibitions
- choral exhibitions

The tenure of any award is intended to be for the duration of a holder's education in Plunkett House, the junior department of Downside, provided that the holder's academic progress and general conduct remain satisfactory. Awards are not continued into the Senior School. Award holders need to reapply during the course of the Upper Second Form (Year 8) to obtain a Senior School scholarship or award.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Awards are made on the basis of examinations and interviews. Applicants are invited to visit the School in early February in the year of entry to the School. They sit papers in English and Mathematics and they also sit a Reasoning Test. Past papers are available from the Registrar upon request.

MUSIC AWARDS

Music scholarships and exhibitions are offered following auditions and interviews held in early February in the year of entry to the School. Successful applicants also receive free instrumental/vocal tuition.

Applicants are normally required to have achieved at least Grade 3 in the Associated Board examinations on one instrument. It is an advantage if, in addition, the applicant has the ability to sing or can play more than one instrument. The audition lasts about an hour and tests musical ability as well as attempting to assess the applicant's potential as a musician. The audition includes aural and sight-reading tests and questions on general musical knowledge.

Music Award holders are expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead with regard to Music at Downside and to support all School ensembles and choirs, as required, throughout their school career.

CHORAL AWARDS

Choral Exhibitions are offered following auditions and interviews held in early February in the year of entry to the School. Auditions consist of aural tests, sight-reading and the performance of a prepared piece to be chosen by the applicant. Special consideration is given to cathedral choristers who are able to sing treble. Successful applicants also receive free instrumental/vocal tuition.

Choral Award holders have the same duties and obligations as music scholars and exhibitioners.

AWARDS AT 13+

There are a number of scholarships and exhibitions available to pupils hoping to enter Downside in the Third Form (Year 9). Applicants for all awards must be under 14 on 1st September in the year of their admission to the School. Awards are based upon an assessment of potential as well as achievement.

Types of awards available include:

- academic scholarships and exhibitions
- music scholarships and exhibitions
- choral exhibitions
- art scholarships and exhibitions
- sports scholarships and exhibitions
- all-rounder scholarships and exhibitions

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Typically Downside usually makes available, in any given year, one major scholarship and several minor scholarships or academic exhibitions. The latter may be linked to given subjects for those applicants who may be particularly gifted in one or more of these areas, but whose performance is not universally strong across all subject areas.

Academic awards are made on the basis of performance in the Common Scholarship examinations set by the Independent Schools Examinations Board (www.iseb.co.uk) which are held in early March in the year of entry to the School. Applicants sit the papers at Downside, staying at the School for the period of the examination process.

All applicants are normally expected to sit papers in English, French, Geography, History, Latin, Mathematics and Science unless there are extenuating circumstances for waiving the need to sit a particular subject. The Religious Studies paper is optional. Applicants who have been studying other modern or classical languages may request to sit an additional paper.

Academic Award holders are expected to take a lead in setting high standards with regard to academic achievement. They will have enquiring minds, will be assiduous readers and will actively seek opportunities to broaden their minds, increase their knowledge and hone their powers of reasoning.

MUSIC AWARDS

Music scholarships and exhibitions are offered following auditions and interviews held in early February in the year of entry to the School. Successful applicants also receive free instrumental/vocal tuition.

Applicants are normally required to have achieved at least Grade 5 in the Associated Board examinations on one instrument. It is an advantage if, in addition, the applicant has the ability to sing or can play more than one instrument. A pass in the Grade 5 Theory Examination is a desirable qualification. Auditions consist of the performance on the first instrument of two prepared pieces chosen by the candidate, together with one piece on any subsequent instrument (or voice), aural tests and sight-reading. The audition lasts about an hour and tests musical ability as well as potential.

Music Award holders are expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead with regard to Music at Downside and to support all School ensembles and choirs, as required, throughout their school career. Award holders are expected to achieve at least one Grade 8 pass and to study Music as an academic subject to GCSE or A Level as appropriate.

CHORAL AWARDS

Choral exhibitions are offered following auditions, consisting of aural tests, sight reading and the performance of a prepared piece to be chosen by the applicant, held in early February in the year of entry to the School. Special consideration will be given to cathedral choristers who will be able to sing treble. Successful applicants also receive free instrumental/vocal tuition.

Award holders have the same duties and obligations as music scholars and exhibitioners, except that they are not required to study music as an academic subject to GCSE or A Level, though many choose to do so.

ART AWARDS

At least one award is made annually to an applicant who shows significant artistic promise. The award is offered following interviews and set tasks held in early February in the year of entry to the School.

Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of work, which will demonstrate their natural ability and enthusiasm. It is expected that applicants are able to draw well and have a good understanding of three-dimensional form. Whilst there is no specific requirement for applicants to have worked in any particular medium, each portfolio must show evidence of creativity and imagination and include:

- drawing, painting or modelling from observation;
- work using a variety of materials that might include charcoal, pencil, inks, watercolours, oils, acrylics, clay, plaster, papier-mâché, or computer art.

Applicants are asked to submit a minimum of eight pieces of work and to bring their recent sketch books to the interview. Photographic evidence of 3-D work is acceptable in circumstances where it is impractical to submit the actual artefact. The portfolio must contain a written declaration from the Head of the applicant's present school that the items contained in it are the applicant's own work.

Art Award holders will be enthusiastic about their work in the sphere of art and design and will naturally spend additional time, beyond their curricular commitment, in the art studios. They will be willing to experiment with unfamiliar media and keen to familiarise themselves with the work of other artists through visits to galleries and workshops. Award holders are expected to study art as an academic subject to GCSE or A Level as appropriate.

SPORTS AWARDS

Each year Downside makes available awards to pupils of exceptional sporting ability and promise, following interviews and assessments held in the spring of the year of entry to the School.

Successful applicants, whilst also being academically ambitious, are expected to make a significant contribution to the sporting life of the School, in particular to the major games offered. The major sports for boys are rugby, hockey and cricket; the major sports for girls are hockey, netball and tennis. Applicants are invited to visit Downside to look around the School and its facilities and to meet and be interviewed by various members of the Games staff. Applicants take part in an assessment of their sporting ability as part of the interview process. The opportunity to assess applicants playing for their current schools or clubs is particularly welcomed.

It is likely that successful applicants will already be playing a major sport at county level or above. They will have made a significant contribution to the life of the school in which they are currently studying and will show the same commitment to Downside throughout their School career. Award holders are expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead with regard to all sports at Downside and to be pupils who have strong personal qualities of fairness, loyalty and leadership.

ALL ROUNDER AWARDS

Each year Downside offers all-rounder awards to pupils who, though not quite strong enough to win another award outright, show outstanding all-round ability. Interviews and assessments are held in the spring of the year of entry to the School. Applicants are asked to take part in an assessment of their sporting ability as part of the interview process.

Successful applicants will have made a significant contribution to the life of the school in which they are currently studying and will, in time, show the same commitment both inside and outside the classroom at Downside. Applicants are expected to be pupils who show initiative, who are academically strong and who have strong personal qualities of fairness, loyalty and leadership. Talent in the arts, drama, music and sport, amongst other things, will be taken into account together with a strong character assessment from the applicant's Headmaster or Headmistress.

The 13+ all-rounder award at Downside is known as the Denis Agius Award. The School also invites applications from pupils at All Hallows Preparatory School only for the Francis Dix and Dom Daniel Rees All-rounder Awards, which are awarded on the same criteria.

ENTRANCE AWARDS AT 16+

Downside makes available a number of scholarships and exhibitions to pupils hoping to enter the Lower Sixth Form (Year 12) to study for AS Level and A2 Level qualifications. Applicants for all awards must be under 17 on 1st September in the year of their admission to the School. Awards are based upon an assessment of potential as well as achievement.

Types of awards available include:

- academic scholarships and exhibitions
- music scholarships and exhibitions
- choral exhibitions
- sport awards

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Awards are made to pupils of outstanding academic ability and promise, on the basis of examinations and interviews. Applicants are invited to visit the School in either November or February in the year before the proposed entry to the School.

Applicants sit three examination papers, each lasting 90 minutes. Two are in subjects of their own choice and the third is a General Paper. Applicants are also interviewed by the Head Master and the Director of Studies. The standard of the papers is at least as demanding as GCSE and the content is such as to enable applicants to demonstrate flair as well as good teaching. Account is taken of the fact that applicants may not have finished the relevant GCSE course and of the demands made by different specifications.

The General Paper consists of a compulsory précis question followed by two short essays to be chosen from a variety of topics, including art, current affairs, ethics, literature, music, and politics.

Academic Award holders are expected to take a lead in setting the highest standards with regard to academic achievement and investigation. Successful applicants for academic awards would normally be expected to achieve grade A or A* in all of their GCSE subjects prior to taking up their place in the Sixth Form at Downside.

MUSIC AWARDS

Music scholarships and exhibitions, are made following auditions and interviews held in either November or February in the year before the proposed entry to the School. Successful applicants also receive free instrumental/vocal tuition.

Applicants at 16+ are normally required to have achieved Grade 8 in the Associated Board Examinations in at least one instrument. It is an advantage if, in addition, the applicant has the ability to sing or can play more than one instrument. The audition lasts about an hour and tests musical ability and also assesses the applicant's potential as a musician. The audition includes aural and sight-reading tests and questions on general musical knowledge. A pass in the Grade 5 Theory Examination is a desirable qualification.

Music Award holders are expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead with regard to Music at Downside and to support all School ensembles and choirs, as required, throughout their school career. Award holders are expected to achieve at least one Grade 8 pass and to study Music as an academic subject at A Level.

CHORAL AWARDS

Choral exhibitions are made following auditions and interviews to be held in either November or February in the year before the proposed entry to the School. Successful applicants also receive free instrumental/vocal tuition.

Award holders have the same duties and obligations as music scholars and exhibitioners, except that they are not required to study music as an academic subject at A Level, though many choose to do so.

SPORT AWARDS

Each year Downside makes available awards to pupils who show exceptional sporting ability and potential, following interviews and assessments held in the spring of the year of entry to the School.

Successful applicants, whilst also being academically ambitious, are expected to make a significant contribution to the sporting life of the School, in particular to the major games offered. The major sports for boys are rugby, hockey and cricket; the major sports for girls are hockey, netball and tennis. Applicants are invited to visit Downside to look around the School and its facilities and to meet and be interviewed by various members of the games staff. Applicants take part in an assessment of their sporting ability as part of the interview process. The opportunity to assess applicants playing for their current schools or clubs is particularly welcomed.

It is likely that successful applicants will already be playing a major sport at county level or above. They will have made a significant contribution to the life of the school in which they are currently studying and will show the same commitment to Downside throughout their School career. They will be expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead with regard to all sports at Downside and to be pupils who have strong personal qualities of fairness and leadership.

2010/11 SCHOLARSHIP AND ENTRY EXAMINATION DATES

11+ Entrance and Scholarship Examinations

Saturday 5th February (deadline for entry: Friday 7th January)

11+ Choral and Music Scholarship Auditions

Individual auditions held prior to the academic entrance examinations (deadline for entry: Friday 7th January)

13+ Assessment Tests (for entry in 2012)

Friday 11th March

Monday 14th March

Friday 18th March

13+ Academic Scholarship Examinations

Monday 28th February to Wednesday 2nd March (deadline for entry: Friday 30th January)

13+ Art Scholarship Assessments

Wednesday 2nd March (deadline for entry: Friday 30th January)

13+ Choral and Music Scholarship Auditions

Saturday 5th February (deadline for entry: Friday 7th January)

13+ Sports & All Rounder Scholarship Assessments

Monday 7th March (deadline for entry: Friday 30th January)

13+ Common Entrance Examinations

Monday 6th to Thursday 9th June (deadline for entry: Monday 28th February)

13+ Entrance Examinations (non- Common Entrance)

Monday 6th June (deadline for entry: Friday 6th May)

16+ Entrance and Scholarship Examinations

Saturday 13th November (deadline for entry: Friday 29th October)

Saturday 5th February (deadline for entry: Friday 7th January)

16+ Choral and Music Scholarship Auditions

Individual auditions held prior to the academic entrance examinations
(deadlines for entry: Friday 29th October and Friday 7th January)

Downside School Stratton-on-the-Fosse Radstock Bath BA3 4RJ
Tel 01761 235103 **Fax** 01761 235105 **Email** registrar@downside.co.uk
www.downside.co.uk