



PRAESTAT OPES SAPIENTIA

HAMPTON SCHOOL

The Headmaster
K Knibbs MA (Oxon)

Changes to our 11+ & 13+ admissions process

We are acutely aware of the disruption to teaching and learning that pupils have experienced due to school closures and the different levels of provision that schools were able to provide. We would like to reassure schools and parents that our revised assessment procedures are intended to reduce the pressure on our candidates and that we will do our best to take into account the different experiences that boys have undergone since March.

We have been working with other leading independent schools in South West London and Surrey to find ways to reduce both the number of exams that children will have to take and the number of candidates sitting exams on site. We are also seeking, in line with Government guidance, to minimise the need for travel. We hope that this collegial approach will enable all schools involved to support the welfare, health and safety of applicants and reduce their need to travel to a number of different senior school sites.

What is changing?

The entrance examination

Previously, applicants for Hampton have sat our bespoke written papers in English, Maths and Reasoning. This year, in response to Covid-19, all boys applying to join Hampton at the entry points listed below **will be required to sit the ISEB pre-test during autumn term 2020**. Our decision to use the ISEB pre-test has been made after careful consideration and in agreement with other leading independent schools.

- 11+ for First Year (Year 7) entry in September 2021
- 13+ for Third Year (Year 9) entry in September 2022
- 13+ for Third Year (Year 9) entry in September 2023

The ISEB pre-test is a well-respected and widely used set of **online** assessments for children moving from primary/prep schools to selective secondary schools. The tests are in multiple-choice format and involve four sections: English; mathematics; verbal reasoning; and non-verbal reasoning. Questions are adaptive and the tests take around two and half hours in total. Further information about the tests, including a helpful guide for parents and a familiarisation test, is available on the ISEB website linked below.

[ISEB pre-test](#)

As in previous years, we shall continue to take a holistic approach to our decision-making over offering places at Hampton. We shall consider reports and references from primary and prep schools very carefully in conjunction with ISEB pre-test results, as well as any other relevant information made available to us. We also intend to invite a greater proportion of candidates for interview than usual in order to take into account the disruption to children's education during the March to July 2020 period of school closures. Our interviews will include elements of academic assessment alongside general discussion. We remain fully committed to an assessment process that is fair and focuses on academic potential as well as attainment.

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Registering for the tests

Before sitting the entrance tests your son must first be registered with the School. To register, please complete the online registration form using the link below.

[Registration Form](#)

The closing date for registrations is 1 November 2020.

All boys who are registered with us by our 1 November deadline will be entered for the ISEB Pre-test.

Arrangements will be made by our Admissions team who will keep you fully informed throughout the process (parents are **not** required to liaise directly with the ISEB).

Test dates and location

We have taken the decision, along with many other independent schools, **to move our entrance examination papers forward to November-December 2020**. This enables us to reduce significantly the risk of disruption from any future Government restrictions placed upon schools. It also means that any boy wishing to be considered for Hampton should have the opportunity to sit an exam that will help us to assess him.

We anticipate that the majority of candidates attending **prep schools** will be able to sit the ISEB assessments in their current setting (under the same strict level of invigilation), enabling us to reduce the number of children needing to sit the ISEB assessments on our site. Where candidates are sitting the test in their own school, we have asked colleagues to enable their pupils applying to Hampton to sit the test no later than **Saturday 5 December**. Each prep school has the freedom to choose a date and time for holding the ISEB pre-test that suits them best.

Please note: if your son attends an independent prep school you should register him for Hampton in the usual way but you must also inform his current school that he is registered for Hampton.

Candidates whose schools do not run the ISEB Pre-tests, will be invited to sit the assessments at Hampton on either the morning or afternoon of **Saturday 28 November** or **Saturday 5 December**. Boys will be allocated to one of these sessions according to geographical and school groupings. Start and finish times will be staggered and we shall use different entrances and classroom spaces to ensure the assessments are as Covid-secure as possible.

If your son is not available to sit the tests on either of these dates, please inform the Admissions team as soon as possible.

All candidates for 11+ or 13+ entry to Hampton will be required to have taken the ISEB pre-test by Saturday 5 December 2020, regardless of where/when they are sitting the assessments.

Alternative locations

(Please note that if your son's current school is able to enter him for the ISEB pre-test, this section does not apply to you, but you must ensure your son's school is informed that you wish him to be considered for entry to Hampton).

One of the benefits of the ISEB Pre-test is that candidates are only required to sit the test once. Therefore, if your son is applying to another school which is also using the ISEB Pre-test as part of their admissions process, he will not need to sit several different exams.



It also does not matter which school your son sits the tests at and to minimise journey time during the Covid-19 pandemic we strongly recommend that your son sits the tests at the senior school which is geographically closest to his home.

We have agreed with Latymer Upper School and Putney High School to host pupils taking the test even if they are not applying to Hampton. This agreement is reciprocal and we can arrange for your son to sit the test at Latymer Upper or Putney High, if either of these schools are geographically closer to where he lives.

Please note that it is important that you register your son with each senior school he wishes to be considered for, in order that all the schools may access his test scores.

No matter where or when your son sits the tests (as long as it is before 5 December), we will be able to access his results and he will not be disadvantaged if he does not take the tests at Hampton.

How are boys able to take the same exam at different venues and at different times?

The ISEB pre-test is designed to be taken at different times and venues. The questions are adaptive, meaning that correctly answered questions will lead to harder questions, and vice versa. No two candidates will therefore receive the same multiple-choice test. The tests are also age-weighted so there is no advantage to taking the assessments earlier or later than other candidates.

What happens if my son is ill on the test date?

The ISEB allows candidates to take the test on a range of dates and at a range of different venues while still guaranteeing a fair assessment process. If your son is unwell on the day that he is due to sit the exam please let us know as soon as possible and we will rearrange.

Once my son has sat the tests what happens next?

On the basis of these tests, candidates' school reports, headteacher references, and any other information we hold, we will choose who to invite to interview next term. We hope to be able to hold the interviews in person at Hampton during January and February 2021, but if this is not possible they will be conducted remotely. Offers will be posted on Thursday 11 February 2021 and acceptances are required no later than midday on Friday 5 March 2021.