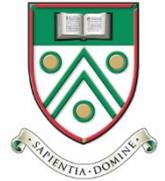


Virtual Open Event- Tuesday 22 September 2020

Questions from the live 'Headteacher's Talk'



At the end of the Headteacher's Talk, we held a question and answer session, with parents and pupils submitting questions through the Zoom chat facility.

All the questions asked have been grouped below under some broad themes, and we have provided some responses within each theme.

We have also provided some links to pages on our website where you can find further information.

Thank you for your interest in Langley Grammar School.

General questions about the 11+

When are the results likely to be issued?

With additional month for prep time for a month, its likely to get 111 easily, as a result, the brighter kids will miss out if they are live in Priority 2? Can you not raise bar from 111 to 118 or 121?

Is there minimum mark required for English even if we score 111?

Are allowances made for summer babies? Is it true if child is 10yrs old, he gets extra 15 marks for his young age?

Do you do NVR? Do you do VR?

Can you please explain in further detail the entrance exam format this year so we can predict what to expect next year. You spoke of smaller groups. Are they all on the same day?

What are the plans for entrance exams in 2021 if pandemic is still on?

- We expect 11+ results to be available this year by late November.
- The eligibility score is fixed in the admissions policy and cannot be changed. The eligibility mark will remain at 111. Children's scores will be standardised according to their age at the time of the test.
- The standardised score combines all three elements of the test – verbal ability, mathematical ability and non-verbal reasoning. The score given is an average of the marks from each section over the two papers
- Raw scores are age-standardised; this is a complex statistical procedure which involves comparing a child's score to the whole cohort and to those of the same age in years and months. It is not as simple as having marks added or taken away. The effect is to treat all children as if they were born in the same month.
- The test for 2021 entry is set by CEM and consists of two multiple choice papers, each containing non-verbal reasoning, verbal ability and mathematical ability.
- Testing this year is arranged over multiple days due to the current restrictions. This reduces the number of children on site at any one time in line with the virus transmission control measures being implemented in schools. We would hope to return to the usual testing pattern next year.

For more information visit

<https://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=11%2B+admissions+process+%2D+September+2021+admission&pid=49>

Langley Grammar School admissions

What is your year 7 intake 2021?

Is 111 a suitable score to guarantee admission for LGS if you live in Langley?

Do you take on children that do not pass the 11+?

What percentage do I need to get to come here?

What is the average mark of pupils who have been accepted into Langley Grammar School

What are the chances of admission for outside your local area?

We live in Ickenham do we realistically stand a chance to get into the school?

I live in Reading, does my child likely to receive an offer given the pressure on places?

We live out the catchment but my child went to Langley Hall...what's the chances of getting a place if my child passed the score?

Would you mind sharing the cut list for last year?
What is the process for over subscription?
Of the total available seats for 7+ is there fixed allocation for students in slough and ones outside Slough?
Does Wexham come in Priority area 1 or 2? Does Slough come in area 1 or 2?
How many intakes of student is from Priority area 2 SL4?
Is the admission solely based on catchment area or are students getting the required score from other areas in London also considered?
What is the last date of moving into the catchment area if the child gets the required score? i.e moving into Priority areas 1 and 2 if we currently live outside of these areas.

- Please refer to the determined admissions arrangements for details of how postcodes are allocated to priority areas and also how the oversubscription criteria is applied
<https://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=842&type=pdf>
- The planned admissions number for September 2021 is 180
- All children must achieve 111 or above to be eligible to be considered for a grammar school place
- The score is not given as a percentage. Raw marks on the test are converted to a standardised score. A standardised score of 111 or above means that a child is eligible to be considered for a grammar school place.
- Places will be allocated by the local authority according to the Admissions Arrangements for the school, which include the criteria for oversubscription. No child can be guaranteed a place as the allocation is determined by CAF preferences.
- Information about the average score of pupils entering Year 7 is not available.
- We can only tell you how places have been allocated in previous years. Details of how places were allocated for September 2020 admission will be published on the website shortly.
- Places for September 2020 were allocated using the child's permanent home address at 1 May 2019. Allocations for September 2021 will be based on the child's permanent address at 1st May 2020.

For more information visit

<https://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=11%2B+admissions+process+%2D+September+2021+admission&pid=49>

Extra-curricular Activities

Do you have a cricket team? Is there cricket clubs? Is there girls' football club? Is there a football team?
What are the after school curriculum activities? Do you have after school clubs?
What kinds of extra-curricular activities are available? Can kids stay in the library after school?
Which instruments could we learn at Langley Grammar School? Can you practise piano?
Is there a swimming club? Do you do trampolining club? Are clubs at a cost?

- As an integral part of our ethos of developing our students as 'well rounded' young people we believe in the value of extracurricular participation. We expect students to take part in a range of activities in and out of school to support their personal development and ensure they avoid becoming simply a "walking set of exam certificates".
- We have a wide variety of extracurricular activities across a range of subjects. The PE department runs clubs and teams (who compete against other schools) in most sports including football, netball, hockey, cricket, basketball and athletics. We have run trampolining in the past, but we are reviewing the PE curriculum to make the best use of the new facilities. We do not offer swimming.
- The drama, science, maths, modern languages and ICT departments run clubs at lunchtime and after school.
- The Music department run a range of clubs to learn new instruments or to be part of orchestra or choir. Parents can sign their children up for private tuition by visiting peripatetic teachers in a wide range of instruments (there is a cost for this). Practice rooms are available for students to practice individually or in small groups.
- With the exception of private instrumental lessons, most of our clubs are free of charge.
- The library and an ICT room are available for use by students after school.

For more information visit

<https://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Student+Activities&pid=8>

OFSTED

What is your Ofsted rating now? Why is the Ofsted rating so long ago? When is the next one due?

- The school was last inspected in 2007 and was judged to be outstanding in all categories.
- Up until this summer, Government policy was that outstanding schools were exempt from routine inspection. This has now changed and we are expecting to be inspected at some point in the not too distant future. We are unable to say when as schools have no choice in their inspection date.
- We do believe that we are still an 'outstanding' school under the new OFSTED framework. We also have a range of other external validations for the quality of our provision.

Getting to the school

Please tell us about school bus or transport facilities

Do you have school bus? Do you offer school bus from / to Stoke Poges? From Uxbridge?

We are coming quite some distance away from Hounslow. I noticed that the school is based in a very residential area. Is there parking facilities to drop off children or does the school run school buses?

Is there parking facilities onsite for student drop off?

- We do not provide any bus services ourselves.
- On the school website, under our "Parents" section we publicise the details of a number private transport companies used by other parents in the school.
- There are no allocated drop off zones for cars at the school. We encourage parents to drop their children off in other local streets to both ease congestion around the school, making it safer and promoting a healthier lifestyle by having students walk a short distance each day.

For more information visit

<https://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Transport+and+Car+Sharing&pid=94>

How the school operates

How many form entry is it? What is the pan size for each year group?

Pupils in a class? How big are the classes? What are the teacher student ratio per class?

Can you tell us what is the setup of a typical class room: number of pupils, teaching assistant and teacher.

What are the school hours? What times are drop off and pick up? Are there any days with early finishes?

Are there lockers for the kids?

- We have 6 forms of entry in Year 7. Our planned admission number is 180 students per year who are spread over 6 forms; we therefore about 30 students per form in Years 7-9, in line with most schools.
- For some practical subjects, class sizes are smaller – eg 20 for Design Technology. From Year 10 class sizes are smaller for subjects taught in sets (eg Maths and Sciences), or for GCSE options.
- We have very few teaching assistants in school due to the nature of our intake.
- Year 7 students have access to lockers in their form rooms to store belongings.
- School starts at 8.20am and ends at 3.15pm every day, with the exception of staff training days or specific school events, which will be advertised in advance. Parents are asked not to drop off their children before 8am.

Facilities

What Drama and Dance facilities are provided at LGS?

When will the new building be ready to use?

- We currently have a dedicated drama studio used for lessons and performances, and a multipurpose space in the Sports Centre which is used for both dance and drama. The new main building will have a dance studio and a new main hall equipped as a performance space with retractable seating for the audience.
- The new building and the landscaping of the grounds will be complete in summer 2021 meaning that students joining in September 2021 will benefit from the £16 million investment in the school from their very first day here.

For more information please see our Virtual Tour on the website

<https://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Virtual+Open+Event&pid=313>

A levels and beyond

How many students made it to Oxford, Cambridge and Russell group universities this year? How many go to UCL?

Are you allowed to take A Levels in a subject even if you don't achieve an A grade in it at GCSE?

- In summer 2020, 4 students gained places at Oxford or Cambridge. Approximately 55% of the Year 13s chose and were accepted on to courses at Russell Group universities.
- The number of students going to particular universities varies from year to year. UCL and other London colleges are popular choices for many of our students.
- Each A Level subject has specific entry criteria. In most cases students are expected to have studied the subject at GCSE, but in some subjects may be accepted without that background if they have a good overall GCSE profile. Some subjects like Psychology or Economics require students to have good grades in supporting GCSE subjects such as English and Maths

Curriculum

What is your focus in science and technology? What's the school science focus?

What would you say is your strength - is it subjects like Maths/Science OR Music/Drama/Arts?

Do you teach Japanese as a foreign language?

My daughter would like to study Fashion and Design. What opportunities for Langley Grammar offer?

Are there music lessons? What music do you teach? What sort of art do you teach? Do you do coding?

What level of support is available for students if they need extra help on a particular subject area?

Is there a recommended reading list for new pupils?

Do you have scholarship schemes for high performing students?

- We offer a broad and balanced curriculum covering a wide range of subjects including STEM and the Arts. Maths and science are compulsory subjects at GCSE but there is also a strong uptake to arts subjects including music, art and drama.
- All students study three for GCSES in the three separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), although a small number of students will take examinations in Combined Science instead.
- Computing and Product Design are popular technological subjects in Years 10 and 11. Maths, sciences, Psychology and Economics have the largest uptake at A Level.
- Students study French and German and take one of those languages through to GCSE level. We do not do Japanese but students currently have opportunities in Year 10 and 11 to take enrichment courses in Mandarin and Spanish.
- Music lessons are both timetabled into the curriculum; all students across Years 7-9 have music, art and drama lessons weekly. Students can have private tuition in a wide range of instruments and voice.
- We have students who go on to study fashion, design or related subjects after leaving the Sixth Form. Optional subjects offered in school from Year 10 upwards which might support this career route would include GCSE and A Level Art, Textiles or Product Design.
- In terms of the specific topics covered in each subject, the videos on the school website and the curriculum area on the website are the best places to get this information.
- In lessons, students will be told by teachers the best way to support and extend their own learning and will be directed to the school website and our in house online resource library for further reading and extension activities. Students are encouraged to ask their teachers for help when they do not understand something.
- We have an Individual Needs Co-ordinator who supports students with specific learning needs. Support for students who are struggling in just one or two subjects is provided by the class teacher. This takes the form of extra attention in class, help at break or lunch times, use of older students as academic mentors, or more targeted intervention sessions run by the departments depending on need.
- We do not ask for students to undertake a lot of specific activities prior to starting in Year 7, but they will be given some transition tasks on induction day to complete over the summer. We do think one of the best things students can do is read generally to develop their ideas and vocabulary and we encourage this with more specific ideas once they join the school.
- As a state grammar school, we do not have any scholarships. We do have a special enrichment programme for a number of students who are identified as particularly able.

For more information visit

<https://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=194>

Homework

What is the average daily homework expectation?

How often home work is given and assessment is done in class? How often is homework due?

- Homework is set and due at a variety of times. We do not work to a set homework timetable, instead teachers set homework in line with the specific curriculum aims of the subject. Homework activities may involve practice of specific skills, consolidation of knowledge and understanding, preparation for future lessons; homework is set when it best supports class-based learning and not simply “because” of a timetable.
- Students are set homework tasks through an online system called ClassCharts. They will be given deadlines, usually set about a week in advance, but will have to organise themselves and manage their time effectively. If they do this well, and work efficiently, Year 7 students should have an average of around 60 minutes work every evening.
- There is also an expectation that students are also reading widely, watching the news or engaging in additional activities that will support or enhance the learning in the classroom.

Culture and Ethos of the School

What is your culture around diversity?

How to do motivate children to perform well once they get into your school?

How would you best describe the 'culture' and 'ethos' at Langley Grammar?

Is your school diverse?

- We aim to educate our students to respect and value the backgrounds of others, and to recognise and promote the rights of those with protected characteristics.
- Our students are well motivated and keen to learn. Our lessons are based on stimulating curriculum content and structured around our 'Excellence in Teaching' model. Our teachers are supportive and encouraging, and use assessment carefully to support students' learning.
- The school's ethos is very clearly set out on the school website. In addition to gaining a set of excellent academic qualifications we support our students to become confident and well rounded, independent and creative, responsible and caring young people.
- We have around 40 different ethnic and cultural and linguistic backgrounds represented in the school.

For more information visit

<https://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+Ethos&pid=160>

Unique Selling Point of the School

How do you compare yourself to Upton court grammar school?

What sets you apart from the other grammar schools in the area?

Do you compete with other grammar schools to raise bar?

- All four grammar schools in Slough provide a high quality of education.
- The four schools work together within the wider community of Slough schools, and Slough's secondary headteachers have a uniquely close working relationship.
- Upton Court Grammar School and Langley Grammar School work in partnership as the lead schools in the Slough Teaching School Alliance.
- Schools cannot be judged just on a published number or on a set of grades achieved by a particular year group in the past. Parents and prospective pupils must look at the bigger picture of what the school offers.
- The four grammar schools in Slough are different and each have their own particular ethos.
- Parents are encouraged to find out as much as they can about each school and to consider which provides the most appropriate environment for their child.
- In terms of our particular 'unique' points we would point draw attention to:
 - The broad and balanced curriculum through to Year 9 which supports our students to be well rounded individuals.
 - Our excellent A Level results and progress made by students in the Sixth Form.
 - A creative approach to teaching and learning – recognised by external validation – which includes the effective use of iPads technology.

Use of Technology

How would you ensure kids are not distracted with social media on their iPads?

Do you use iPads for homework?

Does each child get their own iPad?

What if kids want to continue using the books? Both options are supported right?

Are students allowed to use phones during lessons?

Do you provide pens and pencils?

- Students are expected to bring their own pens, pencils and other basic equipment.
- Parents provide or buy the iPads, which are rolled out towards the end of Year 7. We provide a leasing scheme for the devices, and there is financial support for students who attract pupil premium funding.
- There are restrictions placed on the apps and websites that students can access in school. There is a strict code of conduct regarding iPad use in lessons, and teachers monitor student behaviour in lessons through observation and circulation. Outside school, it is parents' responsibility to monitor their child's iPad use, as they would with their mobile phones.
- iPads are be used in lessons and for homework from the end of year 7 onwards. How they are used is decided by the subject departments and not the individual students. Most departments will use a blend of written and online methods of working to reflect the working world beyond school. We are moving towards having electronic copies of textbooks online and accessed through the iPads rather than physical copies. Students still use exercise books in many subjects to ensure they still have sufficient hand writing practice.
- We do allow the use of phones in school, but not at break time or in lessons.

For further information please visit

<https://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Technology+for+Learning&pid=297>

Staffing

Mr Constable - what is your background?

How long have you been headmaster at Langley & what do you like about the school?

How high is your teacher turnover?

Who is Mrs Helen Close and what is her role in the school?

- Mr Constable is a Physics teacher by background and has worked in a variety of selective and non-selective schools in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. He joined Langley Grammar School as headteacher in January 2010.
- Mrs Close is the Phase Leader for Year 7 and is responsible for the transition from primary school and the pastoral care of Year 7 once in the school.
- Teacher 'turnover' is fairly typical for a school of this type. We have a generally loyal and committed staff, many of whom have worked here for some time. Our subject leaders are highly experienced and generally stay with the school. Younger staff tend to leave the school for promotion or relocation – this is an expensive area for them to live. We are proud of our track record in staff gaining promotion posts.

Food!

Do you have an onsite canteen?

What sort of food does the canteen sell?

Can you bring in packed lunches?

- We do have an onsite dining room managed by our external catering contractor Innovate.
- There is a variety of food available at break and lunch times; a choice of hot main meals each day and a selection of takeaway style options.
- The food caters for a variety of dietary and religious needs or restrictions and provides healthy choices for students.
- Students are also welcome to bring packed lunch if they wish.

For further information visit

<https://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Catering&pid=107>