

Script for Presentation Evenings for entry to Year 7 2017

Good evening and welcome to Northampton School *for Boys*. My name is Matthew Edwards and I am the Deputy Headmaster with the responsibility for administering the admissions process. I am also a member of the Admissions Committee of the Governing body of this school.

This talk is scripted to ensure that all parents attending over the course of the four Presentation Evenings receive the same advice and guidance. It will also be on the school website after these evenings.

We are our own Admissions Authority and as a result we apply our own admissions criteria which meet the full requirements of the School Admissions Code. These criteria will determine to whom places will be offered. We work closely with the Local Authority and they are responsible for coordinating the decisions of all admissions authorities in Northampton, so it will be the Local Authority who will contact you in March 2017 to inform you of the school your son has been allocated.

Please read the policy in the information booklet provided tonight which includes all the important dates. You can also find this on our website.

The first step to apply to NSB is to complete both sides of our Supplementary Information Form. These forms are part of your package tonight and they can also be obtained via our website. We only accept paper copies of the form and they must be returned to the school by 5pm on Monday 31 October 2016. I will personally be on hand to collect any posted through the school's letterbox on this date at this time. Anything after the 5pm deadline will be treated as a late application.

If you are using Royal Mail to post your form, you are strongly advised to post it well before this deadline. Please be sure to use the correct postage if you post the form in an A4 envelope. We cannot be responsible for the underpayment of postage charges.

If you post it on Monday 31st October, it will not reach us in time and will be considered to be a late application.

Important: You must also complete the Local Authority application form which can be found on the Local Authority website or in the booklet your son brought home from his primary school. This has to be completed and returned to them by Monday 31 October 2016 at 5pm too.

If you apply to the Local Authority and do not complete our Supplementary Information Form, or if you complete our Supplementary information form and do not apply to the Local Authority, you cannot be offered a place at this school.

All applicants who complete our Supplementary Information Form and return it by the deadline will be invited to the Common Ability Test on Saturday 26th November. This will be used to place your son into one of 5 ability bands later in the process. Please boys, do not worry about this test as it is not a pass or fail test i.e there is no passmark to get into the school.

On receiving your completed Supplementary Information Form a card will be sent to you regarding the Aptitude tests for Music or Technology. These Aptitude Tests are completely separate from the Common Ability Test. If you wish your son to sit either or both of these then please confirm that request by completing and returning the card. All dates for the tests and returning information are in the booklet. The cut off time for each of these deadline dates is 4.30pm.

Once all tests have been completed the school will apply its admissions criteria in the order specified in the School Admission Policy.

No other criteria will be considered.

Boys with a statement of special educational needs, where the school, following consultation with the Local Authority, is named on the statement or boys transferred to Education Health and Care plans will be allocated a place.

If the school is oversubscribed, the following criteria will be used:

- Looked after or previously looked after boys
- Aptitude – 10% (21) places are awarded to boys with a demonstrated particular aptitude for music and/or technology, approximately half in each specialism.
- Sibling – to be eligible, a sibling must live at the same address and the other sibling must intend to still be at the school in September 2017. ie a sibling must be on roll at the point of application to the school and will be on roll at the point of admission in September.
- Children of staff directly employed by Northampton School for Boys where either or both of the following conditions are met:
 - a) The member of staff has been employed at the school for 2 or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
 - b) The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- The remaining places are allocated using a system of Norm Referenced Banding based on the five equal bands derived from the Common Ability Test. This allows us to operate a random selection process to ensure an equal spread from each Band. This is computer generated and is overseen by an independent witness.

The key dates relating to our application process have been provided in your pack this evening, but I will also go over them on my powerpoint.

In the fortnight following the national offer day, we will contact both unsuccessful and successful applicants to inform you of the next steps you need to take.

And so to your visit to the school next week, when you will have the opportunity to look around our site, to see the facilities and meet staff and students.

We anticipate that there will be in excess of 2000 visitors looking around the school on that evening and therefore ask that, wherever possible, you adhere to the time on the coloured card that you were given this evening. This will help the evening run as smoothly as possible.

Please arrive at the entrance to the Cripps Hall where you came in this evening and as you arrive you will be placed on a tour, led by either a student or a member of the teaching staff. The tour takes in all areas of the school. At certain points, you will not go into a classroom that another tour may be going into. You will either go into a blue room or a red room, however, the same subject and activity will be going on in each so you will not miss out. It is a busy evening, so the route has been designed to ease congestion and to make your tour run as smoothly as possible. The tour should last in the region of 90 minutes.

At the end of each tour, parents will be taken back to our main building and will leave from there. Before departing, if parents or children still have any questions relating to a particular subject, or if parents have a question relating to any Special Educational Needs that their son may have, then there will be members of the Senior Leadership team and the Additional Intervention Team on hand to answer these. If you have a query relating to the application process then members of the Senior Leadership Team will answer these at the end of the tour.

We realise that some parents may have accessibility issues and I ask that if this is the case then you contact the school before next Thursday so that we can discuss with you the most appropriate ways of meeting your needs.

Due to the volume of visitors, we know that parking will be difficult next Thursday. If you can park away from the school, or take public transport, this will be greatly appreciated. The Cripps Hall car park will be open, however, when this fills up our parking attendants will stop any further cars from entering this area. We would ask that you co-operate with this request and find an alternative parking space nearby. There will be no parking available on the school premises on the evening.

And finally, at the end of the evening we will be ringing the school bell to indicate that the evening has come to an end, thus giving staff the opportunity to tidy away all their displays.

I too look forward to welcoming you on what we are sure will be a wonderful evening next week.

Frequently asked questions

1. Do I have to fill in a Local Authority form?

Yes – if you have not registered an application through the LA they will not allow you to be allocated a place even if you have completed our Supplementary Information Form successfully. You will be dealt with as a late applicant after all places have been allocated.

2. Do I have to list 3 preferences?

You don't have to fill list three preferences, but are strongly advised to do so. If you are unsuccessful with the application for the preferences that you have listed, then the LA will allocate the nearest available school with places.

3. Should I put my son in for all tests?

All boys must sit the Common Ability Test. It is up to you to decide if your son wishes to sit either or both of the Aptitude tests. However, if you believe that your son has a real potential in either music or technology then please enter him. Over the last 5 years boys who are offered a place under aptitude have scored 85% or better in the tests.

4. Will my son be prejudiced if he does not sit or is unsuccessful in the Aptitude tests?

No – the Music and Technology Aptitude Tests are separate and the outcome of these will not prejudice your son in the remaining part of the admissions process in any way.

5. What happens if my son misses the Common Ability Test?

It is crucial that your son attends this test, however, if there is an emergency then please contact Mrs A Roberts, the admissions secretary, at the school for further information.

6. What happens if I put another school as a higher preference?

The Local Authority operates an equal preferencing system which means that all your preferences are considered equally against each relevant school's over subscription criteria.

If a child gets in all three schools after the over subscription criteria have been applied then the child would get their first choice school.

If they get in the second and third choice but not the first they go to the second choice school and if they get in the third choice only they go there.

If they don't get into any of the three they go to the nearest available school with places.