

PRIOR'S FIELD

GODALMING SURREY

GSA Girls' Boarding and Day School | 11-18

Admissions, Bursaries and Scholarships



PRIOR'S FIELD - THE PLACE TO ACHIEVE!

Admissions

Applications can be made for girls to enter at age 11+, 13+ and the Sixth Form.

Admissions Procedure

The process normally begins at least a year prior to entry. Initially, prospective parents and students are invited to attend an Open Event held several times a year. An individual tour of the school and attendance at a Meet the Head Coffee Morning can



also be arranged and parents are asked to contact the Admissions Team to book a place at an event. Events and tours may be subject to change whilst COVID remains a threat.

Parents who would like their daughter to be considered for a place should complete a registration form and are asked to pay a non-refundable fee of £125.00 (UK) or £150.00 (overseas).

11+ Admissions

For entry at 11+, parents must register by early October prior to entry the following September. Applicants will be invited to visit the school in the Autumn Term of Year 6 for Preview Day when Stage 1 of scholarships screening and activities take place. An individual interview is held at some point during the Autumn Term. A request for a written reference is also made to the applicant's current School before entrance examinations.

All registered girls are invited back in early December to take an entrance examination. At 11+ the examination comprises an English test and Maths test, plus a non verbal reasoning paper. Results from these tests are considered alongside Preview Day feedback and the reference from the applicant's current School.

Shortlisted Scholars are invited back for interviews with departments in December and January.

13+ Admissions

Entrance examinations for 13+ applicants take place in early December or early January and comprises of papers in English, Maths and Science. A request for a written reference will be made to the applicant's present school before the entrance examinations.

Scholarship Assessments 11+ and 13+

Candidates are invited to apply for scholarships at 11+ or 13+. Art, Drama and Sports scholarship assessments take place in early November before entrance examinations, followed by Music scholarship assessments in January. Academic scholarship awards are based upon entrance examination results. Further details about scholarships can be found in this booklet.

There are separate lists for day places and boarding

places and offers are made according to the type of place requested on the registration form. 11+ and 13+ places will be offered at the end of January and parents are asked to complete a Parent Contract and pay a deposit to secure the place. Acceptances must be received by the school by the first Monday in March or the offer of a place will be withdrawn and applicants on the waiting list will be offered places.

12+ and 14+ places may be offered at any time, subject to availability.

16+ Admissions

Sixth Form scholarships take place in November and places are offered in December for the following September. Academic, Art, Drama, Music and Sport scholarships are offered at 16+.

Criteria for admission

Applicants are offered a place following the satisfactory completion of the School's own entrance examination papers and receipt of a written confidential reference and recent report from the applicant's current School. The Head is also entitled to take into account any particular attribute that suggests a candidate may benefit from a Prior's Field education.

Prior's Field is a popular over-subscribed School. If all other factors are equal, when offering places we take into account the date of registration.

The School has limited facilities for disabled pupils but will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001, and the Equality Act 2010.

Adjustments for pupils will be made as necessary in relation to our admissions arrangements, the provision of education we provide at the School and access to any appropriate benefits, facilities or services. Prior's Field has policies on equal opportunities, admissions, behaviour (including rewards and sanctions) and exclusions, all of which have been drawn up in the light of current legislation. These can be found on the School website and hard copies are available from the School on request.



General Information

Fees and Insurance

Full details of the fees can be found on the School website.

Fees are payable by direct debit on the first day of the term for which they are due. Alternatively, there is a Fee in Advance Scheme, details of which can be obtained from the Bursar.

A deposit is required to secure your daughter's place at the school. This is refunded (less any outstanding charges) on the leaver's invoice but not prior to entry. If parents permanently reside abroad a different deposit amount will be required depending on their location.

School fees cannot be refunded for any part of a term for which a girl is absent but parents can consider the School Fees Refund Scheme. This gives cover for absence from School due to illness or accident.

In addition, a Personal Effects Insurance Scheme is available. Information can be obtained from the Finance Office.

Withdrawal

A term's notice in writing is required of the intention to remove a girl, otherwise a term's fees are payable in lieu of such notice. A term's notice is also required if girls wish to change from a boarding to a day place. The Head reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any girl whose conduct or progress is unacceptable, and no refund of fees is made.

Learning Support

Pupils can receive Learning Support for a wide variety of reasons. Some are mildly dyslexic or dyspraxic and need help to improve literacy, numeracy and study skills; some need to build confidence, and occasionally medical problems require specific help.

In order to help us ensure that suitable support is in place for pupils, parents are required, prior to entry, to provide information about any assessments or educational psychologists' reports.

Parents and staff are encouraged to seek support for girls at any stage during their time at Prior's Field.



All support is negotiable both in time and content, and parents will be consulted before a support programme is started.

All subject teachers provide individual support, in line with the School approach. Additional Learning Support lessons are funded by parents on an individual or small group basis. During the GCSE years, lessons are carefully timed to avoid withdrawing girls from timetabled lessons, where

possible. All pupils are screened at 11+ and the following range of support is available through the Head of Learning Support.

- Individual assessment of needs on entry and during the course of study, if pupils give cause for concern for academic or pastoral reasons
- Specialist teaching, facilities, experience and advice about equipment
- Specific assessment and examination arrangements, where appropriate

Complaints Procedure

If a parent or girl has a complaint, it will be dealt with in accordance with the Prior's Field Complaints Procedure.

This is available to all parents on the School website and can also be requested by current and prospective parents alike from the School Office. A hard copy is available in the visitors' waiting area.

Other School policies are available on the School website and on request from the Head's PA.



Bursaries and Scholarships

BURSARIES

Prior's Field has a policy of encouraging applications from any pupil who would benefit from a place at the School, regardless of their financial situation. As part of widening access, means-tested bursaries are available at all points of entry and may be up to 95% of day fees. In addition, there is limited funding available for bursarial help where parents have experienced unforeseen financial hardship.

Bursary awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards, depending on parental circumstances. Initial applications should be made through the Admissions Team.

Prior's Field Foundation Awards

Through the school's own charity, a limited number of Foundation Awards are offered to pupils significantly disadvantaged by life circumstances. Fully-funded Sixth Form places allow girls to continue their education with the support of our boarding community. Applicants must meet normal



entry requirements and independent means testing will be applied. Initial applications should be made through the Bursar.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic

A number of academic scholarships and exhibitions are awarded at 11+, 13+ and for the Sixth Form. These are valued between 5%-20% fee remission.

Art, Music, Drama and Sport

Several Art, Music, Drama and Sport scholarships are awarded at 11+, 13+ and for the Sixth Form. These are valued between 5%-20% fee remission and may include extra-curricular tuition.

We do not want our scholars to feel that they must always achieve full marks, but we do expect them to try their best and participate enthusiastically in all aspects of School life. A programme of enhancement opportunities is offered to both scholars and other girls whom we consider would benefit from such activities.

At the Head's discretion scholarships may also be awarded to pupils who have or develop a particular ability or aptitude not covered by the standard scholarship scheme.

Armed Forces Discount

Pupils who have a parent in the armed forces are eligible for a 20% discount on boarding fees. Serving Personnel should be aware that they could apply for MOD and Foreign Office boarding school allowance under certain criteria.



Old Girls and Siblings

A 10% reduction in day fees is offered to the daughter of an Old Girl. A 10% reduction in day fees is also offered to the elder daughter, while at least three siblings are at Prior's Field at the same time.



Academic Scholarships

Each year a number of Prior's Field Scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit to pupils who show above average ability. The level of potential awards are detailed in the fees sheet in the prospectus. We offer academic, Music, Art, Sport and Drama scholarships and exhibitions for entry at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

A scholarship or exhibition will normally be held throughout a pupil's career at Prior's Field and the continuity of the award is subject to satisfactory performance. It is expected that all scholars will make a wholehearted contribution to the life of the School and will remain at Prior's Field for the Sixth Form.

At 11+, Academic Scholarships are awarded to students who show high levels of ability in Mathematics and English and at 13+ a Science examination is also taken. The School entrance examination results will be used in identifying academic scholars and candidates may be recalled



for a further interview. In recent years, our academic scholars have obtained excellent public examination results, gaining places at some of the country's top universities, including Oxbridge. At 16+ candidates sit an entry scholarship examination and are interviewed.



ACADEMIC SCHOLARS

At Prior's Field we are committed to catering individually for each of our girls. Work in lessons is differentiated, giving girls enriched provision as they demonstrate their needs. As appropriate, prep may also be differentiated. Subject teachers deliver challenging lessons with a brisk intellectual and interactive pace. Monitoring of academic achievement happens on a regular basis, both informally and formally through the reporting system. This involves the girls' subject teachers, Heads of Department and the Coordinator for Exceptionally Able Pupils.

We are sensitive to the life-work balance, social and emotional needs of our academic scholars, including their contributions to the wider life of the school. This is closely monitored through the Pupil Profiling that is completed with the support of the Form Tutor and Head of Year. We have a designated SLT member who is responsible for mentoring all scholars and allowing them the opportunity to discuss their performance and ambitions.



The Scholarship Programme

- Scholars may be encouraged to take part in specific extra curricular clubs and activities
- They are informed about local and national competitions, exhibitions, lectures and external events, and encouraged to attend and participate
- Many join the editorial team of the school magazine or a debate team
- Scholars regularly participate in Mathematics Masterclasses and Challenge Days
- Information is also shared relating to appropriate opportunities offered by outside organisations, such as university science camps
- Prior's Field offers excellent, bespoke careers advice and an Oxbridge programme for those who aspire to study at top universities in the UK and overseas

What we expect from our academic scholars:

The aim of Prior's Field is to provide an excellent, all round education, bringing out the best in each girl, according to her abilities and talents. In return we expect scholars to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop higher order thinking skills. Our approach as a school is to build the self confidence that is necessary for this to happen. Scholars meet homework deadlines and honour their commitments to clubs and activities. They work hard, enjoy their lessons, share their academic enthusiasms in class and extend themselves independently beyond the classroom.

Exhibitions:

In addition to scholarships, Prior's Field may also award Exhibitions for Promise. These are for students who clearly have good potential, but are not yet at scholarship level. Students recognised in this way are offered similar opportunities and support as the scholars.



Art Scholarships

The Prior's Field Art department provides an exciting and stimulating environment where students have the freedom and opportunity to explore their creative skills.

The department offers a strong foundation of skills and learning in the lower School which is then built on at GCSE and A level. The Art department believes in challenging and stretching students as well as offering support. Scholars have the opportunity to work alongside artists in residence and to experience art through trips to local, national and international attractions. Students are encouraged to experiment with a large array of techniques and media while there is a strong underpinning of sketchbook work and investigation.

The majority of Art Scholars go on to pursue a career in Art and Design. Most students opt for an Art Foundation course before going on to specialise in their chosen area at art School or university.

The department is looking for individuals who genuinely enjoy, and are excited by, creativity. Portfolios and sketchbooks should show an interest in and passion for the subject and potential scholars should be able to demonstrate evidence of work pursued in their own time. Final pieces can be in any



media, but should be backed up with preparatory work, experimentation and investigations.

Candidates are required to bring a sketchbook and two pieces of work to the School when they attend for their scholarship assessment. These will be assessed by the Head of Creative Arts and, during interview, candidates will be expected to talk about their own work.

Art scholars may be requested to contribute to exhibitions and to loan their artwork for School display.



ART SCHOLARS

- Scholars are encouraged to enter both internal and external competitions such as the Inter-House Art Competition and participate in the Scholars' Easel project.
- Scholars are invited to a number of Art clubs including Aspirational Art Club.
- The Art department regularly meets with scholars to review their sketchbooks and discuss progress and personal goals.
- Scholars meet together for a number of activities specifically designed to improve their work. It is hoped that scholars will learn from and be aided by older girls within the department.
- Scholars and exceptional art students are encouraged to attend gallery days and workshops over the year.



and attending at least one activity after school. Younger scholars are invited to join Aspirational Art Club. All scholars participate in the school's Inter-House Art competition and may enjoy external competitions which are encouraged. Scholarships are awarded due to an expectation that students fully engage within the department and opt for these subjects at GCSE and beyond.

Exhibitions:

In addition to scholarships, Prior's Field may also award Exhibitions for Promise. These are for students who clearly have good potential, but are not yet at scholarship level. Students recognised in this way are offered similar opportunities and support as the scholars.

What we expect from our Art Scholars:

Scholars lead by example in terms of commitment to their subject. They demonstrate passion and enthusiasm, embracing extension work in lessons



Music Scholarships

The Music department is a thriving environment in which students can grow as musicians. We offer tuition in a wide range of instruments. School ensembles include choirs, a concert band, string ensemble, rock bands, chamber groups and jazz band. There are frequent concert opportunities every year, including the Celebration of Christmas, Speech Day, music competitions, Classics and Cakes recitals, PF:Rocks!, the Summer Concert and concerts in external venues. Scholars will be expected to take part in some of these, as appropriate, and will also play in assembly on an occasional basis. Scholars are automatically included in the school's Music Committee.

Candidates are required to be approximately Grade 3 standard, though it is not essential that exams have been taken. They may offer up to three instruments, including voice, in which case one piece per



instrument is sufficient. Those who only offer one instrument should prepare two contrasting pieces/songs. Music Scholarships are awarded based on performance, potential and enthusiasm; discussion, therefore, plays a significant part in the audition process. The School will provide an accompanist or a CD player for backing tracks, though candidates are welcome to bring their own accompanist.

The application form and any copies of accompaniments should be returned to the School by the due date. Evidence of grades taken, certificates, reports, concert programmes etc. should be brought along on the day with a supporting reference: this could be from a current teacher, outlining progress and commitment.



MUSIC SCHOLARS

- A committee of scholars meets twice a term to discuss music ideas and to play a key role in the development of music across the school
- Scholars regularly play in whole school assemblies
- PF runs scholars' only chamber groups
- Scholars play in a variety of school concerts and are showcased in high profile events, internally and externally.

What we expect from our music scholars:

Music scholars play an active role in all school musical performances. There are opportunities to perform on both informal and formal occasions and scholars ensure that their contributions are polished and confident. All music scholars automatically become members of the Music Committee, a student body that provides a platform for dialogue, review and ambition.

Scholars can also expect to assist the Director of Music with musical events for other schools, acting as buddies or mentors to our guests. It is hoped that all music scholars will possess the necessary curiosity



to extend their experience, perhaps by trying a new instrument, directing ensembles, arranging music for mixed abilities and by offering ideas for new Music department initiatives. Sixth Form music scholars are expected to mentor younger musicians.

Recently, scholars have performed at the Watts Gallery and the Guildford Institute. They have also taken part in Masterclasses with Nicola Benedetti and Janice Watson.

Exhibitions:

In addition to scholarships, Prior's Field may also award Exhibitions for Promise. These are for students who clearly have good potential, but are not yet at scholarship level. Students recognised in this way are offered similar opportunities and support as the scholars.



Drama Scholarships

The Drama department offers a lively and imaginative approach to all areas of drama from mime and mask work, to improvisation and the use of technical resources. Drama Scholarships are offered as an incentive to motivated and enthusiastic students whose individuality is likely to benefit the department as a whole. The aim is to include as many students as possible in drama activities and to vary the content and style of practical work to give students the widest range of possibilities in performance situations.

In preparation for the Drama scholarship, candidates are required to prepare a performance piece lasting approximately two minutes. This should be a speech from a play and performed from memory.

11+ candidates are required to spend two hours at the School. They will be involved in a practical drama workshop and then asked to perform their pieces. 13+ candidates will have an individual interview at which they will be asked to present a monologue. Drama scholars are expected to undertake considerable involvement with both curricular and extra curricular activities and become role models



for the wider school community in respect of their commitment to drama. Many opportunities are available each year, including school productions and participation in the Schools' Shakespeare Festival.



DRAMA SCHOLARS

- Scholars are expected to audition for School productions and take part in other internal and external drama opportunities.
- LAMDA Club and RADA events are offered to scholars, providing another opportunity for public performance.
- The Head of Drama mentors scholars regularly to review progress and discuss personal goals.

What we expect from our drama scholars:

Drama scholars are expected to lead by example, setting the highest standards in performance and rehearsal. Once they are established, scholars may be required to lead small rehearsal groups for productions and act as mentors or guides to younger students. Senior scholars often lead clubs and activities, act as assistant to the directors and assist with publicity for performances.

Younger scholars attend Drama club and older scholars are expected to take a lead in directing and organising the House Drama competition. The informal LAMDA afternoon tea is an opportunity for scholars to share their monologues and acting pieces with an invited audience.

There are several school productions each year, both formal and informal, in addition to the Schools' Shakespeare Festival. Scholars are always involved in these, either as actors or supporting with publicity, front of house management, back stage and technical responsibilities.



Exhibitions:

In addition to scholarships, Prior's Field may also award Exhibitions for Promise. These are for students who clearly have good potential, but are not yet at scholarship level. Students recognised in this way are offered similar opportunities and support as the scholars.



Sports Scholarships

Prior's Field has an excellent reputation for sport and in recent years there have been many notable achievements. The department recognises the importance of sport in keeping girls healthy and fit and in encouraging team spirit. Through enjoyable and challenging experiences, Prior's Field girls develop a positive attitude towards physical activity, gain a sense of achievement and build self-confidence.

The main winter sports are hockey, netball, swimming, gymnastics and cross country and, in the summer, rounders, tennis and athletics. In addition, PE lessons cover gymnastics, dance, swimming, badminton, volleyball, fitness and basketball. Biennial sports tours are run to different venues both at home and abroad, for junior and senior teams.

Facilities include a large well-equipped sports hall, six outdoor netball and tennis courts, two grass playing fields and a full size all weather flood-lit sports pitch.

Sports Scholarships are awarded to students with a proven, high level of sporting ability and potential. Candidates will normally be expected to offer two of the school's major sports to a high standard or any one sport to an exceptionally high level.

Candidates must also demonstrate flair for acquiring new skills, improving their fitness, passion and commitment to sport.

Potential scholars are required to provide a letter of recommendation from their current school and/or club, as well as a sporting CV highlighting their achievements to date. Short listed candidates will be



invited to Prior's Field for approximately two hours to participate in a group games session and attend an interview with the Director of Sport or member of the PE Department. 13+ girls will be invited to a peer to peer assessment and an individual interview.

Tennis Academy

Established in 2011 Prior's Field Tennis Academy coaches pupils of exceptional tennis ability.

On-site coaches provide a daily, tailored tennis programme, first rate strength and conditioning schedule, termly fitness testing by a top sports physiologist and nutrition guidance. This is all integrated with each student's academic timetable.

Candidates are assessed separately to Sports Scholars by the Director of Performance Tennis for approximately two hours. Details from the current club or school should be provided. Players are expected to be a minimum of 9.2 rating if playing at U12 level and Green 1, if playing U10.

Parents pay for the full school fees but successful candidates receive Tennis Coaching and fitness training up to the value of 33% of the annual school fees.

SPORTS SCHOLARS

Scholars meet with the Director of Sport to review their progress, discuss their personal goals and consider ways in which the department can further encourage and develop their skills. Scholars are given priority to attend specialist sports trips and events such as the GSA Girls for Gold Conference, ATP tennis finals, international hockey or netball matches and elite training for exceptional students.

Scholars may be nominated for district or county trials in their specialist sport. Guest coaches are invited to work with scholars in the school's major sports.

What we expect from our sports scholars:

Scholars represent the school in at least two of the main sports offered (hockey, netball, swimming, cross country, tennis, rounders, athletics, gymnastics) through A or B team participation. Full commitment to school teams and the necessary training sessions is required and this includes Saturday fixtures. Scholars are good role models for other pupils; they are well



organised, always wear the correct kit, are punctual, demonstrate a positive attitude and approach to training and lessons, and show improvements in all areas of sport. We encourage our scholars to be involved with coaching/umpiring/mentoring younger teams or individuals. We ask that scholars help out at sports events and tournaments, as required. Finally, it is vital that scholars keep the department up to date with their individual achievements out of school.

Exhibitions:

In addition to scholarships, Prior's Field may also award Exhibitions for Promise. These are for students who clearly have good potential, but are not yet at scholarship level. Students recognised in this way are offered similar opportunities and support as scholars.



Exceptionally Able

Exceptionally Able Pupils

At Prior's Field, we have a 'whole school' approach to ensure that every student reaches her full potential. Therefore, once identified by test results or by teacher recommendation, an exceptionally able student in any field will be encouraged and stretched within the subject area by her teachers. She will also have opportunities to participate in any external activities organised for or promoted to our scholars.

We meet the needs of the scholars and other academically able students in the school by ensuring that academic enrichment is offered across the board.

There are opportunities to participate in activities throughout the year and the progress of scholars is closely tracked and monitored.



Expert support and guidance is provided for girls wishing to take the Oxbridge route or apply to other competitive universities. This may involve meeting previous Oxbridge students, attending Oxbridge conferences, practising interview techniques and enjoying the annual Oxbridge Dinner with Tutors and undergraduates.



School Aim

Prior's Field pupils have a wide range of abilities, talents and interests. The aim of the school is to provide an excellent all-round secondary education that brings out the best in each girl according to her abilities and talents.

We will do this by:

- Inspiring girls with an ambitious and tailored, all-round education which encourages them to think for themselves and enables them to realise their potential;
- Encouraging and celebrating individuality;
- Developing well-balanced, enterprising young women of integrity who leave school prepared for the next stage in life and ready to make their mark on the world;
- Providing a range of opportunities for girls to discover and develop new interests, passions and talents;
- Maintaining a culture of praise and encouragement where girls feel at home and confident enough to know and be themselves;
- Responding ambitiously to the challenge of change by developing staff, improving facilities and fostering links with the wider community;
- Optimising the school's resources, recognising our responsibilities for administering our charitable funds efficiently and for the benefit of the school and wider community.





PRIOR'S FIELD

GODALMING SURREY

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