



# Admissions Guide

## 2025/26



One school. Many voices.

NORWICH SCHOOL





# Welcome

The key ingredient when thinking about the right school for you is fit: does it feel right? There are plenty of empirical factors which can be brought to bear in the decision-making process, from academic results to pastoral care ratios, from the number and quality of co-curricular activities to the amount of engagement with the wider community. However, there are also less tangible factors such as the physical location of the school and the value system which underpins its routines.

We hope that this document, in conjunction with our website ([www.norwich-school.org.uk](http://www.norwich-school.org.uk)), helps to lay out what Norwich School offers so that you can analyse whether you feel there is a fit between you and

us. It certainly contains information regarding measurable criteria and practical information about the application process, but I hope you can also get an impression of where we are and what we stand for from the images and explanation of our guiding principles.

A document can only tell you so much, of course. We believe that a visit creates an even more vivid impression, so my colleagues, the pupils and I look forward to welcoming you in person to the Cathedral Close.

**Steffan Griffiths**  
- Head





## Key Principles

We seek to instil in each pupil a lifelong love of learning, with our historic context framing our intention to balance tradition and modernity. Our timeless values of inclusion, love and compassion intersect with our mission to be a beacon of all-round 21st century educational excellence through a restless ambition for self-improvement.

## Aims

**Norwich School is committed to:**

- Inspiring young people to develop their curiosity in intellectual, creative and practical spheres, establishing capacity for pupils to become reflective thinkers who are capable of handling complex concepts and articulate expression in varied media;
- Establishing a platform of rich and varied educational opportunity which enables every pupil to fulfil their unique potential;
- Creating opportunities in leadership and service for all pupils which will empower them to be ambitious forces for good in the wider community throughout their lives.

**“Norwich School  
is the perfect fit.”**

Senior School Parent



# Pastoral Care



## Lower School

In this part of the school, pupils are in the care of their Form Tutor, who has a crucial role to play in the provision of pastoral care. Form Tutors provide pupils with a point of daily contact, monitor pupils' work and welfare, and act as a channel through which information passes to and from pupils, parents and teachers. The fostering of positive, constructive relationships between home and school is seen as crucial. Pupils are encouraged to be fully involved in school life and to reach their full potential.

Every pupil is assigned to a House. These are Conisford, Heigham and Magdalen – named after the historic gates of Norwich. There are regular competitions between the Houses as well as a

weekly House Star total. House Tutors monitor the pupils in the House environment, and this dual pastoral approach with the Form Tutors allows for the caring and comprehensive support of each individual.

We encourage and initiate regular communication between home and school. All pupils have a prep diary in which parents may leave notes for the Form Tutor. Parents may drop in to school in the morning to speak with a teacher or telephone the School Office to make an appointment. There are also formal reporting times during the year in the form of end-of-term reports and Parents' Evenings in November and June.

**“Watch our  
Lower School  
video!”**







## Senior School

Senior School pupils receive pastoral support through two distinct structures.

Firstly, a vertical structure where pupils are allocated to a House upon joining the school and remain in that House as they move up through the year-groups.

Each House is managed by a Head of House – a member of staff who comes to know the pupils and their parents very well during their years of association with the House, and who lends compassion and a sense of continuity to a pupil's life. The day-to-day care of pupils falls to their tutors, who monitor their academic progress, general welfare and co-curricular involvement. Tutors are the first point of parental contact for most enquiries or matters of concern. If a problem arises, the tutor will involve the Head of House in its resolution.

Secondly, complementing the House structure is the 'horizontal' year structure. The Heads of Section, all of whom are members of the school's Senior Management Team, oversee the year-groups.

For pupils in every year-group, there is a schedule of full reports, grade cards and Parents' Evenings to communicate feedback on progress.

Mrs Nicky Fairweather (Principal Deputy Head), leads a Pastoral Team which includes a Head of Welfare, EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Officer, Health Officer and School Counsellors.

The school comes together for daily assemblies and services in the Cathedral. The school Chaplain, Reverend Corin Child, supports the spiritual and pastoral needs of pupils and staff.



**Find out more about  
the Senior School.**



**“Tutors have a key pastoral role, seeing pupils each day for registration and during weekly tutorial periods.”**

**The voice of nurture**





# Curriculum

## Lower School

The Lower School curriculum offers an exciting and challenging range of subjects designed to develop a strong foundation of skills and knowledge. Pupils are taught by their subject specialists as well as their Form Tutor. We aim to nurture a love of learning and involve tutors in all aspects of their education. In Reception, our curriculum focuses on the Early Years Foundation Stage for learning and development. Across the year-groups, classroom activities are complemented by day and residential trips for all

pupils, e.g. a visit to a Victorian workhouse as part of their History studies or a residential coastal erosion study in Geography.

Over their time at the Lower School, all children will normally perform on stage and compete against children from other schools in some sporting areas. Optional tuition is available in speech and drama and for around 20 different musical instruments.

**“We aim to nurture  
a love of learning.”**

**The voice of encouragement**

## The following subjects are taught in the Lower School:

- Art
- Computer Science
- Engineering & Design
- Digital Literacy
- Drama
- English
- Games
- Geography
- History
- Knowledge about Language (featuring Greek and Latin)
- Languages (Mandarin, French and other European languages)
- Mathematics
- Music
- Outdoor Education
- Performing Arts
- Personal Development
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Science



# Senior School

## Lower 4 (age 11+)

Pupils in Lower 4 are taught a range of subjects which can be seen in the table below.

Lower 4 pupils can expect homework in two subjects per night of approximately 20 minutes each.

### Lower 4 (age 11+) will study:

- Creative – Art and Design (including 2D Design, 3D Design and Art), Music and Drama taught separately.
- English
- Geography
- History
- IT
- Languages (two from French, German, Spanish and Mandarin)
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Pupil Personal Development (PPD)
- Religious Studies
- Science
- Sport
- WoLLoW (World of Languages and Languages of the World - Fourth Form)

## Upper 4 (age 12+)

In Upper 4, pupils continue with their Lower 4 subjects. Upper 4 pupils can expect homework in three subjects per night of approximately 20 minutes each. At the end of Upper 4, the pupils considering studying Music, Dance or Drama to GCSE opt for these. The remainder do a foundation year in Art and Design.

## Lower 5 (age 13+)

In Lower 5, the core subjects from Lower 4 and Upper 4 continue. Pupils also study the creative (Art and Design, Music, Dance or Drama) they opted for at the end of Upper 4. There are opportunities to switch creatives (Art and Design, Music, Dance or Drama) and to take four to GCSE. Pupils can also choose one from Latin and Greek (combined), Latin or Classics (based on academic performance or choice). Most continue with one language.

Sport continues to be a key part of the curriculum.

## GCSE (age 14 – 16)

Pupils usually study a total of 10 GCSE subjects. All subject areas are studied for at least 2 years (Lower 4 to Lower 5) before choices are made. Parents and pupils are consulted at option points.

The curriculum is also complemented by a variety of day and residential trips.

### In Middle 5 (age 14+) and Upper 5 (age 15+), the core subjects are:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Pupil Personal Development (PPD) - Middle 5 only.
- Science – Biology, Chemistry, Physics are taught separately for Triple or Dual Award
- Up to four options chosen from 2D Design, 3D Design, Art, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Geography, Greek, History, Languages (chosen from French, German, Spanish or Mandarin), Latin, Music, PE and Religious Studies.
- Pupils can also opt for a variety of non-examined courses in place of GCSE examined options.

Scan here to find out more.



Read some of our individual GCSE success stories from 2023.







Read some of  
our individual  
A Level success  
stories from  
2023.





## Sixth Form

In the Sixth Form, a wide range of subjects are taught by expert teachers. Sixth Formers typically study three linear A Levels over 2 years.

Sixth Formers enjoy access to study and leisure facilities in the Junior Common Room, as well as the newly refurbished Bishop's Parlour and Old Music Room (OMR).

All pupils complete an independent project in the Lower Sixth. This is an opportunity to explore any field of their choice in the form of an extended paper or substantial creative project. Through this programme they will learn to become independent thinkers and self-motivated doers.



### Sixth Form pupils will select three subjects to study from the following:

- Ancient/Classical Greek
- Art
- Art History\*
- Biology
- Business Enterprise\*
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation\*
- Computer Science\*
- 2D Design\*
- 3D Design\*
- Economics
- English
- French
- Geography\*
- German
- History
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Music
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics\*
- Physics
- Politics\*
- Psychology\*
- Spanish
- Sports Science\*
- Theatre Studies\*



\* Subjects which may be studied without previous knowledge, provided that good GCSE grades have been achieved in appropriate complementary subjects.

**To find out more about the subjects available at Sixth Form, scan the QR code above.**

NB: It may not be possible to provide every permutation of subjects listed here and confirmation of a combination should be sought from the Director of Studies. Usually a minimum of four pupils is needed for a subject to be viable.

## Did you know?



**1 in 5**

A Level grades  
was **A\*** in 2023.

**Over 9 in 10** higher education  
applicants from Norwich School in  
2023 have moved on to a course of  
their choice.





# Leadership and Service

We aim to equip our young people for a lifetime of leadership and service. We see these two concepts as interdependent; inspirational leadership centred around service of others, and, through service, essential leadership skills are being developed.

All pupils are given opportunities to develop their leadership skills through planned activities across the school, including: taught lessons, workshops and training; societies and pupil representative bodies; team leadership; an annual Upper 5 leadership conference; the Community Service Programme; Sea Scouts and Duke of Edinburgh.

In the Lower School, through service in the community, pupils can work towards a Leadership and Service Award. In the Senior School, Lower and Upper 6 pupils take part in timetabled community service activities. The placements bring pupils into direct contact with a wide cross-section of the Norwich and Norfolk community.

**“Pupils thoroughly enjoy the many clubs on offer and show great commitment.”**

Dr Clark  
Deputy Head  
Co-Curriculum

## Lower School

The Lower School offers a comprehensive co-curricular programme of activities and events. All pupils are expected to be involved in some aspect of this provision. Pupils thoroughly enjoy the many different clubs on offer and show great commitment to the music groups, choir, drama productions, sports teams and numerous other activities.

## Senior School

The Senior School offers a wide-ranging programme of activities and events outside formal lessons, most of which revolve around the interests of the pupils. All pupils are encouraged to take part in at least one activity.



# Sport

## Participate

Engage pupils in sport and physical activity by creating a range of opportunities for participation.

## Perform

Allow the pupils to enhance their talent and compete at a high level both at school and on representative pathways.

## Prepare

Provide opportunities through sports for all pupils to lead and serve, and to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.



## Senior School

During the Fourth Form (Years 7 and 8), boys will play rugby in the Michaelmas term and hockey in the Lent term. Girls will play hockey in the Michaelmas term and netball in the Lent term. All pupils can choose from cricket or athletics in the Trinity term.

In Lower 5 (Year 9) and Middle 5 (Year 10), rowing is added as a main sport. In addition to the main sports programmes, a number of participation sports are introduced including kayaking and sailing; a series of health and fitness options including athletic development, dance, spinning and swimming are also offered.

In Upper 5 and the Sixth Form, although the school encourages variety in pupils sports experience, it recognises that some pupils will know where they want to continue their sporting aspirations on leaving Norwich School and we are, therefore, able to offer a two-term specialisation through our main sports programmes for senior pupils.

Further competitive sports added to the programme in these senior years are: cross country, basketball, badminton and football. Table tennis and squash are offered as further participation options, while spinning, dance and yoga are included to ensure a full range of health and fitness options are available.

## Lower School

Pupils take part in a variety of team and individual sports including hockey, netball, rugby, athletics, cricket and tennis.

There is a comprehensive Physical Education programme for all Lower School year-groups which includes basketball, football, gymnastics and dance.



Scan here  
to see  
Sports Day  
in action.



# Drama



The Arts enjoy a strong profile at the school. Pupils have opportunities to become involved in the many and varied arts activities on offer. Our aim is to provide a rich, varied and broad education that develops the diverse talents of pupils and enables them to make their own mark on the creative life of the school and beyond.

In both curricular and extra-curricular Drama, we offer pupils the most professional theatre experience possible.

There are Lower School, Junior, Intermediate and Senior productions in our yearly repertoire, including annual musicals.

Performances take place in our own Blake Studio, a purpose-built theatre and plenary space, and in local theatres including The Norwich Playhouse, Norwich Puppet Theatre and Epic Studios.

Our Senior Shakespeare production usually takes place outdoors in the Cloisters of Norwich Cathedral during our end-of-year creative arts festival, Gather; an 18-day festival of art and design, drama, music and performance celebrating talent from across the Norwich School community.

**“One of the  
best British  
schools  
representing  
the arts.”**

School House  
Magazine





The Dance Department at Norwich School strives to develop an energetic, enthusiastic and healthy community of pupils. It aims to give all pupils experience in a range of dance styles and dance performance. All pupils are encouraged to partake in a variety of dance events and dance classes, whilst we provide gifted dancers with opportunities to work with industry professionals and to choreograph shows.

Pupils engage in a variety of dance styles: from musical theatre to hip hop, jive to commercial. Norwich School dancers have the opportunity to explore and adopt a genre to suit them. Pupils are also encouraged to choreograph and create their own routines for performances.

# Dance



All pupils are encouraged to involve themselves in our many dance opportunities as there is something for everyone. Each year, talent is showcased at the annual Junior and Senior Dance Festival.

**Our Senior and Junior Dance Companies were both ranked in the top 10 at national finals in 2023.**





# Music

## Lower School

Music plays a vital role in Lower School life. Instrumentalists can join a string orchestra, wind band, recorder club, guitar club or percussion group, all of which are led by musical specialists. We believe that singing is central to a musical education. We have exclusive choirs in the Reception – Year 2 section; Year 3 and our large school choir is open to all pupils in Years 4 to 6. There is also a smaller Chamber Choir, for which pupils who enjoy a challenge may audition. The choirs take part in many different events including the Marie Curie Service of Light, the Barnardo's National Choir competition and Young Voices at the O2 arena with an audience of 12,000!

Around 75% of our pupils learn instruments, many of them taught within the school by our numerous peripatetic teachers. There are many opportunities for soloists to perform at our regular Informal Concerts. All pupils in Year 4 learn a musical instrument (violin, flute or trumpet) as part of the music curriculum.

## Senior School

With over 20 different music ensembles rehearsing every week, there's something to suit everyone. Pupils can choose from a range of choirs, bands, orchestras and chamber ensembles designed to nurture musical performance at all levels. Most ensembles do not require an audition.

The Senior Concert Band has performed at the Royal Norfolk Show, and the Chapel Choir sang in the final of the Barnardo's Choral Competition at London's Royal Festival Hall.

ABRSM Music Exams are held here, with entries welcome from pupils learning both in and out of school. Theory tuition is also available.



Singing is at the heart of school life and features in daily Cathedral assemblies, with concerts, musicals and services throughout the year. Our choirs have earned a reputation for excellence and some pupils are members of the National Youth Choirs. More than 35 music teachers visit the school for individual music lessons, many of whom play an active part in the musical life of the city and county. Specialist instrumental tuition is available for a range of instruments.

More than  
**20**  
different  
music  
ensembles  
rehearse  
every week.





# Cathedral Choristers

Being a Cathedral Chorister provides an unparalleled musical education alongside the other opportunities on offer at Norwich School.

The Cathedral's Master of Music is happy to meet parents at any time to discuss the possibility of their child becoming a Cathedral Chorister.

The choristers sing daily services in the Cathedral during term time, at Christmas and Easter, and take part in concerts, tours, recordings and live broadcasts.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children for an informal audition without obligation, before making a formal application to the Cathedral Choir.

The Cathedral Choir Endowment Fund pays a generous scholarship towards school fees for all Lower School boy choristers.



Further information is available from the PA to the Master of Music, Mrs J. Dembicki; 01603 218306 or [liturgyandmusicpa@cathedral.org.uk](mailto:liturgyandmusicpa@cathedral.org.uk)

**“The Choir is an amazing thing to be a part of.”**

**Teddy Curtis, Head Chorister, 2022/23**





# Admissions Process

For September 2025 Entry



## Lower School

*(pupils aged 4 – 11)*

The deadline for receipt of completed applications for the Lower School is 10 December 2024.

For entry into Lower 1 to Upper 3, children will be assessed on Saturday 11 January 2025.

Applications to Reception remain open on an ongoing basis but initial assessments will take place week commencing 13 January 2024 and then again in March/April 2024 should there still be availability in the year-group.

Assessments will be carried out through a variety of individual and small group activities designed to ascertain independence of thought, curiosity, articulacy and sociability in structured and non-structured situations. Children will undertake a number of activities where their verbal and social skills, intellectual aptitude and reasoning are assessed. For children of school age, we will seek an academic reference from your child's current school.

## Senior School

*(pupils aged 11 – 16)*

The deadline for receipt of completed applications for the Senior School is 10 December 2024.

Children are invited to join us in school for the entrance assessments on the morning of Saturday 11 January 2025, with interviews taking place on Saturday 25 January 2025.

All are then invited for an interview and activity day which includes a variety of activities. We will also seek an academic reference from your child's current school. We do not require applicants to over prepare for the entrance assessments as it is important for us to ascertain a realistic picture of their current abilities. We also find that over preparation can cause children unnecessary stress.

**The deadline for  
Lower School  
and Senior School  
applications is  
10 December 2024.**

**The deadline  
for Sixth Form  
applications is  
15 November 2024.**

**For help with applications contact our  
Admissions Team on 01603 728 449 or  
[admissions@norwich-school.org.uk](mailto:admissions@norwich-school.org.uk).**



## Sixth Form

*(pupils aged 16 – 18)*

The deadline for receipt of completed applications for the Sixth Form is 15 November 2024.

Sixth Form applicants are assessed by interviews and a written task, which will take place on Saturday 23 November 2024. An academic reference from your child's current school will also be sought.

The expectation to join the Norwich School Sixth Form is at least six grade 6s at GCSE and higher grades in subjects being considered for A Level.

## International Admissions

*(pupils aged 16 – 18)*

Norwich School is proud to welcome pupils from all over the world to join our Sixth Form community. Our international pupils join us in our Lower Sixth Form and are wholly integrated into our academic and co-curricular life. Pupils are given the opportunity to rapidly improve English skills in individually matched home-stays.

Norwich School is a Tier 4 Sponsor and is able to issue Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) to support a visa application. There is a registration fee and acceptance deposit for international applications. We also ask for the first term's fees to be paid in advance. Norwich School is a day school, and so our international pupils are placed with our trusted and highly experienced 'home-stay parents'.

For pupils applying to Norwich School from Hong Kong as British National Overseas residents, further details are available from the Admissions Team via [admissions@norwich-school.org.uk](mailto:admissions@norwich-school.org.uk)

### Open Events

Our annual Open Morning takes place in September. This is a superb opportunity to meet our pupils and staff, take part in activities, see our beautiful location and hear from the Head. The school also hosts two Open Afternoons each year, which take place during the school day in March and June. Parents and pupils have the opportunity to take a tour of the school and see lessons in action. Registration for these events is via the admissions pages on our website.

### Application Forms

Application for entry into the Lower School, the Senior School or the Sixth Form can be made via the school's website.

A non-refundable application fee of £95 is payable per application.





# Scholarships and Financial Assistance

## Scholarship Programmes for excellence and potential

The school offers a range of awards for excellence in five areas. A place on one of our Scholarship Programmes is made available to applicants with outstanding ability and potential, which the school assesses by examination, interview, portfolio and audition, as appropriate.

Selection at 11+, 13+ and 16+ is made in the following areas: Academic Excellence, Music and Sport. Additionally, Performing Arts and Art and Design are available at 16+. If you wish to apply, please indicate your interest on the application form. Applicants may apply in more than one discipline, though it is unlikely that more than two awards are made to any individual.

These awards are enrichment programmes rather than remuneration from fees, with the exception of the Norfolk Sixth Form Scholarship Scheme.

Means-tested financial support is also available to applicants applying for scholarships.

Please scan here to find out more about scholarships in our Sixth Form



## Financial Assistance

Bursaries are available for Senior School applicants.

The school sets aside generous funds in the form of bursaries to enable children to come to Norwich School who would not be able to do so without financial help. All bursaries are means-tested and can result in a reduction in fees of up to 100%. There is a sliding scale dependent on family income and finances, and on the resources of the school. Resources are finite and demand can exceed the funds available. Please note that it is unlikely that a bursary will be awarded to pupils whose household income is greater than 4.3 times the annual Senior School tuition fee or whose household net assets are more than 20 times the annual Senior School tuition fee.

If you wish to be considered for bursarial assistance, please indicate that interest on the application form and the relevant paperwork will be sent to you. A detailed Application for Financial Assistance form, covering all aspects of your family's finances will need to be completed and returned prior to the prospective applicant's assessment.

The school funds bursaries from many sources, which include its own savings as well as contributions from the Worshipful Company of Dyers, the Old Norvicensians, the Friends of Norwich School and other charitable trusts.







# Tuition Fees

A holding deposit of £500 is required once a place has been offered; this is held until the end of term and used to pay any extra charges outstanding, once the pupil has left. Any remaining money will be refunded to parents with the opportunity to donate to our Annual Bursary Campaign. A sliding scale of deposit operates for pupils awarded bursarial assistance.

Fees for Reception – Year 2 age groups includes a hot lunch and care between 8am and 4pm. There is additional after-school care between 4pm and 6pm, which may incur an additional charge.

Details of fees for BNO students can be found on the school website at [www.norwich-school.org.uk](http://www.norwich-school.org.uk)

Year Group	Per Annum	Per term
Lower School (Reception – Year 2)	£13,548*	£4,516*
Lower School (Years 3–6)	£18,207	£6,069
Senior School (Years 7–13)	£19,977	£6,659

*\*Reception - Year 2 fees include lunches*

*These fees are for the 2023/24 school year. The 2024/25 fees will be released later in the school year. Please scan here for the most recently published fees.*





One school.  
Many voices.



NORWICH SCHOOL

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