

# PANGBOURNE

— A community where you can flourish —



## PROSPECTUS

ACADEMIC RIGOUR | EXPLORATION | COMMUNITY | LEADERSHIP

# HEAD'S WELCOME



With almost 30 years of co-educational experience, Pangbourne College is an independent day and boarding school for girls and boys, aged 11-18 years. We are set in over 230 acres of Berkshire's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with the best four mile stretch of rowing river in the country.

At Pangbourne College, we are guided by our past whilst fully embracing the hope and opportunity of the future. It is this which allows our students to leave us as well-rounded and compassionate individuals, able to flourish in a complex world.

Pangbourne provides an academic education alongside an ethos of adventure and exploration, both of which I am extremely passionate about. We have a well-deserved reputation for exceptional pastoral care, which is integral to the values that are so deeply embedded within our community.

If you ask anyone what life is like at Pangbourne; they will say it is joyful, intentional and engaging. The benefits of our long school day and boarding models mean that we can dedicate time to the holistic nature of our education and ensure that the scholastic and exploratory sides of school life have equal weight.

All of this helps us create an atmosphere of relaxed ambition and I would be delighted to show you our wonderful school in action.

# PANGBOURNE'S FOUR PILLARS



'It's small enough to enable everyone to know each other but big enough to be diverse and offer a wide range of activities, sports and clubs. Everyone can shine. Parade offers an extra depth of tradition and values.'

Kelly Waters, Parent



'Pangbourne is unique because of the community. There is something about Pangbourne that makes you feel part of something special.'

Emily, Pupil



## ETHOS AND VALUES

At Pangbourne College, we provide an academic education alongside an ethos of adventure and embracing challenge. Through this, our young people acquire the knowledge, skills and character necessary to act with confidence in imperfect situations and leave a positive mark on the world.

The behaviours we promote in the College are:

- **Kindness** - showing compassion and consideration for others regardless of their background.
- **Selflessness** - extending a helping hand to others. Service to others is a cornerstone of our naval history and traditions.
- **Moral Courage** - having the strength of character to take action in difficult circumstances.
- **Initiative** - confidently choosing to take the lead and create change.

- **Industry** - dedication to hard work and striving to meet expectations.
- **Resilience** - the ability to keep going and pick ourselves up in the face of setbacks.
- **Integrity** - being honest, reliable and delivering on our promises.
- **Respect** - to admire someone or something deeply as a result of their abilities, quality or achievements and to have due regard for someone's feelings, wishes or rights.

These values, combined with the school's four pillars of Academic Rigour, Exploration, Community and Leadership, combine to ensure all our students develop the attitudes, skills and behaviours that underpin success at school and at work. They also enable our students to set themselves apart from their peers and safeguard themselves in a world of increasing automation. Most importantly of all, they allow our students to leave us as rounded and interesting individuals able to work in a multitude of teams and with the confidence to live an authentic life.

'I have had so much help with my goal of going to medical school through the College's More Able Provision and an academic scholarship, which has broadened my interest and knowledge into related topics.'

Julia, Pupil

## ACADEMIC RIGOUR

We believe that the best learning occurs when teachers use techniques proven to be successful in every lesson. We have combined educational research, the views of industry experts, and our own experiences to develop the Pangbourne Teaching Habits. Our staff are trained in these techniques so that we can provide challenge and support to all of our pupils.

Pupils learn best in small classes where staff can provide individual attention. Whilst there is no set formula for our class sizes, they are generally below 20 in Years 7 to 11. In the Sixth Form, the maximum class size is 14, but the vast majority are considerably smaller.

Our More Able Provision has been recognised by NACE as industry-leading and we have also introduced the Devitt and Moore Programme which offers pupils the opportunity to undertake a project in one of over 40 areas offered by our teaching staff. Our More Able Provision also includes support for Sixth Form pupils applying to Oxbridge and other highly competitive courses.

We want our pupils to develop the skills and strategies needed to become confident and independent learners. Whilst this might come easily to some, we recognise that some students require additional support.

Led by our experienced Learning Support Department, we take a whole-school approach to identifying and supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND), English as an Additional Language (EAL) and those who require additional exam preparation support.





'Amazing staff and facilities, set in an idyllic location.'  
Tania Bevis, Parent

- Our facilities include:**
- Café
  - Fully equipped DT Workshop
  - Art Studio and Photography Darkroom
  - The Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel
  - The Nancye Harding Recital Hall
  - Music Technology studio
  - The Jubilee Astro turf
  - 25m heated swimming pool
  - Black Box Drama studio
  - 6km of protected rowing water
  - Boat Club on the River Thames
  - Health Centre
  - Refurbished, fully equipped Gym
  - Recording Studio
  - Tennis Courts
  - Multiple playing fields
  - Assault Course
  - Proposed Mountain Bike Course

## CAMPUS AND FACILITIES

Pangbourne College is situated on an historic 230-acre site in West Berkshire in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This is where pupils have the freedom and space to learn and grow as part of a vibrant community that they can call home.

The environment at Pangbourne is perfectly designed to support learning. We are blessed to have the infrastructure and range of facilities to support pupils of all abilities to reach their potential. These include our team of committed staff, comfortable boarding houses, well-equipped classrooms and areas for creative and performing arts, and our sporting facilities, such as the refurbished Astro turf and gym, and a heated swimming pool.

Our Boat Club is just a five-minute drive from the campus, situated on the River Thames, enjoying access to 6km of some of the best rowing water in the UK.

We are just 10 minutes from Junction 12 of the M4 motorway, and on the mainline rail network between Oxford (30 minutes) and London Paddington (45 minutes). London Heathrow airport is less than a 60 minute drive away. Daily school transport services for pupils are available from multiple locations. For full details visit: [pangbourne.com/bus-routes](http://pangbourne.com/bus-routes)

'We want to be viewed as one of the best sporting schools in the South East, for participation levels and performance.'

Sam Hewick, Director of Sport

**Performance Sports (sports where national level performance and competition is achieved annually)**

- Girls' Hockey (Indoor Hockey)
- Boys' Rugby (Rugby 7s)
- Boys' and Girls' Rowing
- Equestrian

**Competitive sports (sports where local / regional level performance / competition takes place)**

- Boys' Hockey
- Touch Rugby
- Netball
- Boys' Football
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Girls' Rugby
- Girls' Football

*Within these sports, the College will support and develop individuals who may participate at a higher (national and above) level*

**Recreational sports (generally non-competitive, with the opportunity for ad-hoc friendly local fixtures)**

- Swimming
- Athletics
- Rounders
- Fitness
- Badminton
- Golf
- Table Tennis



## EXPLORATION: SPORT

The philosophy of sport at Pangbourne is to foster a lifelong love of physical activity and develop a strong character. We do this through our two main pillars: enjoyable participation and meaningful performance.

Sport, and especially team sports, play a very important role in life at Pangbourne. They enhance our fantastic community and create the spirit of 'Team Pangbourne', which centre around having the right attitude, encouraging enjoyment, ensuring meaningful competition, and setting an aspirational legacy.

Pupils are able to specialise in a sport of their choice whilst supplementing it with other activities. Our broad programme caters to all goals and levels of ability whether your child is looking to get involved in fitness and recreation, or is on a high performance pathway.

The two main sport sessions happen twice a week for 1 hour 45 minutes each, with up to three more sessions available throughout the week. Fixtures take place on a Saturday for Year 9 and above, and cup fixtures are played midweek. Dunbar fixtures take place on a Wednesday afternoon.

Any pupils who achieve a Sport Scholarship are invited to join our Sports Performance Programme (SPP) which is designed to develop your child's life skills as much as their sporting performance. The programme fits in and around the school day, with the level of support increasing from Bronze through to Silver and Gold, as the level of performance increases. 1st team members of a performance sport also receive significant athletic development support throughout the year, including a weekly session and fitness testing three times per year.



## EXPLORATION: CREATIVE ARTS (DRAMA & MUSIC)

Creative opportunities outside of the classroom encourage pupils to further explore the arts. A range of facilities and experienced staff enable our community to get the most out of their pursuits, be it on stage or behind the scenes. Our mark of success is for our whole college and junior productions to be performed and operated by our pupils. Our Theatre Technician, runs a backstage club to enthuse and teach the new cohort of technicians.

Our Drama Club, Pangbourne Players, gives pupils the opportunity to explore Drama in all its glory. While exploring different scripts and styles of theatre, pupils learn valuable life skills including confidence, compromise, listening, offering ideas, and group work.

Each year, trips are organised to attend a variety of productions to develop pupils' enthusiasm for performing. Pupils are also able to take Trinity exams at a variety of levels, supported by a Speech and Drama teacher who provides one-to-one lessons at the College two days per week.

Musicians of all abilities are able to develop their skills and we are fortunate to have a state-of-the-art Music Centre with a recital hall. We are also an All-Steinway School with three grand pianos, six upright pianos and a host of other instruments. We have a large number of visiting music teachers who provide instruction in various instruments and singing.

Regular trips are organised to see professional performances, and pupils are encouraged to participate in our choirs and bands which perform at informal recitals as well as formal events and services. These include our College Sundays, Christmas Carol Services and the annual memorial service held onsite in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel. We are also invited to help lead the annual National Service for Seafarers at St Paul's Cathedral in London.



'I have been given countless opportunities to express myself and to feel included in the Drama community at the College. Being part of the Drama department at Pangbourne has helped me to create memories I will never forget and friendships that will last for years.'

Imogen, Pupil



'DT is a welcoming workspace where you can bring your creative imagination to life.'

Max, Pupil



## EXPLORATION: CREATIVE ARTS (ART & DT)

Developing ideas and creating objects for practical use, to provoke discussion, or simply to be admired; these are the principles which are at the core of our Art and Design Technology offering.

With two studios and three specialist classrooms to explore print, ceramics and photography, our Art department is always buzzing with activity. From pupils catching up on prep (homework), to those exploring the subject in more depth to develop their skills, there's always something going on. The department is open during activity slots, during prep and after prep in the evenings.

Competitions and artwork displays are held as part of College life throughout the year. Pupils are also supported in taking their craft further, particularly our Art Scholars.

Our well-resourced Design Technology department is available to pupils throughout the school day including during free lesson slots and enrichment periods. Our resident technician maintains the equipment for our pupils to use, which includes three 3D Printers, a CNC router and a Vinyl Cutter, as well as sewing machines for our textiles classes.

DT clubs and competitions include the Classic Car Club where pupils help restore a 'Bond Equipe', furniture upcycling challenges and contributing to costume creation for the College productions.

Design-based trips provide opportunities for pupils to observe problem-solving through product design and creation in real life situations. Destinations include the 'Clerkenwell Design Week', The Design Museum and even backstage access to Land Rover, Morgan and Mini production plants.





## EXPLORATION: ADVENTURE CURRICULUM

Given our beautiful surroundings and shared love of the outdoors, perhaps it's no surprise that we offer a range of adventurous opportunities to challenge pupils outside of the classroom and grow their characters.

These opportunities enable pupils to demonstrate our values and add depth to their personal and academic development in areas such as teamwork, leadership, resilience and taking responsibility.

We are licensed to offer the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of The Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award Scheme. Our 230-acre campus offers ample space for pupils to train before expeditions which usually take place in Wales, The New Forest and the Lake District. All pupils in Year 9 will undertake the Bronze Award, after which they can choose whether to continue into Silver and Gold.

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) programme is split into the Army, Royal Marines and Royal Navy sections. Each provides self-discipline and teamwork skills, as well as enabling pupils to achieve formal qualifications and develop leadership skills. All pupils in Year 10 participate in the CCF, after which they can choose to continue it into Year 11 and onwards.

Each term, a field day allows opportunities for the DofE groups to undertake practice walks and the CCF sections to visit military training areas, which allow them to broaden their experience.

Development is underway to further our position at the forefront of Leadership and Challenge, with construction starting on an Obstacle Course, Mountain Bike Track, Low Ropes Course and High Ropes Course. Staff will be supported through professionally accredited CPD to become certified instructors, supporting pupils to benefit from this fantastic facility and to find a passion for an activity beyond the classroom.

We also run regular expeditions to the Nabugabo Community Learning Centre in Uganda; a school that we have supported for many years.

'We have a wealth of programmes and opportunities, from Duke of Edinburgh's Award to Bushcraft, CCF to Volunteering that enable all our students to challenge themselves and experience success in areas of life they might previously not have thought possible.'

Oliver Knight, Head



'Pangbourne is a place where the individual matters and as such I believe that we nurture and encourage young people to participate in a wide variety of activities and experiences.'

Richard Follett, Deputy Head Co-Curriculum

## EXPLORATION: ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

Our extensive Activities Programme offers our pupils lots of opportunities to pursue their interests and to develop new ones.

Academic societies include the Geography Society, Euler Society and Abelian Group (Maths) and English activities including book clubs, creative writing clubs and the 'Student Voice' journalism society.

In addition, the whole school community is encouraged to get involved in supporting local, national and international charities. In the past, fundraising events have included the 100% Colour Run, a fashion show and our annual Classic Car Show which supports the Nabugabo Community Learning Centre in Uganda and Footsteps Foundation in the UK.

To enable pupils to explore the wider world and bring subjects to life, we also offer a number of trips, tours and expeditions which are arranged by relevant academic departments to a range of destinations, both in the UK and abroad. Pupils visit theatres, lecture halls and museums, and boarders go on weekend trips to a variety of exciting locations across the south of England.



### Just some of the activities on offer include:

- Art
- Classic Car Restoration Club
- Clay Pigeon Shooting
- Computer Science
- Drama
- DT
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Film Club
- Fitness
- French culture
- Golf
- Horse riding
- Indoor hockey
- Music
- Orienteering
- Rowing and Sculling
- Rugby Sevens
- Science Club
- UCAS support

'We are very lucky at Pangbourne College; we have a raft of Housemasters and Housemistresses, matrons, teachers, coaches, and many other adults who go out of their way to support us. Their support is of great value.'

Callum, Pupil



## COMMUNITY

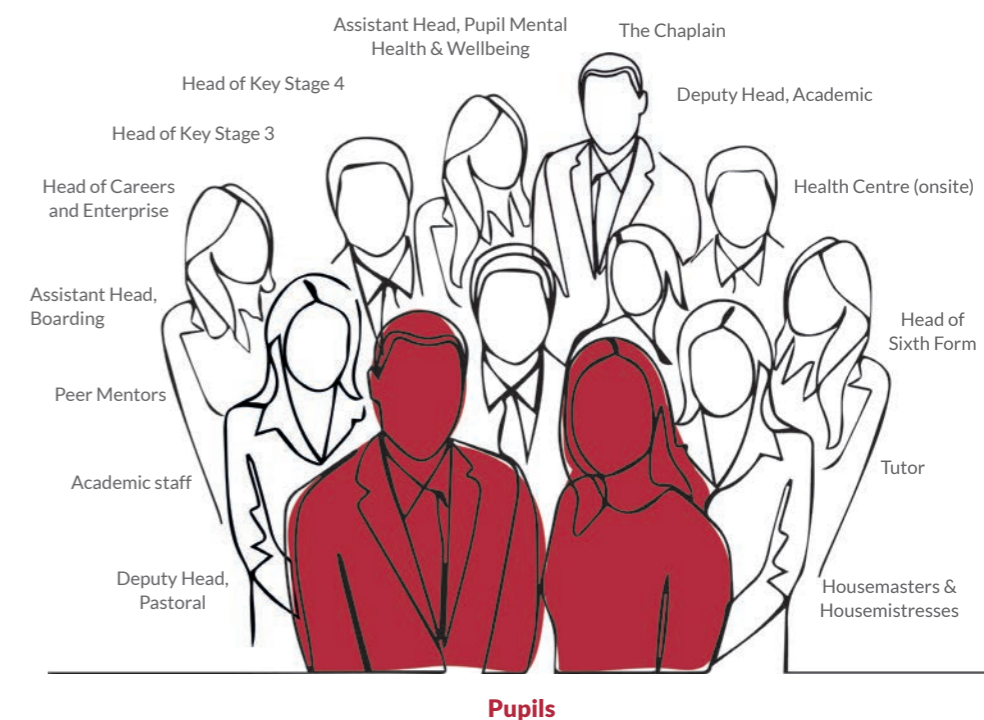
In today's world, the pressures on young people are greater than ever. We put a huge amount of effort into building confidence, resilience and determination in each pupil so that every one is equipped to deal with life's inevitable ups and downs.

Positive mental health and wellbeing is an important aspect of College life and we promote it by encouraging our pupils to participate in the many opportunities here, celebrating their successes, and providing support and encouragement when it is needed.

Our values underpin everything we do, from class rewards to staff recruitment. They help to create a secure and respectful environment in which all of our pupils and staff are encouraged to be successful in their endeavours and supported through their challenges.

As a day and boarding school, we have a house structure which provides a firm base for pastoral care which benefits day and boarding pupils alike. Every pupil belongs to a house (Division), staffed with Housemistresses/masters (HOMs), Assistant HOMs, Matrons, Tutors and Housekeepers. They are the first port of call for every pupil, which enables us to provide outstanding pastoral care throughout their time at Pangbourne.

### Outstanding support structure



## COLLEGE LIFE: BOARDERS AND NON-BOARDERS

Our boarding structure is central to our pastoral care. Every pupil, whether they are a boarder or not, belongs to a Division which is their home for the duration of their time at Pangbourne.

This is a safe and comfortable place that they can go to before and after school, and during breaks. Each Division has well-equipped communal areas, kitchens and quiet spaces, and is supervised by staff made up of Housemistresses/masters (HOMs), Assistant HOMs, Matrons, Tutors and Housekeepers.

Our evening activities are very popular and a great opportunity to spend time with friends. Activities include spin classes, use of our fully equipped gym, comedy nights, House Bake-off competitions and plenty of options for playing sports such as football, netball and cricket. Weekend trips are a staple, and we continually introduce new opportunities to explore the local attractions, as well as those further afield, and to try new adventurous activities.

There are a number of boarding options available to suit your child's needs:

- Full Boarding: Monday to Sunday
- Weekly Boarding: Five nights a week
- Part Boarding: Four nights per week usually Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays.
- Ad Hoc: Up to two nights a week.

International pupils make up a small but very important proportion of our cohort, coming from a wide range of countries and cultures. Our staff are experienced in helping our overseas students to settle in so that they quickly become part of our community.



'I love boarding at Pangbourne because of the deeper connections you can make with other people in both your own year and in other years. Boarding gives you more time to do your prep in the evening whilst also being able to have really fun evenings just hanging out with your friends.'

Camilla, Pupil

**The Divisions**

In a nod to our nautical associations, our Divisions are named after merchant ships. They are:

- Dunbar - for girls and boys in Years 7 & 8
- Illawarra and St George - for girls in Year 9 and above
- Harbinger, Hesperus, Macquarie and Port Jackson - for boys in Year 9 and above

## YEARS 7 & 8

Pupils who join our community in Years 7 or 8 begin their journey in Dunbar, our friendly, co-educational Division.

The key purpose of these school years is to settle pupils into Senior School life. During their time in Dunbar, pupils receive a grounding in all the key academic subjects which are taught by subject specialists, and a wide range of sports. Pupils will participate in Physical Education (PE) once a week and in games almost every day.

Pupils from Prep and Primary schools are fully integrated into the school and our aim is to ensure that every child has the right skills and attitudes to progress into Year 9.

Dunbar is located separately from the older pupils' Divisions, and has its own extensive grounds called the 'Piggeries'. Whilst they have access to the same learning facilities and subject specialists as the older pupils, this arrangement helps with the smooth transition from junior into senior education. Our friendly, experienced staff are dedicated to making sure that this considerable change is as easy as possible for your child.

Dunbar pupils have lots of opportunities to get involved in school life, including music and drama productions, as well as sporting and academic competitions. There are also lots of opportunities for parents to get to know each other with regular social events, such as the Dunbar Family Quiz.

Pupils have dedicated prep time four times a week to enable them to complete homework during the school day.



'We joined at Dunbar and felt it was the perfect middle ground between our previous school and senior school. Dunbar is excellently run.'

Iлона Herbent, Parent

### Dunbar pupils study 14 subjects:

- Art
- Computing
- Design Technology
- Drama
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE)
- Physical Education (PE)
- Religious Studies
- Science
- Theory of Learning

'Pangbourne has a strong family ethos, creates a great sense of community and encourages individual children to flourish.'

Helen Keeble, Parent



## YEARS 9 TO 11

These are the years in which pupils become GCSE-ready in preparation for the examinations at the end of Year 11.

Our Year 9 cohort is made up of those pupils who move up from Dunbar and a larger group of pupils who join us from other schools. Pupils continue to study a range of subjects taught by subject specialists, before choosing their GCSE options with the support of our academic and pastoral staff.

In Years 10 and 11 pupils focus on their GCSE subjects which are usually taught in classes of 20 or fewer. The benefits of our small class sizes are most evident during this period as staff have ample time to prepare pupils for their first experience of public examinations.

Throughout these years, pupils meet with their academic tutor twice a week to ensure that they are on track with their studies and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

During this time pupils will also get involved with our exciting Adventure Curriculum and participate in weekly parade practice for our six College Sundays and annual Founders' Day. These ceremonial events are key calendar events and bring the whole community together.

Pupils will start to get involved in serving and leading the younger pupils as they increasingly represent their Division in all sorts of activities including music and drama productions, team sports, and parades.



## SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form is the time when pupils transition into students who take ownership of their own learning and shape their future beyond school.

Life inside and outside of the classroom takes on a different, more independent and rewarding perspective. It provides a firm foundation for higher education and the workplace, enabling students to hone their individual talents and discover their place in the world.

There are many opportunities for students to develop life skills in areas such as teamwork and leadership. These include the opportunity to take up important roles in the College, such as Chief Cadet Captain, Peer Mentor and Captain of Sports, which involve leading and supporting younger pupils. By developing these skills, our students grow in confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

Looking beyond College, we provide plenty of support for students to explore their next steps. From UCAS applications to interview preparation, we help our students to identify the right career path for them and to achieve their goals and aspirations.

We have a diverse and knowledgeable community made up of staff, parents and alumni (Old Pangbournians) who are able to help individuals find their paths and succeed. Being such a close-knit community with a broad range of connections in many career fields, we can offer a range of interesting and useful opportunities.



Download our Guide to Sixth Form Subjects



‘The Pangbourne experience gives us so much more than just academic support. I do think that Pangbourne has formed me as a person and prepared me well to go out ‘into the world’ by pushing me out of my comfort zone and encouraging the development of new skills and interests.’

Tim, Sixth Form Student

# ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Our admissions process is designed to identify potential and establish whether we can meet the needs of your child. We want your child to flourish through a balanced and well-rounded education which enables them to make a positive contribution to our community and beyond.

Our standard entry points are Year 7, Year 9 and Lower Sixth. Admission may be possible at other entry points depending on place availability. The main steps in the process are:

## Visit

We recommend that you visit our beautiful 230-acre campus to get a real feel for our wonderful school. There are a variety of ways to visit, and details are available on our website: [www.pangbourne.com/visit](http://www.pangbourne.com/visit)

## Register

All applicants are required to complete a Registration Form and pay a registration fee.

Registration is recommended as early as possible, but no later than the end of September in the year prior to entry for Year 7 and Lower Sixth and three years prior to entry for Year 9 (the Autumn term of Year 6). Key admission dates for each entry point are available on our website.

## Assessment

Entrance for all pupils for Years 7-9 is via computer-based assessment tests together with observation in group activities. We also review up-to-date school reports and request a confidential Head's reference.

For Sixth Form entrance there is an assessment day consisting of a computer-based assessment and an interview with a senior member of the academic team. School reports and a Head's reference which includes predicted GCSE grades will also be requested.

No specific preparation is required for the entrance tests.

## Decision

On receiving an offer, you have time to reflect on whether you feel that Pangbourne is the right place for your child to flourish. Our friendly Admissions Team will be on hand to answer your questions, provide further information or enable you to visit us again, ensuring you have all you need to make your decision with confidence. Upon accepting your place, a deposit will be required.

## Join

Starting a new school is a big step for the whole family. Our Admissions Team will guide you through the process up to the point of starting in September. We also hold 'welcome' events and 'connect' events to provide plenty of opportunities for families to get to know the College community and one another.

## STANDARD ENTRY POINTS:

The following timelines represent our standard processes, however, late applicants may be considered depending on place availability.

### Year 7 entry:

Year 4-6 Various dates available	Year 6 By end of September	Year 6 End of September	Year 6 October	Year 6 Mid November	Year 6 Early December	Year 6 First Monday in March	Year 6 June	Year 7 September
Visit the College	Register	If a means-tested Bursary is required, submit application	Dunbar Experience Day	Entrance Assessment at Pangbourne College	Decision letter sent	Closing date for place acceptance	Welcome Event for parents and children	Induction and join

### Year 9 entry:

Year 4-5 Various dates available	Year 6 By end of September	Year 6 November	Year 6 January	Year 6 By end of March	Year 6 By the May half term break	Year 7 By end of September	Year 7 June	Year 8 June	Year 9 September
Visit the College	Register	Sit ISEB Assessment Exams (at current school)	Activities-based assessment at Pangbourne College	Decision letter sent	Closing date for place acceptance	If a means-tested Bursary is required, submit application	Connect Event for parents and children	Welcome Event for parents and children	Induction and join

### Sixth Form entry:

Year 10-11 Various dates available	Year 10 June	Year 11 October	Year 11 October	Year 11 Mid November	Year 11 End of November	Year 11 December	Year 11 February	Year 11 August	Year 12 September
Visit the College	Sixth Form Information Evening	Sixth Form Taster Day	If a means-tested Bursary is required, submit application*	Register	Assessment and Interview Day at Pangbourne College	Decision letter sent	Submit subject choices	Place confirmation following GCSE Results	Induction and join


\* Although the closing date for registrations is in November, any applicants who wish to submit a Bursary application must already be registered with the College

'The professionalism you have displayed throughout this process has been excellent and you give prospective parents ample opportunity to meet with staff.'

Prospective Parent







‘The underpinning history alongside high academic expectations and fantastic pastoral support has meant that our son has found purpose, confidence and friendship.’

Lucinda Powell, Parent

For lots more information, including details of the admissions process, bursaries, scholarships and visit options, please visit: [www.pangbourne.com](http://www.pangbourne.com)

Alternatively, our Admissions Team is available to answer your questions

email: [admissions@pangbourne.com](mailto:admissions@pangbourne.com)

tel: 0118 976 7415