



# The Hills Academy

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25<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Secondary Admissions – Open now and closes on 31<sup>st</sup> October

Dear Parents and Carers

The admissions window for transfer to Secondary (Year 7) is now open and all applications must be done before October 31<sup>st</sup> 2018. You can download a school transfer booklet and apply online:

[https://www.bedford.gov.uk/education\\_and\\_learning/schools\\_and\\_collegesacadem/school\\_admissions/transfer\\_to\\_secondary\\_school.aspx](https://www.bedford.gov.uk/education_and_learning/schools_and_collegesacadem/school_admissions/transfer_to_secondary_school.aspx)

You have a range of choices for your child and the Heads of Goldington Academy, Newnham and Mark Rutherford will be visiting the school to talk to our Year 6 children about their choices.

### School Open Days:

School Name	Date and time of Open Evening / Day	Intake Year Group
Bedford Academy	13 September 2018 5:00pm - 7:00pm	7
Bedford Free School	19 September 2018 5:30pm - 8:00pm 29 September 2018 9.30am - 11.30am	7
Biddenham International School & Sports College	1 October 2018 5:00pm - 8:00pm	7
Castle Newnham	11 October 2018 6:00pm - 8.00pm	7
Daubeney Academy	27 September 2018 6:00pm - 8:00pm	7
Goldington Academy	16 October 2018 7:00pm	7
Kempston Challenger Academy	20 September 2018 6:00pm	7
Lincroft School	26 September 2018 5:30pm	7
Mark Rutherford School	4 October 2018 5:30pm - 9.00pm	7
Marston Vale Middle School	8 November 2017 6:00pm - 8:00pm	5
Sharnbrook Academy	27 September 2018 5:45pm	7
St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School	2 October 2018 6:00pm - 9.00pm	7
Wixams Academy	4 October 2018 6:00pm - 8:30pm	7
Wootton Upper School	20 September 2018 5:00pm – 7.30pm	9

*Please turn over for advice on what to do next:*

## Not every school is right for every child so:

- Make an appointment to visit the school during the working day. Most schools will welcome this and it will give you a clearer picture of how the school feels, what school behaviour looks like and whether the environment feels happy and safe.
- Go to the open evening and be prepared with questions you want answered (if there isn't a chance to ask then you can always email them later). Remember this is a sales pitch and think about the consistency between what is said and what you see on your visit.
- Look at the school website. You will be able to see GCSE results for Summer 2018 (unless it is a converting Middle School and then you will only see Key Stage 2 SAT's). You will also see the extra curricular activities which are on offer and any awards that the school has achieved. There will be a link to the most recent Ofsted report and it is worth reading the summary of this; link this information with what you have seen and heard, but be cautious about **just** choosing a school based on Ofsted (schools change and Ofsted is just what a few people saw on one or two days).
- Think about your own child and what he or she is interested in. If they have a specialist interest (i.e. ICT, Music, Sport, Dance, Science etc) find out what the school can offer.
- Think about the support needs your child has (either academically or socially) and if necessary ask to speak to the Special Needs Co-ordinator or Pastoral lead of the school (have some questions ready). Consider if you feel your child would be welcome at that school.
- Ask your child what he/she thinks, but don't let them dictate a school based on where a friend is going. Friendships often change very quickly when pupils get to Secondary school and an 11 year old is not yet able to weigh up all the pro's and con's of choosing the right place for them. My advice would be not to tell them it is up to them where they go, but say "we will make the decision together and mum/dad have the final say".
- Finally remember that no school is perfect and all have areas for development. If you are feeling brave, ask the head (or senior leader who shows you around) what the school priorities are for this year; being able to talk about this openly is a good sign that the school takes continuous improvement seriously.

I hope that is of some help to you over the next four weeks, it is just advice and many of you will already have clear thoughts on how you are going to approach this. If you are still worried then please do email me on [headteacher@thehillsacademy.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@thehillsacademy.co.uk) either to arrange a chat or clarify any concerns.

**Please do get your application online completed in time in order to ensure your child has the best possible opportunity to be offered a place at the school of your choice.**

Yours faithfully

Moya Whitehead