



Secondary Transfer Admissions

Musical Aptitude Test

Children who wish to sit the Musical Aptitude Test **must** live within one of our Local Priority Areas. Please refer to our Admissions Arrangements for a list of these areas. To register for the tests parents **must** submit the Test Registration Form (TRF) to the school during the registration period as detailed on the admissions section of the school website. **Please do not send in any supporting material/certificates of aptitude/ability as we are unable to take these into consideration** Please note our Musical tests are tests of aptitude and therefore **do not** require a child to have received formal music training or have accomplished a certain grade level.

Each candidate applying under this criterion will be invited to attend a written musical aptitude test. A knowledge of musical theory is not required as these tests are based entirely on aural responses. Letters with allocated time slots for the tests will be sent out before the end of the summer term. Unfortunately it is not possible to change these designated times. **Please inform the school if you decide to withdraw your child from these tests – admissions@damealiceowens.herts.sch.uk**

Further Information about the Test of Musical Aptitude:

The test is approximately 30 minutes in duration and consists of 60 questions of four types: Pitch, Melody, Texture and Rhythm.

Pitch: for these questions, candidates listen to two sounds and have to indicate whether the second sound is the same as the first, or whether it is higher or lower. Some of the pitches are less than a semitone apart ie very close together. 20 questions.

Melody: for these questions, candidates listen to two tunes consisting of five notes. Candidates have to decide whether the second tune is the same as the first or if one of the notes has been altered. If there is a change, candidates will be expected to identify which note has been altered, by giving the number of the note. 10 questions.

Texture: for these questions, candidates listen to a number of notes played together at the same time; this is called a chord. Candidates need to decide whether or not each chord has two, three or four notes. 20 questions.

Rhythm: for these questions, candidates listen to two patterns of notes and have to decide whether the second pattern is the same as, or different from, the first, and where any difference occurs. Each rhythm will be four beats (or pulses) in length. 10 questions.

Letters with results of the first Musical Aptitude test will be sent out within 10 days of the tests taking place. Children achieving 47 marks or above will be invited to attend a second Musical Aptitude test. For this second test, each child is allocated a 5 minute slot to perform on their preferred instrument/s (voice included). There is a totally free choice of piece(s) and the child can perform on more than one instrument if they prefer. We can provide an accompanist if required or you may bring your own. There is also provision to play a cd backing track.

Test Results

Results of the second Musical Aptitude test will be sent by letter before the end of October and may be helpful to parents when making their child's school application. Parents who wish to apply for a place at Dame Alice Owen's School must include it as one of their preferences when making their child's secondary transfer application via their home Local Authority.