

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS ON BANDING ARRANGEMENTS AT CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS 2024

1. Banding supplements the admissions criteria and is designed to ensure that the school is able to admit a fully comprehensive and balanced intake from year to year. This is to guarantee a stable comprehensive school in which the school's published ethos and aims continue to be supported by a broad curriculum and the most appropriate staffing structure.
2. The purpose of the assessment is to find out in which ability band (A, B, C or D) the applicants should be placed. It is not an examination which girls can pass or fail. The assessment will be set and marked by GL Assessment. The school will then offer 30 places to applicants in each band, giving priority according to its published admissions criteria. The allocation to a band by GL assessment is regarded by the Governors as final.
3. Banding assessments take place in advance of the application deadline for secondary admissions. Sessions will run on Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 2pm and Saturday 23 September 2023 at 8:15am or 8:45pm or 12:15pm or 12:45pm.
4. Parents / carers may register online to attend these sessions from July 2023 onwards and have until Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 12pm to do so. They will be notified by email of the result of the banding assessment in advance of the secondary transfer application deadline on 31 October 2023.
5. Over the past five years, no pupil in any band has been admitted under the distance criterion from a home address of more than 1.32 miles from the school. While the banding assessment is open to all potential applicants, the school is consistently heavily oversubscribed and the test is likely to prove an unnecessary burden for any child who lives further away than 1.32 miles from the school and intends to apply under the distance criterion.
6. Banding is simply used by the school to ensure that all the classes in Year 7 are mixed ability. The assessment will involve taking several short tests, non-verbal, verbal, quantitative and spatial. This is a well tried and tested system widely used by schools for the purposes of banding.
7. On the day of the assessment session your child will be met by staff who will explain how the assessment is conducted. Your child will take warm-up test questions before each test to give them an idea of what to expect before the actual test.
7. Once the results of the banding assessments have been received, parents can decide whether or not to list Camden School for Girls on their Secondary School Transfer (e-admissions) application.
8. All music applicants must also register for a musical aptitude listening assessment in addition to the banding assessment, and subsequently (where relevant) a performance audition.