



King's Scholarship Exams change of process for 2016 onwards

In 2016 we introduced new procedures for the examinations. Prior to 2016, all candidates sat the King's Scholarship examinations at Eton. Since 2016, only part of the field has taken the examinations at Eton, the remaining boys taking the examinations at their schools.

Reasons for the change of procedures

Between 2005 and 2015 the number of candidates taking the King's Scholarship Examinations steadily rose. The 2015 examinations saw our largest ever field of 132 boys from 67 schools. With limited accommodation during term time at Eton, it was a considerable challenge to find beds for all of the boys in 2015 and we were stretched to full capacity, with around two thirds accommodated in boarding houses. Changes to safeguarding rules meant that we could no longer make use of accommodation outside of the boarding houses. For this reason we could not continue to offer beds to all the boys wishing to sit the examinations. The King's Scholarship Committee discussed at length the best avenue ahead and this prompted us to consider other Scholarship issues.

We appreciated that spending 3 days at Eton had been a valuable experience for all candidates in the past. It was therefore, with regret, that we had to introduce new procedures for the examinations in 2016. Due to the increased complexity and added administrative burden of the procedures below, an immediate consequence was that the dates of the examinations, for boys sitting the papers at Eton College, were brought forward by 2 days, starting on Sunday and not on Tuesday.

New Procedures since 2016

As in the past, boys will be asked to choose, on their application form, to apply either for a King's Scholarship, and hence a place in College, or be an *honoris causa* candidate, preferring a place in a boarding house other than College. A choice must be made on the application form and this decision will be irrevocable after the deadline of 28 February 2018. Any changes of choice must be confirmed both by 'phone and via email.

The remainder of this document applies to the King's Scholarship examination in 2018

The procedures are essentially unchanged since last year.

Boys applying for a place in College

These boys will sit the examinations at Eton. They will arrive during the afternoon of Sunday 22 April and will take an intelligence test that evening. The main examinations will take place from Monday 23 April to Wednesday 25 April. Details will, as always, be sent to both parents and school.

Honoris Causa Candidates

These boys will be required to sit their papers at their current schools. Examination papers will be sent electronically to their schools (on the day of the examination) and scripts should be returned electronically (on the same day) with all the original papers returned immediately after the final exam, to arrive no later than Friday 27 April 2018. These boys will not sit the intelligence test and instead will take their first paper, English, on the morning of Monday 23 April. You will, I hope, understand the

importance for us that all candidates, both King's Scholarship and Honoris Causa, sit the examinations at the same time of day, whether at Eton or at their own school.

Boys from schools outside the UK

Due to difficulties with different time zones, all boys at schools overseas will sit the examinations at Eton, regardless of their intended house.

The Annah Shaw Scholarship and the Martineau Exhibition

These awards will remain as before. For those candidates taking examinations at their schools, interviews for the Martineau Exhibition will be conducted via Skype at an agreed time for any boys not sitting the examinations at Eton. This will affect very few boys and schools will be informed who may be interviewed.

Schools involved with *honoris causa* candidates will be sent details about the exam procedures after the application deadline in 2018.

French and Spanish

Since 2016, we have offered a new optional paper, Spanish. Candidates may choose to take this paper instead of French. They may choose to sit neither but may not sit both. For both French and Spanish, there is no oral or listening comprehension as part of the examinations from 2016 onwards (in the main, due to logistical difficulties). Only a very small number of candidates took up the option of sitting Spanish in 2016 and 2017 and if this number is still very small for 2018, Spanish may be withdrawn in future years.

I want to reiterate that it is with regret that we cannot accommodate the whole field of candidates and we appreciate that the current system places extra burdens on our feeder schools. We are extremely grateful to schools for their assistance in these matters and will continue to review our procedures as well as the papers themselves.

Mr Marcos Salter | College Examination Secretary

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