

Entrance Exam Frequently Asked Questions for entry September 2025

How do I apply to sit the entrance exam?

All applications must be made online through North Halifax Grammar School or Crossley Heath School websites before the advertised deadline. An automated response will be sent from the email address registrationreply@nhgs.co.uk please add this to your safe senders list and keep this confirmation email safe until you have had your invitation letter to bring your child for the tests.

When do I need to apply for the entrance exam?

The registration process usually opens around April (when your child is in Year 5) and the closing date is usually in late June/early July. Registration for 2025 admissions opens on Friday 22nd March 2024 and closes on Friday 28th June 2024. All applications must be made online using the online application procedure on the Halifax Grammar Schools' websites. If you do not have access to the website contact either school office.

What happens if I miss the application deadline?

No late applications will be considered. *(please refer to Appendix 2 of our Admissions Policy)*

What happens if my child is registered to sit an Admissions Test elsewhere on the same day?

Unfortunately we are unable to offer an alternative date to sit our test. *(please refer to Appendix 2 of our Admissions Policy)*

Is there a fee?

No. There is no charge for the exam and neither school operates a fee-paying system upon entry.

When is the entrance exam date?

The entrance exam date for 2025 admissions is Saturday 21st September 2024. All applicants will be sent a letter confirming the specific timings for the day.

Is there a pre-test my child can sit?

No. The schools do not organise a pre-test. Familiarisation resources are available from our test provider <https://www.gf-assessment.co.uk/free-familiarisation> and book shops.

What does the entrance exam consist of?

There are four parts to the entrance exam: English and Verbal Reasoning, Mathematics and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

How many places are available in year 7?

The admission number for 2025 entry into year 7 is 180 at each Halifax Grammar School.

Does it matter where I live, whether I have siblings in school or whether I am in receipt of pupil premium*?

Location is not considered as we have no catchment area and take applications from all over the country. All places are offered strictly according to the order of merit your child achieves and in accordance with the Halifax Grammar Schools' Admissions Policies for allocation and over-subscription**.

Please refer to the over-subscription criteria in the Halifax Grammar Schools' Admissions Policies with regard to siblings. Parents of children in receipt of free school meals/pupil premium should ensure they identify this on the online application form and provide evidence to the Halifax Grammar Schools before the test date. The evidence should be in the form of a letter from the local authority confirming that your child is in receipt of free school meals/pupil premium.

When will I hear that I have been entered for the exam?

All applications received will be sent an automated email to confirm that the application has been received. At a later date you will be sent a letter containing full details of the test day and confirming where your child will be sitting the exam.

If my child has a recognised Special Educational Need, Disability or other Medical Requirement is this taken into consideration?

You will need to indicate this on the application form and provide a copy of your

child's diagnosis with supporting evidence from your child's current primary school (*see the Admissions Policy for further details*). The SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator) from the grammar school where your child will be sitting the test will contact you before the test date to confirm any agreed access arrangements.

Why is my child sitting the test at my lower preference Grammar School?

It makes no difference where your child sits the entrance exam. We house the children according to postcodes wherever possible. Due to the large number of applications we have to balance the numbers to ensure supervision requirements are met.

How many children sit the exam each year?

On average approximately 1200 children sit the exam each year.

What if my child is ill on the day of the exam?

If you think your child is feeling unwell leading up to the exam day, and subsequently is too ill to perform their best on the day, it is your responsibility, as parent/carer, to make the decision as to whether or not to allow them to sit the exam. If you allow your child to sit the exam and they are unable to perform to their best ability, you do so at your own risk as there is no opportunity for a re-test. Should your child not be well enough to sit the test, you must notify the school as per the Admissions Policy and provide the stipulated evidence. Should your child suffer an injury prior to the test date that may affect their performance please contact the school to discuss suitable arrangements.

What happens if my child becomes unwell during the test?

If your child becomes unwell during the test they will need to inform an invigilator as soon as possible. Your child will be unable to return to any incomplete test(s). Any tests not started can be sat at a later date.

Can my child sit a supplementary test?

A candidate can only sit the supplementary test for the following reasons;

- i) Due to medical reasons.

Where a child is unable to sit the original admissions test due to being unwell immediately before or on the day of the test and is unable to attend, the school should be informed as soon as possible as per the Admissions Policy and provide the stipulated evidence.

ii) Where a student moves into the area after the admissions test has taken place.
Evidence must be provided of the date a student moved into the area after the admissions test.

iii) Other extenuating circumstances

Will my child be disadvantaged by sitting the supplementary exam?

No. All children who sit the supplementary exam receive the same consideration and an order of merit. Please note, should there be any subsequent supplementary test once the results have been issued, the order of merit may be affected.

When will I hear if my child has got a place?

Please refer to the Admissions timeline on our website. All children who sit the exam will be sent a letter within the advertised timeline which will confirm their position in the order of merit. The order of merit is **not a confirmation of a place**. There may also be a supplementary test(s) taking place which could result in changes to your child's order of merit.

What is the pass mark?

There is no pass mark for the entrance exam. Places are allocated to the two schools according to the order of merit and in accordance with the Admission Policy for allocation and over-subscription.

What do I do once I have received my child's result?

When you receive your letter stating the order of merit, if your child has met the entry criteria (top 510 places) they are suitable for a place at either of the Halifax Grammar Schools. You must then complete your local authority's online Common Application Form (CAF), by their closing date in order to be considered further. If you wish to be considered for both of the Halifax Grammar Schools you must place both on the CAF. You must place your preferred grammar school as your first preference. If the CAF is incorrectly preferenced you may risk losing a place offered at the Halifax Grammar Schools regardless of the order of merit achieved.

When should I expect to receive final confirmation of the place offered?

All places are offered on 1st March by the Local Authority according to the preferences made on the Common Application Form (CAF). Places are offered at both Halifax Grammar Schools strictly on order of merit and in accordance with the allocation and over-subscription criteria in the Admission Policy.