Sixth Form FAQs

Years 12-13

Summary of Year 12 School Places

	Tailored Boarder	Flexi-Boarder	Day Student
Applications	Register with OSH through our online portal		
Entry requirements	Boarding interview, school reference and grade requirements		Grade requirements
Hours	Routinely stays overnight (number of nights to be determined) but can have exeats when needed	Can arrive for breakfast (7am) and stays until at least 6:30pm Monday to Friday. Can stay later. Stays over up to 4 nights per term	Arrive in time for registration which starts at 8:25am and finish after lessons at 3:45pm
Boarding facilities	Full access to all boarding facilities with own dedicated bed, storage and study space	Full access to boarding facilities Monday to Friday. Locker and desk to use for prep time etc., but not a dedicated bed	Access to Sixth Form LRC and opportunity to rent a locker
Meals and activities	All meals and majority of activities included in boarding fees	All meals Monday to Friday and majority of activities. Not at weekends unless utilising one of their four sleepovers per term	Can opt in to purchase school lunch each term and take part in trips that are organised as part of the school day, but there is no option to buy-in to evening and weekend trips or to stay overnight
Boarding fees	Yes – £14,205 pa (£4,735 per term) for 2026/27	Yes – £7,102.50 pa (£2,367.50 per term) for 2026/27	None
Breakfast/come in early Monday-Friday	Yes		No
Lunch Monday-Friday	Yes		Yes, if purchased for that term
Lunchtime clubs and activities Monday-Friday	Yes		
Tea & toast after school	Yes		No
After school clubs	Yes		Can take part in school representative activities as part of competitive sports team, orchestra/choir or academic-related activity
Prep (Homework)	Supervised prep after school		Prep at home
Supper Monday-Friday	Yes		No
Evening boarding activities Monday-Friday	Yes		No
Weekend boarding activities	Yes	Yes	No
Weekend meals	Yes	Only if one of their four sleepovers per term	No

Are you an independent school?

No. OSH is a state school and we are very proud of this fact. It is one of 34 schools in the country that offer a boarding education within the state system. We share, with all good schools in the state and independent sectors, a belief in high standards of achievement and discipline, and a commitment to providing an excellent education in the broadest sense.

Why does the School have 'hospital' in its name?

The School was founded in the seventeenth century, when the term 'hospital' indicated a charitable institution rather than a medical one. Hospital meant 'hospitality', or board and lodging. We retain the traditional name as part of our unique heritage and because we are a boarding school.

Where is OSH located?

The School is based in the West Midlands, in the town of Stourbridge. We are about 15 miles from Birmingham City Centre and there are excellent rail connections from the local station which is only few minutes' walk away from the School. We are also very close to the motorway network and just a 30-minute drive from Birmingham International Airport, or two hours from London Heathrow.

Is OSH Sixth Form open to both boys and girls?

Yes, both boys and girls can join OSH in Year 12 as either Tailored Boarders, Flexi-Boarders or Day students.

Do you have a catchment area?

No, we welcome students from all over the world so long as they are eligible. It is the responsibility of the parents of foreign national children to check that their children have a right under their UK entry conditions.

Is there a Sixth Form Prospectus?

Yes, you can find it at www.oshsch.com/sixthform

How do I register for a Sixth Form place?

You can do this by registering with the school using the online portal housed on the School's website www.oshsch.com/admissions.

How many GCSEs do I need to join OSH?

For any course of study all applicants require at least 6 GCSE at Grade 5 or above, including English and Maths. Specific subjects also have additional minimum grade requirements and the details of these requirements are detailed in our Prospectus which can be found on the Sixth Form section of our website www.oshsch.com/sixthform, and listed in our admissions policy which you can find on our website at www.oshsch.com. Grade requirements are the same for internal students and external applicants.

What if I did qualifications other than GCSEs?

For Sixth Form applicants who are not sitting GCSEs an equivalent can be submitted, and you should contact the School on admissions@oshsch.com to ascertain the acceptability of those equivalents.

What happens if I do not get the grades?

Subject to there being places available in the Sixth Form, and on the required course, candidates who applied but did not meet the entry criteria can discuss the courses they want to follow with the Director of Sixth Form and may be awarded a place or offered an alternative. This will be particularly relevant for candidates who have had their education interrupted for some reason.

How many A levels will I take?

Most of the students joining OSH at Sixth Form will follow an A level timetable consisting of three subjects.

What is the difference between Tailored Boarding and Flexi-Boarding?

A Tailored Boarder can stay at School for all or some nights in each week of term, including weekends. How many nights they stay, and which nights they stay, is agreed by parents with the Housemaster. It doesn't have to be the same nights each week, we know there will be occasions and reason for Tailored Boarders to go home from time to time, for example to attend specific sports training or clubs outside of school. Our approach to boarding is tailored to meet the needs of busy families. It can be adapted to fit around their working lives, allowing an integrated family life alongside and offering all of the benefits of boarding life. It gives the freedom to decide whether to stay over or to come and go, before and after the school day, to fit in with home life.

A Flexi-Boarder does everything a Tailored Boarder would do, with the exception of staying over regularly at the School. Flexi-Boarders are required to stay at the School up to 4 nights per term. Monday to Friday they can arrive for breakfast, take all of their meals at school, have access to the boarding house before school, break times, lunch time and after school, they do their prep at school, and can take part in the co-curricular life of the boarding community. They can also participate in weekend boarding trips if they wish and sign up in advance.

Do Flexi-Boarders get their own bed space and desk?

Flexi-Boarders will get their own locker but not a dedicated bed, as they do not sleep in school each night. They are provided with a desk to use for prep time etc.

How often can Flexi-Boarders stay over and how can we organise this?

Flexi-Boarders can stay up to 4 nights per term and nights need to have been agreed with the Housemaster in advance.

What is a boarding interview?

All Boarders, both Tailored and Flexi-Boarders, must be assessed as suitable to board. We make this assessment based on a short interview, taking up a reference from their school and considering any other information provided by parents or the Local Authority or that comes to our attention. Interviews are informal discussions, usually with the Director of Sixth Form or a Housemaster, and enquire about aspirations, values, and thoughts on potentially joining a communal living environment.

How much are boarding fees?

Tailored Boarding fees for the 2026/27 academic year are £14,205 per annum which can be paid termly or monthly. Flexi-Boarding fees are £7,102.50 per annum which can be paid annually, termly or monthly.

Fees are reviewed annually and published by the start of the Summer Term for the following September.

Are OSH fees effected by Labour's plan to add VAT?

No. This is because as a state boarding school, the UK government pays tuition fees for pupils, therefore there is no cost for education at OSH. The fees we set cover boarding activities. Boarding fees are classed as a non-business activity, therefore VAT is not chargeable.

Do Day students pay fees?

Day students do not pay boarding fees however they may, for example, opt to take individual music lessons, rent locker space, purchase printing credits, or opt-in for school lunches for a termly charge.

The items we do charge for include replacement ID cards, work experience risk assessments, and a nominal contribution toward materials costs for food technology, art and design & technology.

There is a full list on our website at www.oshsch.com/fees.

At what times will Day students be at school?

All students must arrive in time for registration which starts at 8:25am. Their day will normally finish after lessons at 3:45pm.

Can Sixth Form students leave the School premises at lunch time?

Yes, but they must sign in and out at Reception. Students who wish to have school lunches can opt-in to buy these. Payment for school lunches is via the Evolve payment system and should be done at the start of each term. Students can also have the option of bringing packed lunches if they wish.

Can students go home during study periods?

Students are encouraged to study in the Sixth Form Learning Resource Centre during their study periods. Day students have the option to study at home, with permission, if their study period is the last lesson of the day and their attendance and grades are secure. They must sign in and out at the book on Reception.

Will Day students have somewhere to store their belongings during the day?

Day students can rent locker space and details of how to do this will be given in your joining instructions.

Can Day students stay after school?

Day students cannot attend boarding activities and clubs. They can stay after 3:45pm if they are participating in activities that require them to represent the School, e.g. part of an OSH sports team or music ensemble, or attending an academic-related enrichment activities such as Public Speaking, Drama or STEM Club although these activities are more likely to take place during lunchtime.

Day students may take part in trips that are organised as part of the school academic activities, but evening and weekend trips are for Boarders and they are not open to Day students.

CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh Award are available to all students.

Do Day students have access to boarding houses?

No, Day students do not have access to boarding accommodation but they do have use of their own Sixth Form common room for break and lunchtimes in the Learning Resource Centre.

Does OSH have a house system?

There are currently three senior boys' boarding houses Foley, Foster and Potter Houses for Years 8-13, and one junior boarding house Prospect House for Year 7 boys. There are two girls' boarding houses: Dudley for Years 7 and 8, and Baxter for Years 9 to 13. Each house has a boarding house team made up of a Housemaster, a Matron and a team of Boarding Tutors. Sixth Form students are encouraged to act as mentors to the younger students.

We also have houses for competitive and representative sports, events and competitions, separate from the boarding houses, so that all the School and Sixth Form community can participate.

How do the new Sixth Form students integrate?

Students are usually invited to a Sixth Form Induction Day at the start of the academic year. This provides them with the opportunity to meet the Sixth Form team and their fellow students. There are also many other opportunities for students to become involved in the School community through co-curricular activities, volunteering and fundraising events.

Does the School have aims for boarding?

Old Swinford Hospital aims to maintain a boarding community that ensures the safety and welfare of all boarders in an environment where they can be both healthy and happy and which supports their learning. With an extensive and varied extra-curricular programme, peer mentoring and pastoral support structure every boarder should have the opportunity to thrive, be healthy in mind and body, and achieve. Boarders will enjoy a gradual increase in independence within a supportive and caring environment to enable them to develop as individuals whilst growing up in a well-ordered community.

How can I find out about financial support for boarding?

The website www.educational-grants.org will take you to a list of charities that may be able to assist and our Finance Department may also be able to put you in touch with other potential sources of support and advice.

In addition, our Foundation, depending upon the circumstances, do consider applications for grants towards boarding fees for students who have a particular need to board but where the family's financial resources cannot meet the full boarding fee. Applicants for Foundation assistance must be British citizens resident in the UK. Awards from the Foundation form no part of the admissions process and applications for these awards are not processed by the School.

Do you award scholarships?

No, as a state school we are not able to do this. Our Foundation has some financial support for students who have a boarding need, and parents and families may apply for bursarial support, but this would not cover the entire boarding fee.

Do you offer support to Forces families?

If you are entitled to claim the Forces' Boarding Schools Allowance (Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA)) you will be pleased to know that our school is on the approved list. Please note that Forces children could also be eligible for three free return journeys a year to visit their parents serving on accompanied tours overseas. OSH has much experience in the education of children from a Forces background. Indeed, our incoming new Headmaster is a former Royal Marine.

Are there any additional boarding costs I should consider?

We try to keep extra costs to a minimum and in a lot of cases these are optional services such as individual music tuition, arranging for dry cleaning, certain trips and activities. and transport costs at the end of term.

The items we do charge for include replacement ID cards, transport to medical and dental appointments, work experience risk assessments, and a nominal contribution toward materials costs for food technology, art and design & technology. There is a full list on our website www.oshsch.com/fees.

Is there a free bus service to OSH?

OSH does not provide a bus service. The School can be easily accessed via public transport and is a short walk away from Stourbridge Junction train station. Students may be eligible to apply for a 16-18 travel pass from their Local Authority. The pass will allow students to purchase child rate tickets for travel to and from OSH.

What are the timings of the School day?

Breakfast starts at 7:20am and finishes at 8:00am. Day students arrive between 8:10 and 8:25am

Registration and/or assemblies are 8:25–8:45

2 lessons until 10:45am when we have break until 11:05am

2 lessons until 1pm when lunch starts

Lunch is from 1-150pm

2 more lessons from 1:50pm to 3:45pm

Day students go home at 3:45pm

4pm evening activities for Tailored and Flexi-Boarders

5:15pm prep (homework)

6:15pm supper

7pm more evening activities for Tailored and Flexi-Boarders, plus second prep for Seniors and Sixth Form

8:30pm start of the bedtime routine for Year 7, progressing by 15minutes for each year group

Can I visit the School and would I be able to meet staff?

You are welcome to visit the School on any of our open events or by appointment for a boarding tour. Depending on the timing of your visit you will have the opportunity to meet members of the Senior Leadership Team, teachers and boarding staff, who as a team are responsible for the education, safeguarding and welfare of OSH students.

My child has SEN, how do you support them?

We have allocated resources within our SENCo team to provide support for students but we do not have any additional staffing to help on a one-to-one basis unless your child has an EHCP. This means that most pupils with SEN will be supported by Quality First Teaching in the classroom and by their teachers.

My child has a dietary requirement, can this be catered for?

Yes, absolutely. Approximately 10% of our students have some kind of dietary need, please make this known on your registration form.

What is a typical OSH student like?

There is, of course, no such thing as a typical OSH student but we are pleased that those who visit the School often comment on their genuine friendliness and the fact that they are clearly very proud of their School.

How do you define Boarding Need for admissions?

Boarding need is one of our priority oversubscription criteria for boarding places. If we have to use oversubscription criteria and you feel your child has a boarding need, you should provide evidence of that need. In determining whether or not they consider that a particular candidate has boarding need, the Governors will review each application on its own merit. In each case, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians/carers to provide the information required to enable the Governing Body to decide. In particular, the names and contact details of a person from whom the School may seek corroborating evidence must be given.

Please note, the boarding need criteria we set out is for admissions purposes. It is not necessarily the criteria used by other charities or the Foundation in determining boarding need for the purposes of making any grant towards boarding fees and each source of support will apply their own criteria in assessing grants.

Examples of boarding need for admissions purposes may be:

a) The main parent/carer is a member HM Armed Forces, is serving with a UK Government Department or international government body of which the UK is a member on terms which may include deployment overseas or frequent changes of posting within the UK, or is employed by a UK based company where they are required to frequently travel overseas or be resident overseas.

b) The candidate is the subject of a voluntary agreement between the Governing Body and a Local Authority or Charitable Trust to provide a boarding place for reasons of boarding need.

c) The candidate is in the care of a grandparent or other person, whether or not a relative, other than their natural parent, step-parent or adoptive parent.

d) The primary home is in a remote rural location where appropriate education is not available within a reasonable daily travelling distance and therefore lack social interaction with children of a similar age.

e) The main parent/career has been diagnosed with a medical or psychological condition which seriously impairs their ability to care for the candidate.

f) The candidate or their main parent/carer has been the victim of a serious crime or family circumstances, or reasonably fears that they may become the victim such an act.

Please note this is not an exhaustive list and is in no order of priority.