Aptitude Tests for Music and Sport

The tests of sporting and musical aptitude detailed below are supplemented by a group discussion. This discussion explores the candidates’ commitment to music and sport and their ideas about the place of music or sport in our school community, including the importance of setting the right kind of example and the reasons for importance of both aspects of school life.

Aptitude for Music

The test is approximately 40 minutes in duration and consists of 60 questions of four types:

**Pitch:** 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. 20 questions.

**Melody:** 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:** 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:** 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.

Aptitude for Sport

The test is approximately 45 minutes in duration and consists of six exercises:

**Agility:** Candidates begin by lying face down on the floor with arms spread. On a signal they rise and sprint a multi directional course in as quick a time as possible.

**Balance:** Candidates undergo the Stork test which tests both balance and balance endurance.

**Hand-eye co-ordination:** Candidates throw a small rubber ball against a wall and catch it with alternate hands.

**Leg power:** Candidates are asked to make a two footed vertical jump from a standing start; the height of the jump is measured.

**Speed:** Candidates are timed to see how quickly they cover a 30 metre distance.

**Stamina:** Candidates complete a short cardio vascular endurance test. We use the Harvard Step test at Year 7 and the Bleep Test for the Sixth Form

Year 7 aptitude tests take place in September/early October and Year 12 aptitude tests will take place in January. Letters with results of the Musical Aptitude and Sports Aptitude test will be sent out within 10 days of the tests taking place. For further information on these tests, including dates, please contact the Registrar, Mrs Lawson slawson@oshsch.com