**SCHOOL ENTRY PREPARATION TIMELINE**

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| CHILD’S AGE \* | YEAR GROUP | KEY DATES | REGISTRATION DEADLINES | NEXT STEPS |
| Pregnancy |  |  | Register interest for nurseries | Visit nurseries and schools |
| Birth | Register for nurseries and certain prep schools | Payment for registration fees |
| 0 rising 1 | Register for prep schools by 1st birthday at the latest |  |
| 1 rising 2 |  | Maintain interest in prep schools |
| 2 rising 3 | Autumn Term – Start nursery |  | Visit prep schools again and register interest at those which you are keen on |
| 3 rising 4 | Autumn – 4+ Assessments begin | 7+ and 8+ Registrations open on 4th birthday |  |
| 4 rising 5 | Reception | Autumn – Start school |  |
| 5 rising 6 | Year 1 |  | Think about whether 7+ is a consideration |
| 6 rising 7 | Year 2 | Spring - 7+ Entry tests | Autumn - 7+ Registration deadlines | 7+ Open days commence in the Autumn term |
| 7 rising 8 | Year 3 | Spring - 8+ Entry tests | Autumn - 8+ Registration deadlines | 8+ Open days commence in the Autumn termSummer – start dialogue with prep schools about options for senior school |
| 8 rising 9 | Year 4 |  | Start registering for boarding schools in the Autumn term | Start visiting schools, (particularly boarding schools) and building relationships |
| 9 rising 10 | Year 5 | Spring - 10+ Entry tests | Spring – Register for London top choiceSummer - 11+ boarding and 13+ deadlines | If boarding, start to look at houses in the Autumn term and state preferencesConsider scholarships in the Summer term |
| 10 rising 11 | Year 6 | Autumn - 11+ assessment days for boarding- 13+ pre-tests beginSpring - 11+ entry tests for London and boarding schoolsSummer - 13+ pre-tests and assessments continue | Autumn - 11+ London and 13+ deadlines | Visit 11+ London day schools with children in the Autumn term |
| 11 rising 12 | Year 7 | Autumn – Start 11+ entry schools- 13+ assessments continue |  |
| 12 rising 13 | Year 8 | Summer - 13+ Common Entrance exams |  |
| 13 rising 14 | Year 9 | Autumn – Start 13+ entry schools |  | Decisions about GCSEs |
| 14 rising 15 | Year 10 |  | Summer – Sixth form registration opens | Consider whether your child will change schools at 6th form |
| 15 rising 16 | Year 11 | Autumn – Sixth form assessmentsSummer – GCSE exams | Autumn – Sixth form registration deadlineSummer – If considering US universities, registration for SAT/ACT tests opens | Sixth form open days beginConsider A level choices and start thinking about universities/careers |
| 16 rising 17 | Year 12 | Summer - SAT/ACT tests for American universities- AS level exams\* (\*being phased out) |  | Plan work experience and volunteer work |
| 17 rising18 | Year 13 | Summer - A2 level and international baccalaureate exams | Autumn - US & OXBRIDGE university deadlinesSpring - UCAS deadlines | Organise gap year and/or work experience |

\*This is the child’s age on 1st September of current academic year. The cut off date for determining which year group a child will join is the 31st August. So for a child to join Reception in September they must have already turned four by the 31st August of that year.

**EDUCATIONAL YEAR GROUPS INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS**

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| CHILD’S AGE | UK SYSTEM | FRENCH SYSTEM | IB PROGRAM | US SYSTEM |
| 2 - 3  |  |  |  | PRE-KINDERGARTEN |
| 3 - 4 | NURSERY | PETITE |  |
| 4 - 5 | RECEPTION – ENTRY TO PRE-PREP SCHOOL | MOYENNE | PRIMARY YEARS (PYP) |  |
| 5 - 6 | YEAR 1 – START KEY STAGE(KS) 1 | GRANDE | KINDERGARTEN |
| 6 - 7 | YEAR 2 - 7+ | CP | GRADE 1 |
| 7 - 8 | YEAR 3 - 8+ START KS2 | CE1 | GRADE 2 |
|  |  |  |
| 8 - 9 | YEAR 4 – ENTRY TO PREP SCHOOL | CE2 | GRADE 3 |
| 9 - 10 | YEAR 5 | CM1 | GRADE 4 |
| 10 - 11 | YEAR 6 - 11+ | CM2 | GRADE 5 |
| 12-13 |  |  |
| 11 - 12 | YEAR 7 – ENTRY TO SENIOR SCHOOL / KS3 | 6IEME | GRADE 6 |
| 12 - 13 | YEAR 8 - 13+ | 5IEME | MIDDLE YEARS (MYP) | GRADE 7 |
|  |  |  |
| 13 - 14 | YEAR 9 - ENTRY TO SENIOR SCHOOL | 4IEME | GRADE 8 |
| 14 - 15 | YEAR 10 – GCSE KS4 | 3IEME | GRADE 9 |
| 15 - 16 | YEAR 11 - GCSE | SECONDE | GRADE 10 |
| 16 - 17 | YEAR 12 - AS LEVEL | PREMIER | DIPOLOMA  | GRADE 11 |
| 17 - 18 | YEAR 13 - A2 LEVEL | TERMINALE | GRADE 12 - SATS |

**GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS**

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| REGISTRATION FEE | This is the fee payable to each school at the time you register your interest with them, it is advisable to do this after visiting and as soon as possible. This fee is normally around £150 and is almost always non-refundable, regardless of whether your child is offered a place. |
| NURSERY | Nursery schools and classes provide the phrase of education suitable for children in the year before they immediately go to pre-prep schools. They are part –time, mornings or afternoons.  |
| RECEPTION | The year at which children begin school and are aged 4 rising 5 – i.e. they will reach their 5th birthday before 31st August of that academic year. This cut off (31st August) applies all the way up each year to 18 years. |
| PRE-PREP SCHOOL | As the name suggests, the main aim of ‘preparatory schools’, or prep schools, is to prepare children for entry to senior schools at 11 or prep schools at 13. Pre-preps take children from 3 or 4 and prepare them for moving on to preps at 7 or 8. |
| PREP SCHOOL | Traditionally prep schools began at 8 years and finished at 13, this is because prep schools prepared children for the common entrance exam at 13+ which would determine entrance into chosen public or boarding schools. In London prep schools have now changed to 4 - 11 in order to prepare children for the 11+ exam. |
| 7+ EXAMS | Are called 7+ as they are set for children entering prep schools at 7+ (turning 8 years of age before August 1st the following year). They will actually be taken when a child is in year 2 (age 6 turning 7). Some prep schools (e.g. Latymer) will *only* take entry at 7+ so they do *not* have another entry at 8+ (see below). |
| 8+ EXAMS | Are called 8+ as they are set for schools taking entry at 8+ (8 turning 9 years of age before August 1st the following year). They will actually be taken when a child is in year 8 (age 7 turning 8), and is the last entry point for senior school (e.g. Westminster Under, Colet Court, Wetherby Prep). |
| 11+ | The 11+ is the entrance exam procedure for senior schools which begin at 11 years of age (rather than 13). Taken in year 6, exams happen from November - January in general. Many independent day schools (girls’, boys’ and co-ed) set and mark their own 11+ exams and their candidates have usually not been pre-selected. However, some independent schools, especially in London, have formed themselves into consortia so that your child sits one exam which is then used as an application to a group of schools, and most give out their results at the same time – usually in February. Many schools set their own practice papers and often publish them on their website. |
| COMMON ENTRANCE (CE) | Common entrance (usually shortened to CE) is the name of the examination taken for entrance into some senior independent schools at age 11 (usually girls) or 13 (boys and girls).  |
| 11+ CE | The 11+ CE examination is used mostly by girls’ boarding schools. It consists of papers in English, maths and science and is most often taken in the autumn or spring term of year 6.  |
| 13+ CE | 13+ exams are usually taken at a child’s current school, in either November or June of year 8 (the year prior to entry).As a general rule, CE candidates have already been offered a place at the relevant senior school subject to their passing these exams. Answers are marked by the senior school according its own grade boundaries. There are different levels of paper to suit the ability of the child and the academic profile of the senior school.  |
| GSCEs | Most children embark on a two-year GCSE course, and are usually encouraged to take a broad base of subjects including: English, maths, science, a modern foreign language, a design technology subject; humanities, and the Arts. Often business/vocationally orientated subjects such as business studies, economics, media studies, and ICT are offered. Social sciences: psychology, sociology are popular in some schools as are Latin, Greek and Classical studies. Virtually all GCSE's have a compulsory coursework element worth between 20% and 100% of the marks. Children usually make their GCSE option choices in Y9 following extensive consultation with the school, their parents and teachers.  |
| A LEVELS | All A levels are now unitised rather than based on a final exam. An A level course usually consists of a mix of Advanced Subsidiary (AS) awards taken at the end of the first year of A level study and A2 courses in the second year. Students can choose when to cash in their awards. Success at A2 should enable a student to matriculate for university study. |
| INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) | An increasing number of schools are offering the IB as an alternative to A levels (e.g. Kings College School) and a few schools offer the IB only. (e.g. international schools) A handful of schools in the UK, usually those offering an American style curriculum offer IB from a younger age. The International Baccalaureate also known as International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is for students aged 16 – 18; IBMYP, the middle years programme of the International Baccalaureate is for children aged 11-16 and IBPYP is the Primary years programme of the International Baccalaureate - for children aged 3 to 11. |
| SATS | Short for the American Scholastic Aptitude Test, which determine entrance to US universities (unlike British universities that look at GCSEs, AS results, and/or predicted A2 level marks. In order to sit SATs you must register (there is a charge for taking these exams) at least two months in advance of the exam date. This is done through the College Board website ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)). SATs are offered half a dozen times a year at a surprisingly large number of places around the UK. |