



HYMERS COLLEGE

Information for Job Applicants

1. General Information

The Reverend John Hymers, Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge and Rector of Brandesburton, a village 10 miles north of Hull, left money in his will for a school to be built "for the training of intelligence in whatever social rank of life it may be found among the vast and varied population of the town and port of Hull". Hymers College opened in 1893 as a school for boys. Although the school has remained true to its Founder's intentions, the catchment area now stretches from Scarborough to Grimsby and Scunthorpe, and the school has been fully co-educational since 1989. The school is an independent day school and the Headmaster is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC).

Hymers College is recognised as one of the leading schools in the northeast for its academic, sporting and musical achievements. Pupils and ex-pupils, parents and staff often highlight the all-round education, the friendly and relaxed atmosphere within an ordered framework, and the relationships between staff and pupils that are found at Hymers.

The Governors vision for the school in the 21st century is that it will maintain an emphasis on excellence in all that it does, will provide a broad education that will enable our pupils to become well-rounded and balanced people, will continue to offer outstanding value for money to parents, will contain as wide a social base as fee-remission funds will permit, and will incorporate new ideas and facilities when appropriate. They are committed to a process of continuous improvement in services and facilities, funded by healthy annual financial surpluses and in recent times by several substantial legacies and benefactions. Priorities are reviewed regularly.

2. Pupils

Hymers College consists of a Junior School of 216 pupils aged 8-11 and a Senior School of 771 pupils, with 222 in the Sixth Form. The Junior School has an entry of about 66 into Year 4, divided into three classes, which are then topped up to classes of 26 with a small intake into Year 5. All applicants take entrance examinations. At 11+, nearly all Junior School pupils move into the Senior School along with another 35 from outside to create four forms of 27. Approximately 12-15 new pupils come into the school in Year 12. The boy/girl ratio in the School as a whole is 55/45.

Hymers College has always sought to take a wide social cross-section of pupils. With the loss of the Assisted Places scheme the Governors decided to fund a Fee Remission scheme from annual fee income that allows children whose parents are unable to pay the school fees to attend – at present around 100 do so.

One of the great strengths of Hymers is the excellent relations that exist between the pupils and their teachers. This was something highlighted by the school's last ISI Inspection (2008) which said, "*unaffected, straightforward and trusting relationships between pupils and with their teachers are manifest in every area of daily life, and a major strength of the school*".

3. Location and Facilities

The school stands in over 45 acres of beautiful grounds, a mile from the centre of Hull. The original building still forms the core of the school, but many buildings have been added. Recently a theatre, additional science laboratories and Sixth Form Common Room have been built. The purchase of additional land allowed us to expand our games pitches and to build new tennis courts and a flood-lit all-weather pitch. In the last six years a magnificent replacement Junior School has been built, and a Sports Centre, including a 25 metre swimming pool opened last year.

There are three computer rooms in the Senior School and one in the Junior School. The Modern Languages Department has a state-of-the-art computerised language laboratory. In addition to the new laboratories, there are plans to refurbish other science laboratories. A sports hall and gym provide indoor sporting facilities.

The school has ambitious plans for two new developments in the coming years, namely a Learning Resource Centre and a new Science Block.

4. Academic

Hymers College is very proud of its academic standing. Results consistently show we are one of the highest achieving schools in the North East. In 2009 Hymers was ranked in the Top 20 of co-educational independent schools in the country for its GCSE results by The Times newspaper.

The A level and GCSE results place Hymers College as one of the top co-educational schools in the country. This year 47% of students taking A Levels gained a Grade A. A total of 73% achieved A or B grades, and no fewer than 32 of this year's cohort achieved 3 Grade A's. Five students gained places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. At GCSE 37% of the grades were at A* (a school record), and 68% at A* and A combined with a pass rate of over 98.1%. No fewer than 8 pupils gained a full sweep of A* grades.

We do not take Key Stage 2 and 3 SATs.

5. Extra-curricular

Extra-curricular activities are an important part of school life at Hymers. Pupils are encouraged to engage in the wide range of extra-curricular activities that is offered and high standards are achieved. Large numbers of pupils sing in choirs (at present several pupils are members of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain) and play in orchestras, and Hymers is renowned for its music. Drama is facilitated by the excellent Judi Dench Theatre. Sport is also strong: the main school sports are rugby (football in the Junior School), cricket, tennis and athletics for boys, and hockey, netball and tennis for girls. Other sports are also available including swimming, fencing, badminton and dance. In recent years a good number of schoolboy rugby and schoolgirl hockey international players have been produced, and several fencers have also represented Great Britain. The school has also had tennis, athletics, hockey and netball teams reach National Finals in recent years. There is a flourishing voluntary Army Cadet Force (ACF). The Duke of Edinburgh Award is strong at all levels and Young Enterprise is very popular and successful with Year 12 students.

6. Pastoral and spiritual

The religious tradition of the school is Christian, but children of all faiths or none are welcome. The pastoral system is based on form teachers and Heads of Year, and much emphasis is placed on ensuring that pupils are happy and fulfilled.

7. Staff

The teachers are well qualified, experienced and enthusiastic. There is a good age-range. Many teachers contribute towards the extra-curricular activities programme.

8. Governors

There are 19 governors who represent a wide cross-section of the business, legal and academic interests in the area. Some are parents or ex-parents and some are Old Hymersians. The main work of the Board is carried out by committees and working parties, most of which meet termly and all of which the Head attends. Members of the Senior Management Team attend the Governors' Academic Committee meetings. The Governors are very committed and fully appreciate the ethos of the School and the demands of running a school.

9. The area

Kingston-upon-Hull is a pleasant city with many open spaces and parks. The surrounding towns and villages are popular commuter areas and are situated within easy reach of beautiful countryside. The University of Hull, with which we have good connections, is situated within two miles of Hymers College. House prices in the area are low compared to the national average. There is a good transport network, which makes travel to all parts of the country easy. There are many excellent sporting and cultural activities in the area in which many members of staff are involved.

10. Further details

The school was inspected in February 2008 and the final report is available on the ISI website. Further details about Hymers College may be found in "The Independent Schools' Year Book" and on the school's website – www.hymerscollege.co.uk

The Headmaster would be delighted to discuss the school or answer any questions over the phone (01482 343555) or by email at dcelstone@hymers.org

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