LAWRENCE SHERIFF SCHOOL
RUGBY

ADMISSIONS TESTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR YEARS 7-11
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS
2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

If you require a paper copy of this document, the Admissions Policy or the test enquiry form, please contact the school – details are at the end of this document. Thank you.

Please note that the process below relates to entry to Years 7 to 11 during the 2026-2027 academic year. Applications for entry to the Sixth Form during the 2026-2027 academic year should be made directly to the school by emailing sixthformapplications@lawrencesheriffschool.com.

Admission to any school outside the usual age of transfer can be quite complex and take some time to complete, and at Lawrence Sheriff School (LSS) we are usually over-subscribed in Years 7-11. Even where students are of a comparable academic standard to their peer group, it will usually be necessary to lodge a formal appeal for admission to the school. It is therefore important that parents factor in the long timescales involved in the process when planning to apply for admission to the school.

Please be aware that the vast majority of applications and appeals are unsuccessful, even where a pupil has achieved the qualifying standard, as the school is normally full in each cohort. Parents/Carers are strongly advised contact the school in advance of making an application to enquire whether there are any places available, as this may help you decide whether to proceed with testing.

For context: for entry to Year 7 in September 2025 46 appeals were lodged, the vast majority of which had exceeded the qualifying standard, but only three were successful.

Parents/Carers who wish their sons to be considered for entry in September 2027 can apply for their sons to be tested during the 2026-2027 academic year, but should not submit the formal application to Warwickshire County Council (or their own LA, if appropriate) until late June 2027.

Admission to the school for Years 7-11 will normally take up to three stages:

- Firstly, formal testing of the student to assess their academic ability. [Please note: students who have previously been tested for admission will not be re-tested.] Parents/Carers may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Anyone considering making such an application for any year group should read Warwickshire County Council's document entitled 'Guidance notes relating to the education of children outside of their chronological year group' and complete the relevant forms, which can be found on the Warwickshire County Council

website https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-school-place-reception/deferringstartingschool/2, and submit them to the school **before** applying for testing. The child will be tested in accordance with the arrangements set out in the policy and an admission decision taken based on the circumstances of the case and with reference to the best interests of the child, in line with the School Admissions Code (2021).

  - The standard date of birth ranges for each year group are at the end of this document.
  - The admission testing enquiry form is available from the Admissions section of the school website www.lawrencesheriffschool.net.
  - Hard copies of any documentation and assistance for anyone without internet access are available – please contact the school directly, if required.
  - The contact details for Lawrence Sheriff School are at the end of this document.

- Secondly, a formal application for admission. LSS is part of the local authority's in-year co-ordination scheme for the period from 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2027, so depending on the results of your son's testing you may choose to lodge a formal in-year application through the relevant Local Authority Admissions Service (Warwickshire County Council for Warwickshire residents, but if you live outside Warwickshire you should contact your own local authority in the first instance).

  - The contact details for the Warwickshire Admissions Service and the link for the formal application information/forms are at the end of this document.

- Thirdly, it may be necessary to lodge an appeal. If the school is not able to offer a place then parents may wish to consider lodging a formal appeal to an independent panel who will consider whether the pupil should be admitted to the school. Details of the appeal process and contact information will be included in the decision notification letter to parents if a place cannot be offered. **However, as the school is heavily over-subscribed, please be aware that the vast majority of appeals are unsuccessful, even where a pupil has achieved the qualifying standard.**

Stage 1 - Testing Arrangements

How to apply for testing

1. If the pupil concerned is in Year 6 and looking for admission to LSS at the start of Year 7 you will need to contact the Admissions Service at Warwickshire County Council in order to register your son for the 11+. They will be able to explain your position with regard to the testing, waiting list and appeals systems. If you are applying after the deadline for registration you will be considered a late applicant. The contact details for the Warwickshire Admissions Service are at the end of this document.

2. If the pupil concerned is currently in Year 7 **AND** is aged under 12 years and wishes to apply for a transfer to Year 7 at LSS, then you should contact the Admissions Service at Warwickshire County Council in order to register your son for the 11+. They will be able to explain your position with regard to the 11+ testing and the appeals system. The contact details for the Warwickshire Admissions Service are at the end of this document.

3. If the pupil concerned is currently in Year 7 **BUT** is aged 12 or over then the 11+ test will be used if the test date is on/before 31 December 2026 and you should contact the Admissions Service at Warwickshire County Council to register him for that test. If the test date is on/after 1 January 2027 he will be tested by LSS to establish whether he is of comparable ability to students currently in Year 7. The LSS test will be in English and Mathematics (details below). You will be notified of the outcome of these tests in writing within twenty school days of the test date. The contact details for Lawrence Sheriff School are at the end of this document.

4. If the pupil concerned is currently in Years 8, 9, 10 or 11 then he will be tested by LSS to establish whether he is of comparable ability to students currently in the relevant year group. There will be tests in English and Mathematics (details below). You will be notified of the outcome of these tests in writing within twenty school days of the test date. The contact details for Lawrence Sheriff School are at the end of this document. However, before applying for entry to Years 10 or 11 you should contact our Exams Office to check the compatibility of your son's current GCSE studies with the LSS curriculum. Differences in subjects and exam boards could make any transfer even more challenging for your son and may affect your decisions as to which schools you wish to consider for your son's education. Please be aware that even if an option subject is offered by LSS, if the subject is already full then your son will not be able to study that subject.

Please note that testing is only available locally – the school does not carry out testing abroad if students are currently overseas.

Test Details

- **11+ Tests** – Warwickshire County Council will provide you with information about the test date and arrangements. Details of the 11+ test are available in the school's Admissions Policy, available on the school website www.lawrencesheriffschool.net (please ensure you read the policy that is relevant to the academic year into which you are seeking admission).

- **LSS In-house tests** – For those students who are being tested by Lawrence Sheriff School, on receipt of a test enquiry form our Examinations Officer will contact you to notify you of the date and time for your son to sit the tests, which will consist of English and Mathematics papers. **There are regular termly testing sessions scheduled to be held in September, November, March, May and July. No testing will take place during the public examination season.** However, if students are seeking immediate admission because they have moved into the area and are not currently placed in a school then additional test sessions will be scheduled for those students, if necessary. **The test details are as follows:**

    - **Total testing time – 2 hours 15 minutes**
    - **English (60 minutes) – Reading Comprehension (interpretation questions) and Writing (one essay)**
    - **Mathematics (72 minutes) – a non-calculator paper (36 minutes), followed by a calculator paper (36 minutes)**
    - **Papers are based on the National Curriculum expectations for the year group**
    - **There is a short break of 5 minutes between each paper**
    - **Parents will be reminded about the timing and nature of the tests approximately two weeks prior to the test date**

- **You will not be supplied with any past papers** as the tests are intended to ascertain whether your son is of a comparable standard to other students in his year group. No additional preparation is needed for these ability tests. **The papers will be marked and moderated in school.**

- **Please note that this process will take some time to complete**. You will be notified in writing of the outcome of the tests within twenty school days of the test date.

Stage 2 – Application to the Local Authority Admissions Service

Depending on the results of the testing, you may wish to proceed with an application for admission. Parents are strongly advised to contact the school to ascertain whether places are available in the relevant cohort before applying. To apply you will need to contact the Admissions Service at Warwickshire County Council if you are resident in Warwickshire (or your own Local Authority if you live

outside Warwickshire) to make a formal change of school application through the in-year co-ordinated scheme (details for Warwickshire are at the end of this document).

The application will be put to an admissions panel for consideration if your test results are already known and you will be notified of the outcome within fifteen school days of the application being made.

In the event that an application is made where your son has not been tested for admission you will be notified of the test date within fifteen school days of the application being made and your application will only be put to an admissions panel when the test results are available.

If your son is offered a place at Lawrence Sheriff School, he must start at the school within four school weeks of the offer being made, otherwise the place will be withdrawn.

However, even if your son is deemed to be of a comparable standard to our existing students, if the admissions panel decides his admission would prejudice the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources we will be unable to make him an offer of a place. If we are unable to offer you a place then you will be notified of your right to lodge a formal appeal.

Stage 3 – Lodging a formal appeal

You can lodge a formal appeal by contacting the Admissions Service at Warwickshire County Council to discuss the appeals process and obtain the relevant forms. Warwickshire County Council will establish an independent appeals panel to hear your son's case within thirty working school days of the receipt of the formal appeal papers (not from the date of your enquiry). **In the event that your son is offered a place at LSS on appeal, he must start at the school within four school weeks of the offer being made, otherwise the place will be withdrawn.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS/CARERS TO CONSIDER

REGRETTABLY, THE VAST MAJORITY OF APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL, EVEN WHERE A PUPILS HAS ACHIEVED THE QUALIFYING STANDARD, AS THE SCHOOL IS NORMALLY FULL IN ALL COHORTS.

Whilst all the stages of the process will be completed as quickly as possible, if your son is offered a place there may be a long period of time between you first contacting Lawrence Sheriff School and your son starting here. If your son is not currently placed in a school you should therefore consider applying to other schools to enquire about the possibility of him taking up a place pending the outcome of the testing, application and appeals processes. If your son is admitted to another school this will have no bearing on the appeal decision, but will provide him with some continuity in his education.

I hope this information is of use to you as you make arrangements for your son's future. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Miss March (PA to the Headteacher).

MRS T MPOFU
Headteacher

Standard Date of Birth Ranges for 2026-2027:

Year 7: 1 September 2014 – 31 August 2015
Year 8: 1 September 2013 – 31 August 2014
Year 9: 1 September 2012 – 31 August 2013
Year 10: 1 September 2011 – 31 August 2012
Year 11: 1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011

Contact details for the Admissions Service at Warwickshire County Council:

School Admissions
Education Services - Business Support
Business and Customer Services - Resources Directorate
Warwickshire County Council
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick
CV34 4UL

Tel: 01926 414143
Email: admissions@warwickshire.gov.uk
Website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions

Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme information: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoollacriteria
Admission out of age group information and form: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-school-place-reception/deferringstartingschool/2
Change of School information and form: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/moving-schools-within-school-year

Contact details for Lawrence Sheriff School:

Miss C March
PA to the Headteacher
Lawrence Sheriff School
Clifton Road
Rugby
Warwickshire
CV21 3AG

Tel: 01788 843700
Email: lss@lawrencesheriffschool.com
Website: www.lawrencesheriffschool.net

The LSS Admissions Policy and Admissions Testing Enquiry Form are available on the school website www.lawrencesheriffschool.net under the Admissions section.