

*Head Start
Education and Tuition
2022*



*“A Commitment to Achievement;
Maximizing Your Child’s Potential”*

*Poppy Lodge, London Road, Loudwater, Bucks, HP10 9TJ
Tel: 01494 452025*

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Head Start programme of study for the 11+ Grammar School selection process.

Introduction

Education has never been more important. Young people now choose to study for longer periods, and to study a more diverse range of subjects. In a competitive society parents are increasingly aware that it is essential to ensure that their child has a firm footing on the education ladder.

Recently, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, pupils across the country in the crucial developmental primary school years, are also now at a significant disadvantage, having lost hundreds of hours of contact time with their teachers in the classroom. A report by the IFS predicts that “by the end of the pandemic, most children across the UK will have missed over a year of normal, in person schooling... more than 5% of their entire time in school”. The IFS also predict that the future cost of this could mean “a loss of £40,000 in income over their lifetime”.

Head Start is pleased to offer a comprehensive and structured programme of study in preparation for the Grammar School Selection Examinations, specifically designed to reflect the curriculum and examination requirements set by Bucks County Council and provided by GL Assessment. Whilst there is fierce focus on Verbal and Non-verbal Reasoning, time management, exam technique and strategy – subjects not taught at school – that is just half of the syllabus. The other half, consisting of Maths and English, follows that of the National Curriculum, covering and reinforcing key aspects of numeracy and literacy taught at school. Beyond this we devote a lot of effort into mentoring and fostering the correct mindset and approach towards all aspects of their studies at school and in the home.

Naturally, a Grammar School is not suited to every child. However, at Head Start we believe that every child should be given the chance to try and maximise his or her full potential. With over 25 years as an established educational institution, preparing students for 12+ and 11+ examinations, and over forty years of practical and specialist teaching experience, we believe that we really make a difference, giving your child the ‘Head Start’ required to succeed at secondary school and beyond.



The Head Start Difference

Meeting Your Child's Specific Needs

*At **Head Start** we are devoted to the aim of meeting your child's specific needs. Due to the small class sizes, your child is given individual attention whenever it is needed. Furthermore it is our job to identify your child's needs and address them accordingly.*

*At **Head Start**, we value parental contribution highly. No one knows your child better than yourself – By passing the knowledge you have of your child on to us, we can get to know your child better and hence implement the most appropriate teaching techniques tailored to their specific needs. We therefore enjoy a superb collaborative relationship with all parents and we are happy to talk to you about any concerns you may have. On our Summer Schools we have '**parent open days**' and an official presentation at the end of the week to acknowledge your child's efforts and achievements.*

The Head Start Staff

*We are very proud of the high standards we set ourselves at **Head Start**, and equally as proud of the excellent results achieved by our pupils. To maintain the standards of **Head Start**, it is our policy to only recruit the **very best** teachers. To teach in such a specialised field, it is a prerequisite that all members of the teaching staff meet the very specific requirements needed to work for **Head Start**.*

You can be assured that our staff are of the highest calibre, lead by experienced Head Teachers, working within the current education system at top educational establishments. All of our teachers are caring, experienced, interesting, entertaining and efficient, and every one devoted to your child's individual and specific needs.

The Latest Techniques

Head Start has always been at the cutting edge of new learning techniques. The *Head Start* team has the ability to implement the most advanced teaching methods at its disposal whenever appropriate.

'Edu-Kinesiology'

'Edu-Kinesiology' is a technique that we specialize in at **Head Start**. *'Edu-Kinesiology'* or *'Brain Gym'*, is a group of activities which help our nervous system and hence the rest of our body and mind, to work more efficiently and effectively. The activities have the effect of removing *'learning blocks'* consequently increasing ability, while decreasing stress and frustration.

'Brain Gym' exercises encourage *'whole brain learning'*, which helps better functioning. You can do *'Brain Gym'* exercises anywhere – at home, in the car, in the classroom, in or before an exam – and whenever you want to improve your child's performance. Learning becomes easier and quicker, the brain works better and can control the rest of the body more effectively. Pupils don't have to concentrate so hard and learning new facts and skills can become enjoyable. Pupils can perform activities that they never thought were possible.

Enjoyment

Head Start is, of course, committed to achieving exceptional results. However, we believe first and foremost, that children must enjoy the entire learning experience if they are to achieve their best. It is not our style to make your child study rigorously at a desk without a break. We realise that children have a limited attention span when it comes to learning and in order to want to work hard they must get the chance to play hard.

At break times we offer a number of different activities for the children, ranging from sports to more quiet interests. We are lucky enough at **Head Start** to have staff that are qualified in a variety of different activities including football, athletics, cricket, dancing and drama. As well as creating an atmosphere and ethos conducive to work, **Head Start** is also a very social environment, where the children get a chance to meet different people and make new friends.

Care and Safety

Care and safety are of the highest priority at **Head Start**. There is always both a male and a female member of staff present at all times. First Aid equipment is always on sight and a number of staff possess certificates in first aid and child protection.

The Head Start Formula

“A commitment to achievement; maximizing your child’s potential”

Head Start has been established as an institution for 25 years and has over 40 years practical experience of 11/12+ examinations and procedures. Our mission statement at Head Start is “A commitment to achievement; maximizing your child’s potential”. As such, our courses have been carefully devised and fine-tuned over those 25 years, to deliver on that mission and specifically meet the needs of a prospective grammar school student. Our 11+ pass rate is always exceptionally high and we are committed to achieving excellent results.

The objectives of our programme are as follows:

- 1. To deliver a comprehensive and well-structured programme of study that firstly introduces each child to the concepts and question types encountered in the 11+ exam and secondly; develops and extends on their understanding through extensive practice and familiarization throughout the year with our own specially designed and written test papers and course material.*
- 2. To provide opportunities for in-depth and insightful assessment and analysis of each child’s academic ability, potential and attitude and the reporting of such, by way of our unique Assessment Courses, Assessment Report and exclusive, bespoke Mock Tests.*
- 3. To enable your child to complete the examination paper within the time allocated and, furthermore, to consistently achieve a mark that will secure a Grammar School place through greater understanding of the concepts and improved examination technique.*
- 4. To foster and encourage a positive mindset towards examinations and ensure that your child approaches the 11+ with confidence, self-assurance and determination to perform at their best and fulfil their true potential.*
- 5. To provide supplementary education, tuition and support for key skills and concepts within maths and English, covered in the National Curriculum, to raise each child’s numeracy and literacy levels to...*
- 6. Provide a solid educational foundation and a **Head Start** for your child to succeed in secondary school education and beyond.*

The Head Start Programme of Study

“Eight phases of unique and intensive education at its best”

Our programme of study is split into three terms; Michaelmas (Autumn), Hilary (Spring) and Trinity (Summer). It begins in October at the beginning of the academic year and runs continuously through to the 11+ exams in the September at the beginning of the next academic year. The programme consists of...

- ✓ *27 weekly classes, up to 2.5 hours long, spanning the academic year from October to July*
- ✓ *Two Mock Test sessions consisting of 4 mock tests in all disciplines within the 11+*
- ✓ *The 2-day Learning & Assessment course consisting of 16 hours contact time and 3 exams*
- ✓ *The 5-day Summer School consisting of 40 hours contact time, over 26 hours of tuition and 7 exams in July and August.*
- ✓ *Four 3-hour long revision sessions consisting of 12 hours contact time and 6 exams in August and September.*

Within the three terms, there are eight ‘phases’ of study (plus the Mock Tests), designed to stimulate learning and development of a deeper understanding through our own inimitable teaching styles. This constitutes a thorough, structured and well-balanced programme of study throughout the year that will significantly improve your child’s prospects of success...

Michaelmas

Phase 1 – ‘Introductory’

*This first phase of eight stepping-stones to success, introduces your child to the **Head Start** programme, the fundamental elements of each of the 11+ disciplines, the question types they are likely to encounter, and the basic skills required to answer them, as well as introducing lateral thinking to develop a greater foundation for their preparations later on in the course programme.*

Since the switch back to GL Assessment as the provider of the 11+ assessment in 2018, the curriculum has doubled in size and scope to include the traditional GL Verbal Reasoning element (pre-2012) in addition to the Maths, English Skills and Non-Verbal reasoning elements introduced by CEM (2012-2017). Due to the sheer amount of time required to cover all of the question types the children are likely to encounter, this phase is no longer an optional extra but a fundamental part of the course of study to ensure your child is adequately prepared for the year ahead.

*This phase is also an opportunity for our staff to get to know the character of your child and their specific learning requirements at an early stage of the course. Equally we believe that it is very important that your child has the chance get to know us and to familiarise themselves with the structure of **Head Start** classes whilst developing the necessary attitude to learning required to succeed in the 11+.*

This Phase is listed as ‘AM ONLY’, however if you wish to attend a PM class this can be arranged so please call us to discuss.

Hilary Term

Phase 2 & 3 – ‘Preparatory’ and ‘Foundation’

These phases are designed to familiarize your child further with the essential elements of the 11+ and to build on the basic knowledge and skills gained on the Introductory Phase in such a way so as to allow your child to successfully implement what they have learned directly to the 11+ question format. Classes take the form of 2.5hr sessions with worksheets focussed on developing the children’s ability in each particular question type within each section of the 11+, supported by a weekly homework programme that reinforces what they have learned in class, improving their memory retention. We also work on the ‘visceral’ elements of the 11+ curriculum – general knowledge, vocabulary, basic numeracy and English skills etc – all of which are often neglected by schools but are vital to success in the 11+, giving them the necessary preparation and foundation for the phases that follow.

Phase 4 – ‘Two Day Learning & Assessment’

This is an extremely important phase of the programme. On this course, the children are introduced to the notion of working against the clock and are taught the essential strategies required to help them manage time effectively. At this stage the children are also introduced to the multiple-choice answer format in the current 11+ selection procedures, and the format of the 11+ tests themselves. They also learn fundamental exam technique and strategy that will help them to approach and complete the test as efficiently and effectively as possible, in a way that will help maximize their ability and potential.

*A large part of the two-day period is devoted to working through and familiarizing the children with the various types of questions and learning the appropriate methodologies and skills required to find the correct solution to the problems presented. The children will work through the exhaustive **Head Start** practice and familiarization booklet which will introduce them to and familiarize them with, every question type encountered in the 11+ and our Assessment tests. The children will take a 50-minute Preliminary Test, which acts like a mock test at the end of Day 1, which will familiarize them with the test format and prepare them for the rigors of the 2-test Assessment the following day. It does not count toward their final Assessment result but gives us a reference point when analysing and interpreting their performance in the Assessment Tests and thus their overall ability and potential.*

The culmination of the two-day session is the Assessment examinations, set and conducted in the standard 11+ format, with the children taking one test in Verbal Skills which tests their verbal reasoning and English skills; and a second test of maths and non-verbal reasoning. These tests are typical of what the children can expect in the 11+ in regard to style, format and content.

The Assessment results and subsequent analysis will be compiled in a detailed report for your interest to aid in your decision making and how to guide your child in the months leading up to the 11+ and beyond.

This course has historically been held at Easter, however, with the increased demands of the GL syllabus, we recognize the need to provide such an assessment earlier on in the year. We are pleased therefore to offer parents this course in the February half term as well the Easter holiday, giving you and us more time to act on the results and more flexibility in terms of planning your holidays.

The Head Start Assessment Report

The 'Assessment Report' has been finely tuned over the 25 years that we have been providing education and tuition for the 11+ and 12+ examination procedure. In providing you with this report, we aim to give you comprehensive and thorough feedback on your Child's current ability and learning potential; a snapshot, if you will, as to how your child would perform in the 11+ at that moment in time. The report forms a vital component of our assessment process and is the most effective way of communicating our thoughts and expert opinion to you as to how your child is doing together with a realistic prediction as to how your child may perform in the 11+ later on that year. This will hopefully aid in your decision making on how to guide your child in the months leading up to the 11+ and beyond, at school and at home.

The Assessment report will include...

- ✓ *A table with breakdown of each of the tests with the total score; the score for each element of the test (maths, English skills, verbal & non-verbal reasoning), and score for each question type to help you identify specific areas of strength and areas for focus and improvement.*
- ✓ *A comprehensive written analysis by and feedback from our tutors as to your child's performance over the two days of assessment*
- ✓ *A graphical representation of your child's results and their performance in each of the elements over both tests*
- ✓ *A projection of the score your child is likely to achieve in the 11+ based on their performance in class and the exams, and the time remaining until the 11+*

Trinity Term

Mock Tests'

'The Head Start Assessment without the learning'. The Mock Tests are ideal for giving your child a taste of what to expect in the 11+. Children can attend one or both of the sessions on offer and will encounter two test papers written by and exclusive to Head Start Education and Tuition at each session, under examination conditions similar to that of the 11+. The tests will be similar in style and include content at a similar level of difficulty to that expected of the GL Assessment Tests that your child will experience in the 2022 Buckinghamshire 11+ selection procedure. You can think of the Mock Tests as a 'rehearsal' for the 11+ and, as such, play a crucial part in reducing the element of uncertainty and unfamiliarity that comes with taking the 11+ without any previous experience or practice. It also allows us and you to gain yet more insight into the areas of the curriculum where your child is strong or where they need to devote further attention, which is highlighted in our Mock Test Report and sent to you following the Mock Tests.

Phases 5 & 6 – ‘Progression’ & ‘Extension’

These sessions are designed for children whose parents would like their child to have a more protracted period of study so as to enable them to develop the knowledge and skills introduced during previous phases. In Phase 5 and beginning of Phase 6, we continue with the process of practise and familiarisation, reinforcing what has been learned previously, revisiting question types for a second and, where necessary, third time to give the children the opportunity to build upon, progress and extend their knowledge and understanding achieved during previous phases. This provides the continuity of learning and consequent growth of self-confidence so essential for success. We also place a heavy emphasis on exam strategy and time management with timed worksheets and, during Phase 6 in particular, mini tests written exclusively for our programme of study which allows the children to hit the ground running at Summer School.

Phase 7 – ‘Summer School’

*Our very first course 25 years ago; the renowned Head Start Summer School is now our ‘flagship’ phase of study and the heart and culmination of the entire **Head Start** programme. Please see our separate Summer School insert for more information.*

Phase 8 – ‘Revision’

The Revision phase takes place immediately prior to the examination period, helping to maintain the momentum built at Summer School, providing our students with a ‘running head start’ as they approach the 11+ tests. The phase is comprised of four 3-hour classes and carefully structured to provide a comprehensive revision of everything learned to date.

*Over the four sessions, the children will take six revision tests under exam conditions and go through every question they got incorrect with the guidance of our teachers. This process is invaluable as it ensures that our students not only retain the many vital skills and knowledge they have acquired in preparing for the 11+, but also provide an opportunity for them to fine-tune those skills and fill any remaining gaps in their knowledge and understanding that may be identified and address any issues that may arise. This is also the last opportunity for them to receive our infamous **Head Start** pep talks; to be reminded of all the important expert advice given to them previously and of course, for them to ask our experienced teachers any final questions about any aspect of the upcoming exams.*

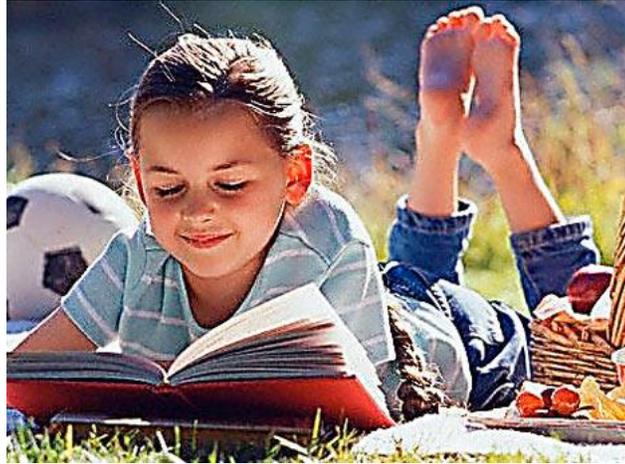
This course is conducive to a ‘leave no stone unturned’ approach and getting the children ‘match fit’ and ‘raring to go’ for the challenge that lies ahead. It is during this phase that children can gain that extra confidence needed to perform at their very best so is vital at such a pivotal stage of their 11+ preparations.

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Although we strongly advise your child’s attendance on all phases of the programme, you may consider certain phases more relevant than others. With our flexible programme structure and payment options, we can, of course, accommodate your individual requirements. If you have any queries or would like to know more about the phases of the programme and what we can offer, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Head Start

Five-Day Summer School



*The renowned **Head Start Summer School** is where our story first began; with a dozen or so students attending a week-long intensive course with our School Principle – Mrs Gray - alongside a top head teacher and verbal reasoning specialist in 1995, to help them fulfill their potential and achieve the best result possible in what was then the 12+. 25 years later, this is now our ‘flagship’ course; the heart and culmination of the entire Head Start programme of study. It is our most popular phase and whilst it has grown and developed substantially, it has been carefully reviewed and refined over 25 years and still upholds the strong principles and ethos at its heart established all those years ago; a commitment to achievement, maximizing your child’s potential.*

Your child will attend the school over a period of five days receiving almost 30 hours of intensive tuition, designed to help prepare them to recognise, tackle and answer successfully, the full range of question types that are typical of the 11+. This is achieved through a detailed and exhaustive explanation of technique and strategy and on-going examination practice conducted under realistic examination conditions. There are a total of seven examinations taken over the five days that form the basis for learning, as well as familiarizing your child with the testing procedure and helping to build the stamina required to take the two-test format used for the 11+ itself.

We also place a heavy emphasis on the attitude the children take towards preparation for and the examination itself. The overall ‘vibe’ of the course is one of fun, positivity and encouragement whilst promoting the importance of working hard to maximize potential and achieving to the highest level possible. Whilst academic excellence is the goal, we encourage a ‘work hard play hard’ ethos with opportunities to play team sport and games during recess periods and planned extra-curricular activities throughout the week. This is to encourage the children to develop a positive and healthy mindset toward the 11+; of the process being a competition through which they can strive for and achieve excellence whilst retaining an element of fun and enjoyment. Each day also carries a specific theme towards that aim to promote success not just through working hard but the entire spectrum of exam preparation including mental attitude, application, sleep, diet etc.

At the end of the week there is a presentation and award ceremony to recognize the achievements of the children in both curricular and non-curricular elements of the course. This is also a chance to give you the parents an overview of what the children have done throughout the week and advice on how to proceed after completion of the course, to maintain and improve on the levels of attainment and momentum achieved over the five days as they look toward the 11+ itself. This is followed by an opportunity for parents to view the work undertaken throughout the week, take notes and speak to our tutors to obtain feedback on attitude, application and specific areas to work on.

*Our **Summer School** is inimitable and unique in every aspect. It is a crucial element of our programme of study and is in our opinion **vital** to your child's overall preparations and their ultimate success in the 11+ and beyond.*

Timetable, Dates & Fees

Michaelmas Term

Phases 1 – Introductory

Time	10:00 – 12:00 (AM only)	2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd Oct <i>and</i> 6 th , 13 th , 20 th 27 th Nov
Fee	£220.00 + £100.00 deposit (8 x 2hr classes)	

Hilary Term

Phases 2 & 3 – Preparatory & Foundation

Time	10:00 – 12:30 (AM) OR 13:00 – 15:30 (PM)	Jan 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th , Feb 5 th & 12 th <i>and</i> March 5 th , 12 th , 19 th & 26 th , April 2 nd
Fee	£450 + £100 deposit (11 x 2.5hr classes)	

Phase 4 – Two-Day Learning and Assessment

Time	10:00am – 17:00pm	Weds 23 rd & Thurs 24 th Feb OR Tues 12 th & Weds 13 th April
Fee	£210 + £100 deposit (2 x 7hr days)	

Trinity Term

Phases 5 & 6 – Progression & Extension

Time	10:00 – 12:30 (AM) OR 13:00 – 15:30 (PM)	April 30 th , May 7 th , 14 th & 21 st <i>and</i> June 11 th , 18 th , 25 th , July 2 nd , 9 th & 16 th
Fee	£400 + £100 deposit (10 x 2.5hr classes)	

Mock Tests

Time	10:00 – 12:30 (AM Only)	1 st June (Tests 1 & 2) and/or 2 nd June (Tests 3 & 4)
Fee	£60 per session or £100 for two	

Time	10:00 – 12:30 (AM) OR 13:00 – 15:30 (PM)	23 rd July AM (Tests 1 & 2) 23 rd July PM (Tests 3 & 4)
Fee	£60 per session or £100 for two	

Phase 7 – Five-Day Summer School

Time	10:00am – 17:00pm	Week 1	25 th – 29 th July
		Week 2	1 st – 5 th August
Fee	£475 plus £100 Deposit (5 x 7hr days)	Week 3	8 th – 12 th August
		Week 4	15 th – 19 th August

Phase 8 – Revision

Time	10:00 – 13:00 (AM) OR 14:00 – 17:00 (PM)	24 th , 25 th , 27 th August & 3 rd September NB: course includes all four dates
Fee	£190 plus £100 deposit (4 x 3hr classes)	

Course Fees and Payments Options

Course Fees

The course fees are split into an initial deposit payment of £100.00 for each course which is required to secure your child's place, and then the remaining balance which is due 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the course. This gives parents the opportunity to register for the courses they would like their child to attend in advance without having to pay the entire cost up front, allowing peace of mind that their place is secure and financial flexibility to 'pay as you go' on the remaining balance.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Deposit*</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Cost/hour</u>
Phase 1	£100.00	£220.00	£20.00
Phases 2 & 3	£100.00	£450.00	£20.00
Phase 4	£100.00	£210.00	£22.00
Phase 5 & 6	£100.00	£400.00	£20.00
Mock Tests	£60.00 or £100.00	-	-
Summer School	£100.00	£475.00	£16.40
Phase 8	£100.00	£190.00	£24.00

Payment Options

Advanced Programme Payment Discount

If you would like to enrol your child for the entire year and pay all the fees in advance, you will be entitled to a **10% discount of £265.00**. This is the most cost-effective option, reducing the total cost of the course from **£2645.00** to **£2380.00** and gives you peace of mind that everything is booked and paid for in advance.

Advanced Deposit Payment Discount

If you would like to register for the entire year and pay just the deposit portion of the course fee, you will be entitled to a **discount of £150.00**. This reduces the total deposit payment from **£700.00** to **£550.00** and the total cost of the course from **£2645.00** to **£2495.00**. This option gives you the peace of mind of securing your child's place on each course but retain some financial flexibility with the ability to 'pay as you go' on the remaining balance of each course throughout the year*.

Priority Registration Holding Deposit

If your Child is not yet in Year 5 but you would like to register them to the school in advance, you can do so with a priority registration holding deposit of £100. This £100 will secure your child's place at the school for the year they are due to take the 11+ and will be credited to any term or course you wish for your child to attend*.

Pay Monthly

If you would like to pay for the course in monthly instalments, please let us know and we can arrange this for you. This option is only available if you register for the entire programme of study. The advanced deposit payment with discount of £550.00 will be due in advance followed by 12 monthly instalments of £165.00 from September to September of the academic year*.

<u>Payment Option</u>	<u>Advanced Payment</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Total Discount</u>
All courses in advance	£2380.00	£0.00	£265.00
All deposits in advance	£550.00	£2095.00	£150.00
Pay Monthly	£550.00	12 x £165.00/month	£115.00
Priority Registration	£100.00	TBC	TBC

Complimentary Head Start Study Pack

All children registered for the year in advance will receive a complimentary Head Start study pack on the first week of Phase 1 including; Head Start notepad, zip wallet, stopwatch, A4 folder with dividers, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener and rubber to equip them for their studies with us throughout the year.

Recommend a Friend!

*Throughout 2021, to celebrate the School's 25th year, we are delighted to offer a £25 recommend-a-friend discount to all parents of students registered in our 25th course of study. For every customer you introduce to **Head Start** you can claim £25.00 from the cost of any of our courses - Just ask your friends to mention your referral when they apply. You can recommend as many people and claim the discount as many times as you like!*

11 PLUS TUITION
COURSES & INTENSIVE
SUMMER SCHOOLS

**HEAD START
EDUCATION**

**RECOMMEND
A FRIEND ...TO *Head Start***

AND RECEIVE A
£25 DISCOUNT
FROM ANY PHASE OF STUDY

Limited by places only

**Please note: The deposit portion of the course fee is not optional and non-refundable.*

Frequently Asked Questions

How big are your classes?

We like to keep our classes small at Head Start. There are great benefits to a classroom setting but we feel it is important to keep the numbers per teacher relatively low. Our average class size for the year 2020 was 9 children per class, with the maximum number of children per class never exceeding 12 even on our most popular courses. We also have support tutors who will work in the classroom on a 1-2-1 basis where necessary giving an average of 4.5 students per teacher in the classroom. This gives the perfect balance between group dynamics and personal 1-2-1 attention.

What is the cost of the entire programme of study?

*If you attend all courses throughout the year and pay as you go, the total cost is £2645.00. A **10% discount of £265.00** is available if you pay for all course fees in advance at the beginning of the year, reducing the total cost of the programme to **£2380.00**. Alternatively, if you would like to sign up to all courses and pay just the deposit portion of the fees, you can do so and you will be eligible for a **discount of £150.00**. **This will allow** you the peace of mind of securing your child's place on each term/course but retain financial flexibility and 'pay as you go' on the remaining balance of each course throughout the year. This option reduces the total cost of the programme to **£2495.00**.*

Can my child attend a later phase of study if they haven't been to Head Start before?

Whilst we encourage it, it is not necessary to attend all phases. Our programme of study is designed to give parents flexibility to choose which courses to attend as dictated by their personal circumstances, such as the ability and specific needs of their child, availability outside of school, finances, childcare arrangements etc. Your child will always benefit from more time with us and so we encourage you to attend as many of our courses as possible, but previous attendance is not a requirement for future attendance on a single phase.

Do you set homework?

Yes but it is not compulsory for students to complete it. Every child is different; and every school and every teacher is different too and, thus, how much extra work at home a child can cope with will vary from one child to the other. We believe therefore that as parents, you are best to decide the right workload for your child and whether you feel it is appropriate for them to complete the homework we set. Rest assured though, the option is there and the homework we give will be designed to reinforce what has been taught in class as well as developing those visceral aspects of the 11+ preparation such as vocabulary, general knowledge, basic numeracy skills, writing etc.

Do you have a Year 4 class?

Yes we do! We offer a comprehensive five-step programme for anyone wishing to enrol in classes for their child in Year 4. Coming to us prior to the year 5 course brings many benefits including but not limited to, advanced exposure to and familiarisation of the 11+ and priority reservation for our Year 5 course i.e. If your child attends in Year 4, you will automatically be reserved a place for Year 5.

My Child is not taking the 11+ for a few years. Can I sign them up in advance?

Yes. If your child is in Year 2 or 3 you can pay an advanced deposit payment of £60.00 which will guarantee your place on any Phase. This £60 is then credited towards the cost of any Phase which you wish your child to attend.

Can I register my interest without booking a course?

Yes. If you aren't quite ready for your child to begin tuition with us but would like to register and receive emails, notifications and updates etc on our programme of study, you can register your interest on our website and join our mailing list. This won't secure you a place on any course but will make sure you don't miss out on crucial information and this will make the registration process a lot easier when you are ready for your child to join.

How do I book more course once I have registered?

Once you have registered you can simply go to the website and fill in a form to request any additional phases you didn't sign up to on registration.

Do you offer 1-2-1 tuition?

In addition to our weekly and holiday group classes, we are able to offer 1-2-1 tuition with a select few of our Head Start teachers. This is usually alongside what your child will be doing with us in the classroom, in order to address specific academic needs and concerns. Please contact us to arrange

Head Start Education and Tuition

'The Parents Say'

Over the 25 years of Head Start Education, we have received hundreds of letters of thanks from pupils and parents that have experienced what Head Start has to offer. The following comments are a selection of those taken from letters sent to us by Parents.

"I initially had my doubts about putting Thomas in for the summer school week as it was a financial consideration for us. However, I have to admit that Thomas exceeded my best hopes during that week. He began the week achieving quite mediocre scores, but by the end of the week his score was 83%! With the help of you and your team he really pulled out all the stops during that week and I feel it was worth every penny. Moreover, during the week his self-esteem grew and he realised that he was capable of passing the exam."

Mrs J F Ojakovoh

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the positive help and encouragement during the Head Start Summer School. Yasmin came away with increased confidence and showed great improvements on time management. She enjoyed the week and liked all the teachers. The Head Start Summer School, we believe, contributed in a big way towards her ability to achieve the extra marks she needed to pass the exam."

Mrs Ann-Charlotte Stahl

"I have been very pleased with the tuition that my daughter received and am similarly delighted with the progress my son is making at the moment in Head Start classes. The tutors place a strong emphasis on Positive Mental Attitude and on building confidence in the pupils. This is fundamental to their approach. The tutors are very methodical and they communicate well with parents. The sessions are long (10.00-5.00 days) in the holidays but the tutors are very sensitive to the children's needs and they make the learning fun and interactive. Pupils are taught in groups in regular term time Saturday morning and afternoon classes which are two and a half hours long. The school is well organised and they follow up pupils after they have taken the 11+, wishing them well in their future studies; Very pleasant and caring. Highly recommended; my daughter definitely passed because of Head Start."

Mrs Allison Child
'The Good Schools Guide'

** Further letters and testimonials from both parents and pupils can also be viewed on our website.*