



Tips for Secondary School Interviews

Remember, the point of the interview is for them to learn about you, as well as for you to learn about them! Above all else, be yourself.

Possible questions/areas you should be prepared to talk about:

- Describe yourself, or how would a friend, teacher, parent describe you. (They might get at this by asking other questions, like whom you admire or if there is an event in your life that had a significant impact on you.)
- What are you studying in school? (Be ready to talk about this, including some specifics.) Your favorite subject? Why? (They might ask you to describe yourself as a student, because this is what they are trying to find out. They may also ask about your least favorite subject and why.)
- Tell us about a book you recently read and enjoyed, and why.
- What are your outside interests? (Be ready with details about specific activities, hobbies, and interests. This is your chance to share what you can contribute to the school!)
- If you could change one thing about your school, what would it be?
- What values/beliefs/attitudes about school will you take away from CRS?
- If applying as a boarder, why? What will you miss about living at home?
- If it is a single sex school, how do you feel about this?
- Do you have any questions? (Be ready with some questions about what you are really interested in.)

Some general pointers:

- Be positive and open-minded about the school you are visiting. This includes being ready to ask questions about it. Keep all doors open, even if you think it is doubtful that you will actually attend that school. Never communicate, either verbally or with body language, that you are not really interested.
- Present yourself in as positive a light as you can. Remember, you can put positive spin on almost anything. Be prepared!
- Find out if the school has a dress code and/or look in the viewbook to see how most kids dress. Dress one notch up from that standard.
- Use the tour guide to get a student perspective on life at the school. FYI, tour guides also give feedback on their impressions of applicants.

- At the beginning of the interview, stand up, smile, and shake hands firmly. At the end, thank the interviewer for their time! You should also follow up with a thank you note – either an actual note or an email.
- If you are doing a virtual interview, use Zoom to your advantage and choose the setting for the interview carefully – are there things on the wall behind you that can say something about you – our own artwork, or pictures of musical instruments, etc.

Additional Questions Students have reported getting in interviews over the past few years:

What kind of grades do you get?

How is the interview process going?

What class would you like to drop and why?

What will you bring to our school?

How has “Charles River School” changed your life?

What would you miss about CRS?

Do you think Community service should be a part of a high school program? What role do you see community service playing in schools?

****In addition to being prepared for the interview, some schools may ask you to do some writing during your visit. They may give you a couple of prompts and ask you to choose one to write about for 15-20 minutes. Be ready for this too.**