

4 New Square: what are we looking for?

Set out below is a list of the qualities which we consider makes a good pupil and, consequently, a future tenant at 4 New Square. During your interview(s) we will ask you questions designed to elicit whether you have these qualities. However, you may want to give some thought as to how you can demonstrate these qualities to us. Perhaps you have a job where you have had to work with some particularly difficult people or perhaps you organised and took responsibility for an event at University - and this job, or this event, has meant that you had to work out the right course of action and then persuade others to follow your lead. What was the outcome?

1. Intellectual Ability

- We will be considering the applicant's performance in university and school examinations. However, whilst academic excellence is important, it is not the only thing we consider.
- We recognise that applicants will be at different stages in their legal education and so we will not be testing the applicant's legal knowledge.
- The applicant does need to be able to assimilate information and marshal an argument on both sides of a debate. Having done that, the applicant then needs to be able to hold a line when discussing an issue – being prepared to make concessions or persist with their argument as appropriate.

2. Advocacy

- We will be looking to test the applicant in both written and oral advocacy.
- The applicant needs to be able to absorb information, work out what is at issue and identify the best course of action to take. The applicant then needs to be able to present the information accurately, coherently and in an accessible way. When new information is provided, the applicant needs to assess the impact of it and judge how best to use it.
- Finally, the applicant should be able to write and present in a persuasive manner where necessary, listening and responding to points which are made against them.

3. Personal Qualities

- The applicant needs to be able to exhibit that they are both independent and capable of working as part of a team. In either case, the applicant needs to take complete responsibility for the accuracy and quality of their own work.
- The applicant should exhibit the highest standards of integrity at all times.
- Finally, we are looking for an applicant who has the grit and determination to achieve their goals.

4. Motivation to succeed at the Bar

- What steps has the applicant taken to find out what it means to be a barrister?
- What skills does the applicant think he/she will require and how have they gone about acquiring them?