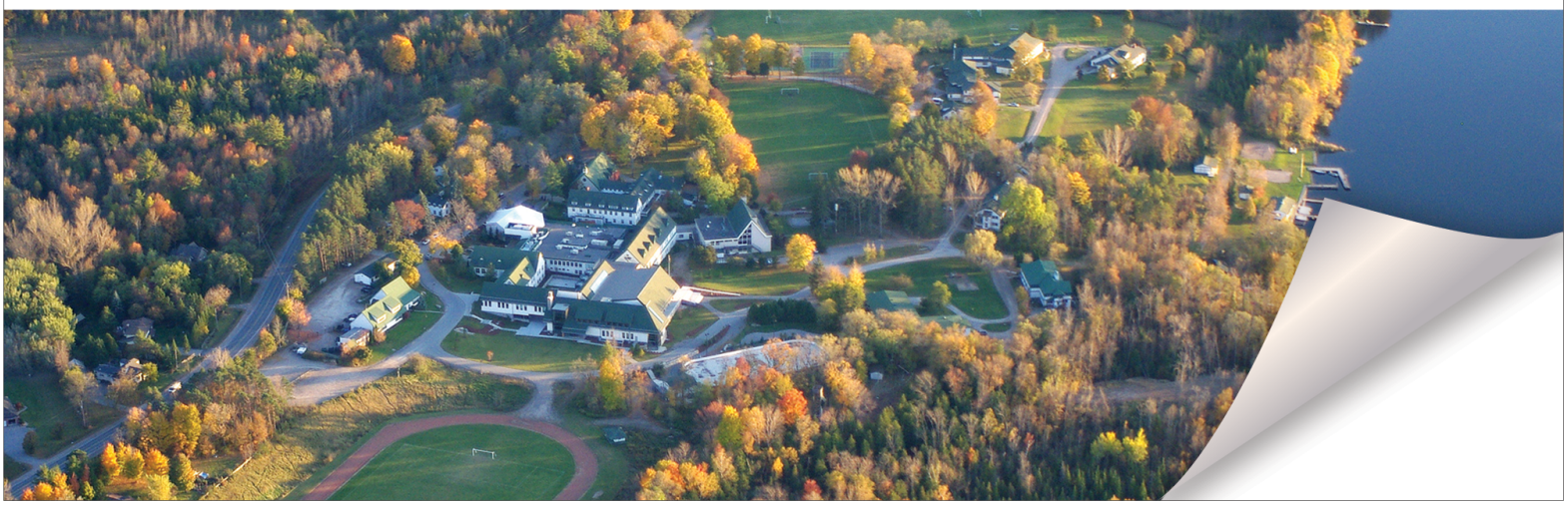
9 Key Questions to Consider for a Campus Tour

A free guide to help you prepare to learn more about private schools

LIKE NO OTHER
LAKEFIELD
COLLEGE SCHOOL



9 Key Questions to Consider for a Campus Tour

A free guide to help you prepare to learn more about private schools

For some families, attending an independent school has always been part of their educational planning. For others, investigating unexpected educational pathways represents a new and exciting (and possibly overwhelming) undertaking. As you begin the school search process, it's important for families to know that there are no questions too big or too small. In fact, it's best not to leave any questions unanswered to make sure that your chosen school provides everything you're looking for.

Regardless of your previous experience with private day and boarding schools, taking an in-person or virtual tour is a great way to learn more about a school and provides an important opportunity to make sure that all of your questions are answered. For example, does the school provide the academic, artistic and athletic opportunities that are important to your family? Can students pursue enrichment activities and, just as importantly, access teachers during non-teaching times to seek further clarification on a recently introduced concept?

To help you prepare for your in-person or virtual campus experience, Lakefield College School has provided this helpful guide with some key questions that you may consider asking before, during and after your school visit.

Questions to Consider Before Your Campus Tour:

Even before stepping foot on campus or attending a virtual event, there are some questions worth considering and asking.

1. First, many independent school campuses can be big (and sometimes feel overwhelming)! Many schools have hundreds of acres of property with buildings spread across the grounds. If you're not explicitly told where to go once you arrive on campus, don't be shy in asking for directions on how to find the reception area (and where to park).
2. Find out who will be touring you. Will it be a student, teacher or someone from the Admissions team?
3. Depending on the type of school you're exploring —day, boarding (or day and boarding) — you might want to ask if you can specifically be toured by a day or boarding student so that you can learn more about the experience you're most interested in.
4. If there is a specific person you would like to speak with (e.g., teacher, coach, etc.), make sure to ask before your visit. This way, the school can tailor the tour to your individual interests.
5. This next question can be asked at any point during your school search but is a great way to gain information before your campus experience. Ask if you can be connected with a current family to learn from their experiences with the school.

On-campus and Virtual Tour Questions:

Before getting to more questions, one key piece of advice when investigating a new school is to make sure to think about your specific areas of interest in order to find out if the school can help you to further explore your passions. A good way to approach this is to think about your current school and make a list of things that you love and things you wish it provided. That will give you a good base for questions you may want to ask.

A few additional questions to consider:

1. Many schools welcome students from just down the street, across the country and from around the world. Consider asking how the school helps to create a sense of community when there are students with diverse worldviews and backgrounds?
2. Given how much pride staff and students have in their school, you might want to ask if your tour guide would change anything about the school if given the chance. What would it be and why?
3. Now, if you're ready to hear a student speak excitedly about their school experience, ask them what they love about their school and about how they've developed, academically and personally, through their time at the school.
4. High school should provide many opportunities for students to develop skills, gain confidence and find their voice. Ask if there are opportunities to provide feedback to the school and how the process works (this goes for student and parent feedback).
5. You'll likely find a lot of information about academics, the arts and athletics on a school's website, but nothing beats asking a school about what makes their school special. It's even better if you have an opportunity to ask a student about the programming, academic and co-curricular, that they are involved in. This way, you'll get a chance to see the school through their eyes.
6. Many schools are strategic about how they structure their day. Consider asking about the daily schedule and if there are elements of it that were created with student learning specifically in mind.

Follow-up Questions:

Okay, you've been to campus or have taken part in a remote school event. Now what?

7. Given how much education can impact future life opportunities, let alone how much time students spend at school, school should *feel* comfortable —like a home away from home. Ask yourself how the campus and community made you feel? Can you see yourself as part of the school community? If, after visiting, you're already excited to have another chance to return to campus or ask additional questions, that's a good sign!
8. Following your visit, make a pros and cons list of the school. Ask yourself, which row won out? Answering this question will help you to determine if you should dedicate time to join the community by completing the admissions process.
9. Did you have all of your questions answered? If not, schools love to hear from families. Never feel shy about asking follow-up questions. It could be anything from asking about tuition assistance or scholarship opportunities to asking for a school calendar, and everything in between.

Students and staff love to share experiences and stories about their school; however, there may be some questions that a student tour guide doesn't know the answer to. If that's the case, save that question for when you have an opportunity to connect with a staff member. Occasionally, staff members aren't sure of an answer to a question.

That's okay too. We love new questions! You should find that when this happens, the staff member will track down a response as soon as they can. Oftentimes, this may require a follow up phone call or email from the school to relay the requested information. This ongoing back and forth communication is part of the typical admissions process and helps the school get to know you and ensures that your family feels excited and prepared for the upcoming school year.

That's all for now. We hope that this guide helps you feel even more prepared to start exploring schools and inspires you to consider many more questions. It would be our pleasure to welcome you to campus for an in-person or virtual visit to answer all of your questions personally.

Schedule your tour of LCS today by emailing: admissions@lcs.on.ca.

If you have any questions about the admission process at LCS or the school in general (and we hope that you do), please contact us at admissions@lcs.on.ca.

Have fun as you explore independent schools!

The LCS Admissions Team