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11+ scholarship policy and procedure

This policy explains the procedure by which boys are selected for a senior school scholarship.

A scholarship is an award presented by senior schools to boys who demonstrate exceptional ability either academically or in some other field, for example, art, design technology, sport, music or drama. The offer of a scholarship normally also includes a reduction in the senior school fees. Although the reduction in fees might not be overly generous, a boy who has been offered a scholarship might then be eligible for a means tested bursary. At The Mall we see the scholarship programme as an additional opportunity to challenge our most talented and able pupils.

Academic scholarships

Academic scholarships are normally awarded by senior schools following the 11+ entrance exam. All candidates sit the same papers. Depending on the senior school, the assessment will usually include English and Maths but can also include verbal or non-verbal reasoning tests. Where a candidate achieves high marks in comparison to the other pupils sitting for that senior school he will be invited back for an interview. An academic scholarship is then awarded based on performance in the 11+ assessment and at interview.

Non-academic scholarships

Non-academic scholarships may be offered by senior schools in art, design technology, drama, music and sport. Other non-academic scholarships are offered. Parents should look at the website of the relevant senior school to see what scholarships are available. Boys can be entered for more than one scholarship.

The Headmaster will discuss with parents in Year 4 and 5, when he meets them to discuss senior school options, whether a boy can be considered for a non-academic scholarship. The following is a guide to the standards boys usually need to have met in order to be considered for a non-academic scholarship:

Music: a boy can play two instruments, one of which must be at a minimum of Grade 4 standard with the second at least Grade 2. Singing may be included as an instrument.

Sport: a boy plays regularly for the 'A' team in three out of the four main school sporting disciplines: football, rugby, cricket and swimming.

Art: a boy has independently produced a portfolio of work and demonstrates commitment and ability in school lessons.

Design technology: a boy has independently produced a portfolio of work and demonstrates commitment and ability in school lessons.

Parents should contact the Headmaster in writing if they are applying for a non-academic scholarship. If a boy meets the relevant criteria then the Headmaster will write a reference for the senior school. Senior schools may also request references from outside bodies, which parents should send separately. The Headmaster has the final decision on whether the school will support a boy's application for a scholarship award.

Parents are responsible for submitting the scholarship application form directly to the senior school and, where required, the associated references from outside clubs or organisations. The Mall will provide a separate Headmaster's reference, which will be sent directly to the senior school.

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