CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

Aim

1. Scholarships at Christ's Hospital recognise and celebrate outstanding ability, achievement and potential across a range of disciplines. Awards may be offered in academic (general), art, music, drama and sport. Scholarships recognise pupils who demonstrate exceptional talent, intellectual curiosity, commitment and the potential to make a significant contribution to the academic and co-curricular life of the School. Scholarships are awarded on merit following a competitive assessment process.

Scholarship levels

2. Scholarships at Christ's Hospital are awarded at several levels to recognise differing degrees of excellence and potential.
   - **Bluecoat Scholarship** – the highest level of scholarship awarded by Christ's Hospital, recognising exceptional ability and potential.
   - **Subject Scholarship** – awarded to candidates who demonstrate a very high level of ability and potential within a discipline.
   - **Joint Scholarship** – awarded where a candidate demonstrates excellence across two disciplines.
   - **Exhibition** – a distinction recognising notable talent and promise, usually a fixed monetary award.
   - **Housey Scholarship** – an honorary scholarship recognising outstanding contribution or potential. Housey Scholarships do not carry a financial award.
3. Scholarships that carry a financial element normally provide a fee remission between 5% and 25% of fees. Where a scholar also receives a means-tested bursary, the scholarship remission is applied as a percentage reduction to the assessed fee.
4. The school reserves the right to determine the number and level of scholarships awarded in any given year.

Points of application

5. Scholarships may be applied for at the school's main entry points.
6. Candidates applying for entry between Year 7 and Year 10 are automatically considered for an Academic Scholarship based on their performance in the school's entrance assessments.
7. Candidates may apply for a maximum of two discipline-based scholarships from the following areas: art; music; drama; or sport.
8. Scholarship awards normally continue throughout a pupil's time at the School provided that the expectations of scholars are met.
9. Internal candidates may apply for sixth form scholarships, including any one academic subject or a maximum of two scholarship disciplines from academic, art, drama, music or sport; this is the sole scholarship application point available to pupils once they have joined the School. Current scholarship holders will not be reassessed for scholarships.

Application process

10. Applicants must submit the Scholarship Application Form by the published deadline. Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.
11. Applications should include appropriate evidence of achievement, experience and commitment in the relevant discipline. This may include portfolios, performance records, references or other supporting materials.
12. Full details of the application process and submission arrangements are published annually as part of the admissions process.
13. Candidates who do not meet the School's entry requirements under the Admissions Policy will not proceed in the scholarship process.

Assessment process

14. Applications are reviewed by the relevant Heads of Department. Not all applicants will be invited to the next stage of assessment.
15. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a Scholarship Assessment Day.
16. Assessment typically includes a combination of practical assessment, interview and discussion of submitted work. For illustrative purposes assessments in the disciplines may involve:
    - art: drawing exercise; interview and portfolio discussion;
    - drama: group exercise; performance of two contrasting monologues;
    - music: audition piece; interview;
    - sport: cardiovascular test; movement patterns; group sports assessment; interview.
17. Academic scholarships are awarded primarily on performance in the School's entrance assessments, with additional papers or interviews where required. Sixth Form Academic Subject Scholarships are assessed through a 90-minute examination paper in the relevant discipline, based on GCSE content with scope for extension.

Determination of awards

18. Assessment papers and performances are marked, graded and ranked. Heads of Department then submit recommendations to the Assistant Head (Academic), who presents proposals to the Scholarship Awarding Committee.
19. The Scholarship Awarding Committee consists of:
    - the Head;
    - Assistant Head (Academic);
    - Assistant Head (Scholarships);
    - Finance Director; and
    - Director of Admissions and Marketing.
20. The Committee considers departmental recommendations and determines the level and type of scholarships to be awarded.
21. All scholarship awards are approved by the Head. The decision of the Head is final in all scholarship applications.
22. Successful candidates will be notified in writing of the outcome and the level of award.

Acceptance of an award

23. Parents and scholars must sign and return the Scholarship Agreement confirming that they understand the expectations and conditions of the award:

    "We hereby declare that we have read and understood the terms in the award letter by which Christ's Hospital has granted a scholarship and understand that the arrangement depends on continued hard work and commitment to study generally and, where relevant, to the particular discipline for which the scholarship was awarded."

24. Scholarship holders must study the relevant discipline (where specified) and commit fully to the expectations of the department. The award is conditional upon continued commitment, effort and engagement with the discipline for which the scholarship has been awarded and with the wider academic life of the school.

Expectations of scholars

25. Scholarships recognise excellence and potential and carry expectations of sustained commitment and engagement.
    Scholars must:
26. demonstrate sustained commitment, progress, and contribution within their awarded discipline and to the wider life of the School;
27. study the relevant subject at the appropriate stage, including GCSE for art, drama, music, or sport scholars;
28. must maintain high academic standards across their studies where an Academic Scholarship has been awarded;
29. contribute fully to associated activities, such as rehearsals, performances, ensembles, productions, fixtures, training, exhibitions, competitions, and academic enrichment.
30. act as ambassadors for their discipline and for the school.
31. Sixth Form Scholars are required to:
    - meet the automatic entry threshold for sixth form;
    - Academic Scholars: study the relevant A Level subject for both years;
    - demonstrate sustained commitment and contribution to the department in which the scholarship is held;
    - Drama and Art Scholars: study the corresponding subject for both years.

Continuation and review

32. Continuation of a scholarship award is conditional upon the scholar demonstrating sustained commitment, progress and contribution in the relevant discipline, to the satisfaction of the Head of Department, Assistant Head (Academic), or Assistant Head (Scholarship).
33. Where concerns arise regarding a scholar's performance, conduct or commitment, the school will normally follow a staged process. This may ultimately result in the withdrawal of the scholarship.

34. Informal Concerns Stage: initial concerns will be addressed through an informal meeting with the scholar to outline the areas of shortfall and set clear targets for improvement. A letter will be sent to parents summarising the concerns and agreed goals.
35. Stage 1 Concern: if insufficient improvement is demonstrated, the matter will escalate to a Stage 1 Concern. A meeting will be held with the Head of Department and the Assistant Head (Scholarship) to review progress, set revised goals, and establish a formal review timeline.
36. Should the scholar meet the targets set at Stage 1, the concern will be considered resolved. If concerns persist, the matter will proceed to a Stage 2 Concern.
37. Stage 2 Concern: if concerns continue, a further meeting will be held with the Head of Department and the Assistant Head (Scholarship). At this stage, the scholarship will be withdrawn, and parents and the scholar will be notified in writing.
38. Scholars who discontinue the academic subject linked to their scholarship award must expect to have the scholarship withdrawn.

Related policies and documents

Below is a list of other policies that should be read in conjunction with this policy:

- Admissions Policy
- Bursary Policy

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