

ST MARGARET'S
SCHOOL

Scholarships & Bursaries





The Scholarship Programme at St Margaret's

At St Margaret's we believe in a broad programme of education that allows each individual pupil's talents to flourish. Our scholarship programme allows us to identify pupils with particular promise in a wide range of disciplines and put them on a pathway to success, giving them access to experiences and opportunities which will allow their talents to grow.

Our scholars are not just academic high-flyers: they are sports stars, passionate musicians, budding scientists, committed artists and enthusiastic actors. Any prospective pupil with an interest in these areas is warmly encouraged to apply for our scholarship programme. Scholarship assessments take place at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

Older scholars in the Sixth Form play a particularly important role in the life of the School, providing leadership in their chosen discipline throughout the School. They will normally lead a society and assist with the programme of events which runs for younger scholars. These are prestigious roles offering the chance to develop important leadership skills.

Annual Scholars' Presentation Evening

At the end of each academic year, scholars and their parents will be invited to attend a scholars' presentation evening. This evening is an opportunity for scholars to present to their peers, exploring how they have furthered their love of their specialist area over the course of the year.

Academic Scholarships

All pupils applying for entry to the School at 11+ and 13+ are automatically considered for academic scholarship on the basis of performance in the entrance examination. At 16+, pupils may elect to apply for up to two specialist academic scholarships in one or two subjects they intend to pursue at A-Level.

Academic scholars are mentored by a senior member of academic staff well matched to their academic interests. They will play a leading role in the clubs and societies which run in subjects where they excel, and are expected to be heavily involved in academic enrichment activities outside the classroom.

In Years 9 and 10, academic scholars are expected to complete an independent research project. This project culminates in an award called the HPQ (the Higher Project Qualification), an externally certificated qualification equivalent to roughly half a GCSE. These projects are a fantastic opportunity for scholars to explore a topic of personal interest outside the classroom; final presentations are made at the annual scholars' presentation evening.



Art Scholarship

Art scholarships are available at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

Art scholars receive a supply of art materials, as well as subsidised access to the Art Department's programme of trips and activities.

Under the leadership of the Sixth Form art scholar, scholars meet regularly with the Head of Art to work on collaborative art projects. Art scholars have their opportunity to leave their mark on the department, participating in an annual mural project.

They will also work towards an annual scholars' exhibition which forms part of the scholars' presentation evening. The summer arts programme provides a further opportunity to showcase scholars' artistic talents. When the academic year ends, many art scholars will also elect to follow the Royal Academy Junior summer exhibition project, entering their artwork for this competitive award.





Dance Scholarship

Dance is one of the newest departments at St Margaret's and we continue to grow and develop. Our aim is to ensure every student has the opportunity to participate in Dance throughout the whole school. Whether this be through the curriculum, co - curricular, performance opportunities, theatre trips or industry professional workshops and final qualifications, every student can progress in their dance training.

When selecting Dance scholars, we look for passion, determination and commitment to the subject. Candidates should have a history of dance training and have experiences which have developed their technical and performance skills. We expect candidates to be able to perform a piece which they have choreographed; performances for Y7 and Y9 applications should be a maximum of 1 minute in length and for Y12 should be between 1 minute 30 secs and 2 minutes in length. The performance can be in any dance style and accompaniment of their choosing. This is to be performed on the day of their interview.

Candidates will also be required to complete a task such as discussion around a topic, or a practical or analytical task involving a professional dance work. Candidates will take part in an interview with the Head of Dance where they will discuss their past performances and training, their interests and goals within dance.

Dance scholars at St Margaret's will be expected to be role models within the subject and fully engage within the Dance department. Scholars will be required to be fully immersed within the dance co-curricular and be a key member of the School's Dance Company. They will be expected to represent the School at dance competitions and take part in other performances or festivals. Dance scholars will be able to take full advantage of a number of trips to watch professional works and visiting industry professional workshops in order to widen their dance knowledge and expertise.



DT Scholarship

Design Technology scholarships are offered at 11+, 13+ and 16+. Design Technology is a new and exciting subject at St Margaret's and has gained significant popularity. The scholarship aims to empower students to become creative thinkers, establish connections with a variety of subjects, and practically apply this knowledge.

The application process will include a personal statement, an electronic portfolio showcasing various skills and knowledge, and an interview with the Head of Design Technology.

Candidates are required to possess skills in design and technology and a genuine passion for the subject. They must submit a digital portfolio demonstrating proficiency in using a variety of materials and design techniques.

This portfolio will be an integral part of the interview process, during which candidates can expect detailed questions about their project components, as well as general inquiries about their background and topic knowledge.

Scholars are expected to actively and fully participate in the School's design and technology community by joining and even leading clubs such as the 3D Printing, Engineering, and Robotics Clubs.

Drama Scholarship

Drama is a vibrant and important part of life at St Margaret's and makes up a large portion of the co-curricular offering at the School. Throughout the year this includes drama clubs, theatrical productions, theatre trips, LAMDA lessons and examinations, and workshops by visiting professionals from the performing arts.

When selecting scholars for drama we look in particular for a strong knowledge of the subject, including historical and contemporary performance practices, as well as excellent practical performance skills. Candidates selected for interview will audition to the Head of Drama; drama scholarship auditions include the following:

- Performance of a classical monologue (maximum 2 minutes)
- Performance of a contemporary monologue (maximum 2 minutes)
- Interview

Candidates should memorise both monologues and be prepared to answer questions about the context of these monologues in the plays they are selected from. They should also be prepared to answer questions about their experience and passion for drama and theatre, and to discuss various talking points about drama and theatre with the Head of Drama.

Monologues can be chosen by the candidate, although must be selected from a published play, i.e. they must not be a piece of new writing or from a film or television show. Candidates should know the name of the play their monologues are selected from and should have read or heard the play up to that point.

It is advised that candidates chose two contrasting monologues to demonstrate the full range of their acting skill. Suggested monologues can be found here:

<https://www.lamda.ac.uk/all-courses/how-to-apply/choosing-your-audition-piece>

<https://www.cssd.ac.uk/audition-speeches-ba-acting-courses>

<https://theloviediaries.co.uk/blogs/blog/our-top-picks-for-classical-speeches>

<https://theloviediaries.co.uk/blogs/blog/our-top-picks-for-modern-speeches>

Drama scholars at St Margaret's are expected to fully engage with the drama department both in terms of curriculum and co-curricular activities. Scholars are expected to take the subject for IGCSE and A-Level, as well as audition for the annual school play or be a leading member of the backstage crew. Scholars will be afforded several opportunities throughout the year, such as theatre trips and masterclasses from visiting professionals, that they will either be expected to take part in or will be given first pick for a space. For trips and events that usually incur a charge, scholars will either receive a discount or (in exceptional circumstances) have the charge waived completely.





Music Scholarship

Music is central to the life of St Margaret's. Our choirs, orchestras and ensembles take part in a full programme of concerts and performances both in the School and across the community and there is a varied programme of workshops by professional musicians.

Our new Music building provides a state of the art facility which includes rehearsal spaces, classrooms and practice rooms for individual music lessons.

When selecting scholars we look primarily for musical and technical potential combined with an obvious passion for the subject and commitment to participation in school music. Many applicants will already have reached a high level of competency; the minimum expected standards are outlined below. Ideally this benchmark should be passed by December of the year prior to entry. However, this can be dependent on the instrument studied and this is taken into account on application.

- 11+ candidates would normally be expected to be at Grade 4/5
- 13+ candidates would normally be expected to be at Grade 5/6
- 16+ candidates would normally be expected to be at Grade 7/8 (Merit or Distinction)

Candidates selected for interview will audition to the Director of Music; this will include the performance of contrasting pieces on main instrument (or singing) and, if applicable, a piece on a second instrument (or singing).

Sight reading, aural tests and questions about the performance pieces will also be included. A second instrument is not required but may be an advantage; the expected standard will be lower for a second instrument. Additionally, 16+ candidates will sit a short listening test.

Music scholars will have many performance opportunities both in and out of School, including at school events and to other pupils, particularly in the Junior School. Scholars' concerts will provide additional chances for the scholars to showcase their talents. Under the mentorship of the Director of Music, they will receive support with auditions and entries for external festivals and competitions, as well as opportunities to attend concerts and workshops. Music scholars are expected to participate fully in the musical life of the School, and they will have the opportunity to develop leadership roles within school ensembles, meeting regularly with the Director of Music and/or Sixth Form music scholars to tailor these roles according to their particular musical strengths and interests.

Sport Scholarship

Sport scholarships are available at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

Our sports scholars will receive numerous opportunities to train and play regularly as part of School teams and clubs including whole School performances in a wide range of team and individual sports. This will lead on to district and county representation as appropriate to each sporting activity. In addition they will showcase their abilities in a festival of sport, which will take place annually.

Under the leadership of the Sixth Form sports scholar regular meetings will take place with the Head of Physical Education to share experiences and discuss training and performance ideas. Master classes will be offered to our elite performers.

There will be numerous leadership opportunities including Junior and Senior whole School sport captains, team captains, coaching opportunities and events organisation.

Sport scholars will also receive subsidised access to the PE department's trips and activities which include, residential weekend competitions and visits to high profile sports events.

In addition a contribution will be made to the cost of School sports kit.



STEM Scholarship

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics and this covers an extremely wide range of interests which stretch beyond the School subject syllabi.

STEM scholarships are available at 11+, 13+ and 16+, and the application process will include a written exam as well as an interview with the Head of the Science or Maths Faculty. The examination will always be skills, rather than content based and we would not expect applicants to spend a lot of time preparing for this. The skills we require could include data analysis, problem solving, graph drawing, mathematical and analytical skills and we are looking for pupils who can think out of the box as well as applying logic.

We would expect our scholars to take part in some of the STEM competitions that take place every year.

Scholars will be expected to assist staff and take the lead in the various STEM based clubs that take place, such as the Junior School Science club, the KS3 Science club and the Biomedical Society; whilst in mathematics there are maths Challenge Clubs at KS3 and involvement in UKMT individual and team challenges. Some of our more senior mathematics scholars assist younger students in need of support through the Maths Clinics or directly mentor a younger mathematics scholar.

Scholars will meet regularly with one of the subject heads involved and will be expected to develop their own research into a topic of particular interest to themselves and to develop a portfolio which reflects their research.



Bursaries

St Margaret's is committed to broadening access to the School. Within the resources available, means-tested financial support for the payment of school fees can be provided to parents/guardians of pupils who have been offered a place following the normal admissions and selection process.

Such support is known as a bursary which is awarded in the form of a discount of tuition fees payable, depending on the financial, compassionate or other pertinent circumstances of applicants. Bursary awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards, depending on parental circumstances.

The Bursary Application Process

Step One

Parents seeking a bursary are required by 30 November for entry the following September to complete an application form which seeks to establish the financial circumstances of the household. The form, which requests details of income, expenditure and capital assets, must be accompanied by full documentary evidence. The completed forms together with the necessary documentary evidence, are to be submitted to the Director of Finance & Operations (DFO) at finance@stmargarets-school.org.uk normally at the time of registration but in exceptional circumstances prior to this. All people with parental responsibility (even if separated and one parent makes no contribution to living costs) must complete the form.

Step Two

The DFO assesses all applications in order to establish the likely level of support which will be required in order to allow the child to attend the School and prepares a recommendation in accordance with the St Margaret's School Scale of Awards which is considered with the Head. A joint recommendation is then reached.

Step Three

After the recommendation has been presented to the Chairman of the Governors' Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration, the parents are then advised whether their child is to be offered a place at the School and of the bursary offer. To find out more, please contact the Admissions Department at admissions@stmargarets-school.org.uk



