

# Scholarship Policy

## St James Senior Boys' School

### 1. Aims of the Policy

The Governors have approved the awarding of scholarships for academic, sporting or musical excellence. The aims of these scholarships are to:

- Attract students capable of achieving outstanding academic results to St James;
- Attract students capable of achieving outstanding sporting or musical performance; and
- Make the St James education more accessible for outstanding students whose parents may not be able to afford full fees.

Scholarships may be offered to cover full or part of a pupil's fees. This Policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Admissions Policy.

### 2. Headmaster's Scholarships

Headmaster's Scholarships are academic scholarships and will be subject to availability at Year 7 and Year 12 and are based on an academic test as well as an interview process.

#### 2.1 Testing Procedure – Year 7

a) All St James' applicants will, as usual, be invited to undertake an entry test in early January and attend an initial interview with the Headmaster (or a senior member of staff). To be eligible for consideration for a Headmaster's Scholarship, the applicant must have sat the entry test on the main exam day.

b) Based on the applicant's performance in the entry test and interview with the Headmaster the applicant will be invited to apply for a Headmaster's Scholarship.

c) If the applicant applies for a Headmaster's Scholarship he will be invited to attend a further interview with the Director of Education (or the Headmaster if the situation requires).

d) To be successfully awarded a Headmaster's Scholarship applicants must show in both their entry test result and interviews the likelihood of achieving 8s and 9s at GCSE level.

## **2.2 Assessment Criteria – Year 12**

An applicant's previous academic results and performance and predicted grades will be taken into account when he is considered for a Headmaster's Scholarship.

For internal applicants this will include discussions with relevant St James' staff including previous Teachers and Form Master.

For external applicants this will include scrutiny of the applicant's reports and a satisfactory reference from the applicant's current school.

Based on this the applicant will be invited to apply for a Headmaster's Scholarship. Applicants will then be invited to attend an interview with the Director of Education (or the Headmaster if the situation requires). The Director of Education (or Headmaster) will ask additional questions to those applicants to ascertain their academic curiosity and ability.

To be successfully awarded a Headmaster's Scholarship, applicants must show in both their previous academic performance or academic potential and interview the likelihood of achieving all As at A Level.

## **3. Criteria for the Award of Headmaster's Scholarships**

The School's decision is final.

The decision will be made by assessing a pupil's tests, academic performance and interviews: looking for intellectual vigour, curiosity and motivation. The School's decision will be made on a judgement using both the tests and interview as evidence of whom we believe may achieve the best result by the time of public examinations. *As such, applicants with the highest results will not necessarily be awarded a Headmaster's Scholarship.*

## **4. Sports' Scholarships**

Sports Scholarships will be made available for outstanding sportsmen or for those who display outstanding sporting potential. For external applicants Sports Scholarships will be made available

at 11+ and 13+ entry and from time to time for current pupils. They must be playing at County and/or National Level in one of the School's main sports (Basketball, Cricket, Rugby, Football, Hockey, Tennis and/or Athletics). For all applicants an ability to learn and a willingness to further their sporting career are essential.

Those interested in Sports Scholarships should apply directly to the Headmaster with a brief outline of the applicant's sporting experience. Applicants will be expected to attend the School for a practical assessment day and an interview with the Head of Sport.

Following the applicant's performance at the practical assessment day and interview, the Head of Sport will make recommendations to the Headmaster regarding the Sports Scholarship.

Based on this the Headmaster will determine whether to make the award of a Sports Scholarship. External applicants will also have to satisfy the normal St James entry test and initial interview with the Headmaster.

## **5. Music Scholarships**

Music Scholarships will be made available for outstanding musicians or to those who show outstanding potential on an instrument. For external applicants Music Scholarships will be made available at 11+ and 13+ entry and from time to time for current pupils. They must be playing at a high level – involved in District and/or National orchestras and have achieved Grade 5 or above at age 11. Applicants who can play an instrument in the St James orchestra will be favoured over those playing instruments that do not normally feature in a classical orchestra. (E.g. Violin, viola, cello, flute, trumpet etc.)

Those interested in Music Scholarships should apply directly to the Headmaster with a brief outline of the applicant's musical experience. Applicants will be expected to attend an audition which will consist of:

- 1) Performance of one prepared piece for main instrument (an accompanist is provided);
- 2) Sight reading;
- 3) Aural tests, including singing;

4) Performance of prepared piece on second instrument or voice (if applicable). If a second instrument/voice is not being offered, two pieces on the main instrument should be prepared; and

5) Interview with the Head of Music

Auditions will be held in front of a panel consisting of the Head of Music and one other music teacher.

Following the applicant's performance in the Audition, the Head of Music will make recommendations to the Headmaster regarding the Music Scholarship.

The Headmaster will determine whether to make the award of a Music Scholarship based on the Head of Music's recommendations. Applicant's for Year 7 entry will also have to satisfy the normal St James entry test and initial interview with the Headmaster.