



WESTONBIRT
— SCHOOL —

Scholarship Awards

Prospectus for 2024 entry



Introduction



Simon Balderson
Deputy Head (Academic)

We are delighted that you are considering Westonbirt School and thank you for your interest in our Scholarship programme.

At Westonbirt, we aim to recognise excellence and 'scholarship' in its broadest sense, promoting ambition and leadership within each scholar's chosen field and our programme underpins this. This prospectus provides information about the range of awards on offer, the benefits of receiving one and the application and assessment processes for each.

Scholars are expected to maintain high standards within their areas of specialism and all awards are dependent upon continued effort, good behaviour and conduct.

For further information, please contact our Admissions Office. We look forward to welcoming you to Westonbirt School in person.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Balderson'.

About our awards

Any pupil awarded a scholarship becomes a scholar in their field, and as such is expected to lead their peers in their particular area of expertise. Scholars meet regularly during the year as a cohort. Each department will take part in a range of external challenges, competitions and enrichment activities and we expect scholars to contribute to these, representing their specialism and the School. This also presents the key opportunity for scholars themselves to push beyond their normal parameters; challenging their talents and seeking to further their ambitions. We expect all scholars to have a passion, motivation and commitment in their chosen area and evidence of this will be examined through the selection process.

Awards available

The awards available are:

- Academic
- Art
- Drama
- Music and Choral
- Performance Sport
- The Head's Award
- The Westonbirt Award.

Benefits

A successful scholarship candidate will be entitled to 10% off tuition (day) fees. In addition to the fee discount, each award may offer further benefits related to the area of specialism and the development to the individual through the careful nurturing of the programme should not be underestimated. Equally, we anticipate that the School will also benefit and suggest the sky is the limit to the scholar, where ambition and aspiration are concerned.

How to retain your scholarship

It is important to note that high expectations are made of our scholars and as such, awards are offered with the intention of the candidate contributing to the specific area of talent and the broader life of the School. Continuation of the award is therefore reviewed annually and warnings may be given if a pupil is failing to meet these levels. An award may be lost or paused where intervention may prove helpful.

How to apply

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Candidates are invited to apply for scholarships in the year before they join Year 7, Year 9 or Year 12. All scholarships are awarded on merit and through performance and interview on the day and are available to both internal and external candidates.

Assessment

For every scholarship application received, a written reference will be requested from a candidate's current school or, for internal candidates, a recommendation from their tutor (for the Academic Award) or the relevant Head of Department. Families may wish to supplement this with a reference from an external coach or tutor. New pupils to the School will also have an entrance interview with the Head. Each Award has its own specific assessment criteria and these are listed within the following sections; please read these before applying.

Scholarships vs Bursaries

Parents are respectfully reminded that bursaries are available for those families who need some support with their approach to fees. The School would prefer to have a conversation about affordability rather than push children to perform for a scholarship, where this may be unrealistic.

These awards are means tested and may be sought alongside a scholarship application. Please note if multiple scholarships are awarded, the maximum financial discount given is the value of the greatest scholarship awarded (10%) and not the sum of all of the scholarships.

For more information on bursaries, or to obtain an application form, please contact our Director of Admissions, Patricia Stevenson, at patricia.stevenson@westonbirtschool.uk or on 01666 880333.

Entry requirements

All external candidates are required to meet the minimum entry requirements to the School. They may sit for the Academic Scholarship/CAT4 test or take 11+/13+ Common Entrance in their own school. They will also be required to write a letter of application to the Head and attend interview. In the case of 16+ candidates, they will have Faculty interviews in their Sixth Form subjects.

Application forms

The application form for all 2024 scholarships can be accessed [here](#).

Academic Awards

Academic Awards are given on the basis of existing academic talent and perceived future potential.

In addition to the fee discount, scholars take part in the Academic Scholars' Programme. This is delivered through weekly meetings with the Head of Academic Enrichment, encouraging Scholars to expand their knowledge holistically beyond the classroom and providing curious students with the tools needed to become fully independent thinkers and learners. It is supported by the academically enriching and cultural trips that are offered to Scholars throughout the year, including visits to lectures, exhibitions and festivals.

Scholars are allocated a staff mentor who offers support in their development and achieving their personal goals. They can then, in turn, become an academic mentor to a younger student to cultivate their own leadership skills.



Academic Awards continued

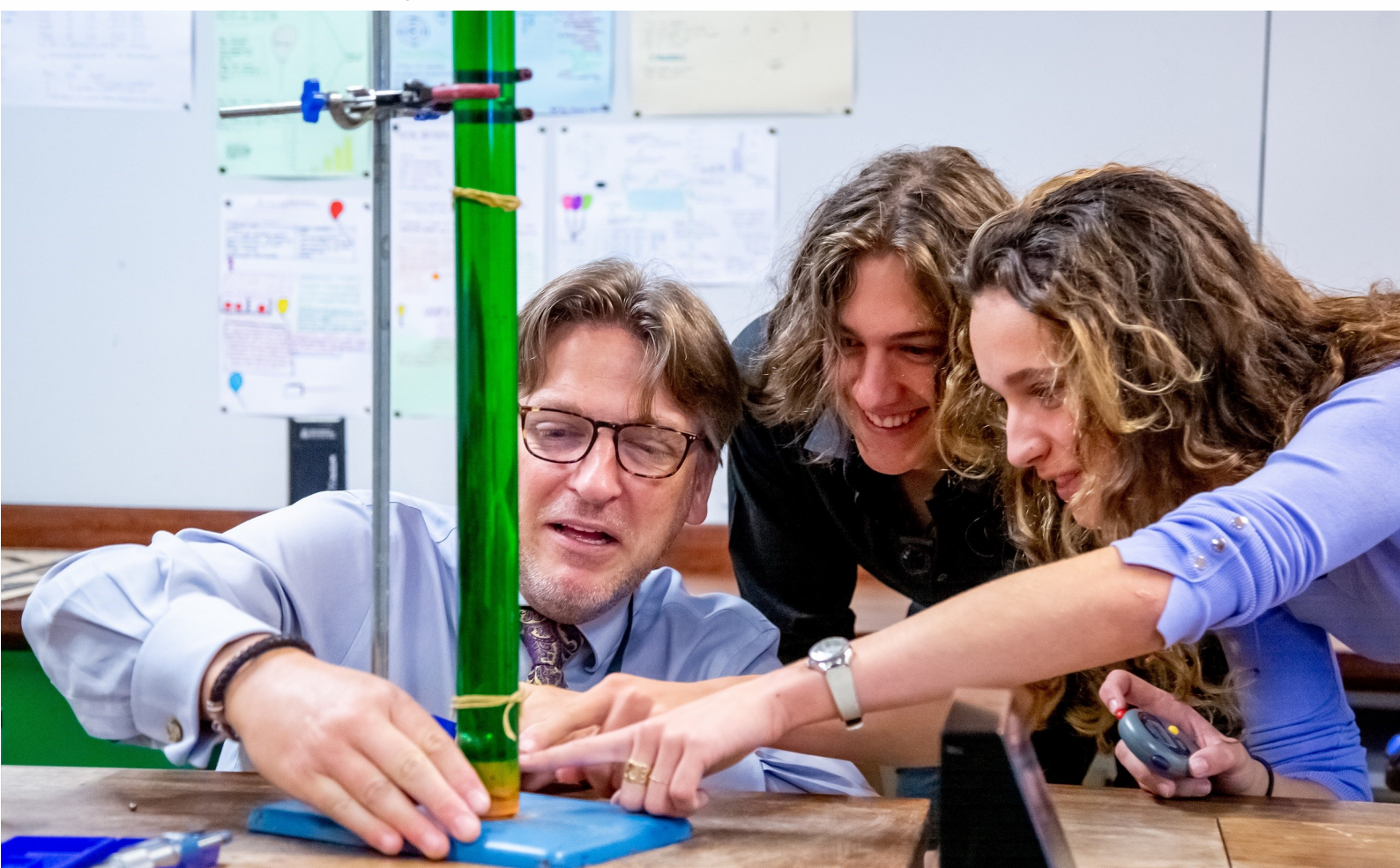
Scholars are expected to be academic leaders amongst their peers; they will take advantage of activities on offer such as Model United Nations, Science Olympiads, Debating Society, Maths challenges, Socratic Society and Tea and Politics to practise articulating their ideas, as well as take part in, and help lead, subject-specific activities. Each Academic Scholar will also choose a number of external challenges and world around them.

A Westonbirt Academic Scholar is eager to learn and engage with the world around them. The Academic Scholars' Programme is designed to champion the individual pupil and promote analytical and inquisitive thinking, creating a well-rounded Scholar with the necessary skillset for success.

Assessment

All candidates will complete the following:

- A CAT4 diagnostic assessment, which provides the School with a detailed profile of each candidate's abilities and aptitudes.
- Individual interviews with the Deputy Head (Academic) and Head of Academic Enrichment
- Groups tasks which assess current academic skill, future potential, teamwork and leadership skills, and the ability to consistently perform in high-pressure circumstances.



Art Awards

In addition to the fee reduction, those who receive an Art Award are given an artist's portfolio carry case and will take part in a termly workshop amongst other sessions run by the Art Department to develop their scholars.

Art Scholarships will be awarded to pupils demonstrating exceptional talent and potential in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking or other artistic fields; some digital art forms may also be recognised. Scholars are expected to engage with the subject well beyond the bounds of the standard curriculum, developing their own skill and leading their peers.

Art scholars are expected to enter external competitions, visit art galleries and show leadership through their support with art activities. In addition, an Art scholar will help curate exhibitions and show an interest in Art History.

Assessment

Candidates for an Art Award will have a practical assessment and an individual interview with the Head of Art. They should bring a portfolio of work with them, to aid the discussion.



Drama Awards

Drama scholars are entitled to one Speech and Drama lesson per week for the duration of the award, in addition to the fee reduction.

Scholars are expected to perform in any School production which is open to them, and enter external competitions.

The Drama department stages multiple productions every year, encompassing all age groups. Drama scholarships are awarded to talented performers, who are expected to be ambassadors within the School and frequently go on to further study in this area.

Assessment

Candidates will have an individual interview with the Head of Drama, in which they must perform an age-appropriate monologue, chosen by the Drama department. In preparation, candidates should research into their character, or create a backstory to be discussed in the interview. Their chosen scene should be memorised and be prepared and rehearsed in advance - it may not be improvised.



Music and Choral Awards

Scholars for these awards are expected to demonstrate a commitment to excellence in music, both academically and with regard to performance. There are numerous concerts and events throughout the year at which scholars will be required to perform and lead, demonstrating the value of music both within and beyond the School community. Alongside the range of choirs, bands and quartets, offered as part of the co-curricular programme, the Music Department also offers activities to develop knowledge in musical theory, composition and technology.

Music Awards

Music scholars are entitled to one instrumental lesson per week for the duration of the award, in addition to the fee reduction.

Assessment

Candidates applying for Music scholarships will be required to play two contrasting pieces on their first instrument and one on their second instrument. Candidates will also have an interview with the Director of Music and a have a sight reading and aural test. Copies of grade certificates and sheet music for accompaniment (if needed) must be submitted in advance.

Minimum standards are as follows:

Year 7 (11+) - First instrument Grade 3

Year 9 (13+) - First instrument Grade 5

Sixth Form (16+) - First instrument Grade 7

Choral Awards

Choral scholarships are only available in Year 9 and 12. Choral scholars are entitled to one singing lesson per week for the duration of the award, in addition to the fee reduction.

Assessment

Candidates applying for Choral scholarships will be required to sing two contrasting pieces. Candidates will also have an interview with the Director of Music and a have a sight reading and Aural test. Copies of grade certificates and sheet music for accompaniment (if needed) must be submitted in advance.



Performance Sport Awards

In addition to the fee reduction, those who receive a Sport Award are offered:

- Athlete profiling and monitoring
- Half-termly workshops
- Personalised sports skins
- Induction sessions in the gym and private opening hours
- Performance Sport training programmes
- Access to the Staff Mentor Programme.

The focus for Performance Sport scholars is on holistic development as an athlete; psychologically, nutritionally, and through strength and conditioning.

Candidates should be training or competing at county level or above.

Assessment

Sport scholars will undergo a practical assessment to gauge their sporting skills, so a basic games kit should be brought, together with any necessary specialist equipment. Preference will be given to candidates with a proven track record in team sports (such as lacrosse, rugby, netball, hockey or cricket), or outstanding individual ability in athletics, golf, tennis or swimming, or in representative sports.

Candidates will have an interview with the Director of Sport to discuss their current involvement in sport and will be expected to demonstrate their ability and discuss their future ambitions.

All candidates must bring a short Sport CV (one A4 sheet) giving details of teams represented and recent results (including individual personal best performances) and awards achieved (including school colours or badges). It should list positions of responsibility held, and any qualifications gained (BAGA Level 4 etc), and clubs they attend.



Westonbirt Award and The Head's Award

The Westonbirt Award is offered where appropriate to a candidate who is outstanding in a number of scholarship areas and contributes considerably to School life. A candidate can opt to be considered for this if they are applying for two or more scholarships.

The Head's Award cannot be applied for but is offered at the Headmistress's discretion to an exceptional candidate whom she feels would benefit from the opportunities provided to a Scholar.



Key Dates

Friday, 20th October 2023	Closing date for Year 12 Entry Testing and Scholarship applications
Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th November 2023	Year 12 Entry Tests, Scholarship assessments and Interviews
Friday 1st December 2023	Closing Date for Year 7 Entry Testing and Scholarship Applications
Friday 8th December 2023	Closing Date for Year 9 Entry Testing and Scholarship Applications
Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th January 2024	Year 7 Entry and Scholarship Assessments
Monday 29th to Tuesday 30th January 2024	Year 9 Entry and Scholarship Assessments