



St Mary's School

Scholarships



Academic Scholarships at Year 3 (7+)

St Mary's School invites all students considering entering Year 3 in the next academic year to apply for an Academic Scholarship.

A scholarship is awarded to a girl in recognition of her all round academic potential, regardless of financial considerations.

Applicants will sit the scholarship examination, which consists of papers in English, Mathematics and Non-Verbal Reasoning. For external applicants a supporting testimonial from the candidate's current Headteacher that they have the necessary aptitude for academic study is an essential part of the selection process.

It must be stressed that scholarships are awarded for academic excellence and, therefore, if in any year there should be no candidates of sufficient ability, scholarships will not be awarded. Equally, if a number of candidates of exceptional ability are deemed worthy recipients, the scholarship may be divided between them. Scholarships are for up to 30% of the fees for each year up to and including Year 6.

Scholarship application forms and important dates can be found on our website under Admissions, Scholarships and Bursaries. External candidates will also need to submit a registration form and include a registration fee of £100 to be sent to the Registrar (email: registrar@st-marys.bucks.sch.uk).





Scholarships at Year 7 (11+)

St Mary's School offers Academic, Art, Drama, Music and Sports Scholarships at Year 7.

Year 7 scholarships are awarded regardless of financial considerations and are open to any girl from any school, who will be entering Year 7 at St Mary's in the next academic year.

It must be stressed that scholarships are awarded for excellence and, therefore, if in any year there should be no candidates of sufficient ability, scholarships will not be awarded. Equally, if a number of applicants of exceptional ability are deemed worthy recipients, the scholarship may be divided between them. Scholarships are for up to 30% of the fees for each year up to and including Year 13.

Academic Scholarships at Year 7 (11+)

Academic Scholarships are awarded to a girl in recognition of her all round academic potential and are awarded regardless of financial considerations.

In the first instance all candidates will need to take the Year 7 entrance examinations. Pupils spend the day at St Mary's, from 9.00am until 3.30pm. Examinations take place throughout the day, which includes opportunities for the girls to meet their peers, the staff and become familiar with the school and its facilities. Candidates who show particular academic promise in the entrance examinations will then be invited back to take the scholarship examinations shortly afterwards.

The Academic Scholarship examination consists of a written paper and an interview with the Headmistress. For external candidates a supporting testimonial from a girl's current Headteacher is also required to confirm that they have the necessary aptitude for academic study. This will be requested by the school at the time of invitation to scholarship.

Application forms for our other scholarships, and important dates, can be found on our website under Admissions, Scholarships and Bursaries. External candidates will need to submit a registration form and include a registration fee of £100 to be sent to the Registrar (email: registrar@st-marys.bucks.sch.uk), this form is also available on the website under Admissions.





Art, Drama, Music and Sports Scholarships at Year 7 (11+)

St Mary's School invites pupils considering entering Year 7 to apply for an Art, Drama, Music and Sports scholarships.

Scholarships will only be awarded to students who have passed the school's Year 7 (11+) Entrance Examination where candidates spend the day at St Mary's, from 9.00am until 3.30pm.

Entrance Examinations take place throughout the day, which includes opportunities for the girls to meet their peers, the staff and become familiar with the school and its facilities. Assessments for scholarships will take place shortly afterwards.

All external applicants must provide a supporting reference from their current school or appropriate external teacher or tutor.



Art Scholarships at Year 7

The Art Scholar should become an enthusiastic participant in the creative life of the school; showing leadership qualities, initiating creative ideas or activities and internal applicants should be a regular member of the weekly Art club. It is anticipated that she will follow a GCSE Art and Design course.

Candidate Assessment Process

A student wishing to apply for an Art Scholarship should demonstrate:

- Excellent drawing and observation skills.
- A genuine passion and enthusiasm for the subject.
- Knowledge of the work of other artists.
- Imagination and creative risk taking.
- The ability to use a range of media and techniques to a high standard.

The Department will assess these criteria through:

- The presentation of a portfolio of work.
- A research project around the provided theme.
- A one hour practical test relating to the theme of research.
- An interview with the Head of Department.



The Art Portfolio

Due to high numbers of applicants, applicants will be shortlisted based on their portfolio of work. Candidates who are invited for examination and interview will be notified in writing.

What to include

- The purpose of the portfolio is to display the creative strengths and skills of your daughter; she should aim to show as broad a range of her abilities as possible. She should be selective about what is included; this is about quality over quantity.
- There is no minimum or maximum limit on the amount of work expected; however it is advised that the work needs to be portable by your daughter, so please ensure she can carry it.
- If your daughter has produced work in three dimensional form, or work that is larger than A3 in size, photographs of this work are perfectly acceptable.
- She should try to show a range of working skills, i.e. materials and techniques she is comfortable using, as well as varied scales of work.
- You may include work that she has produced both under teacher/tutor supervision as well as work that she has produced for pleasure at home.
- Sketchbooks are not always used within primary schools; however if this is something that she has readily available, we would like to see these as well.
- Work in the portfolio does not need to be specially mounted in any way.
- Please ensure that all work brought to St Mary's is labelled with your daughter's full name.



Examination

Shortlisted applicants who are invited to interview will be expected to prepare a research project based upon the given theme: Organic Forms.

The Examination will be held in the Senior House Art Studio and will last 60 minutes. All examination preparation work and examination pieces are to be left at school for marking. The work will be ready for collection within a week.

Your daughter is permitted to explore this theme within her own fields of strength; she may use any materials available to her. She is required to produce preparatory work for the examination; **a minimum of two A3 pages** is expected. We would like her to consider these four areas within her preparatory work and her finished piece.

- Idea development: relevant research and originality of ideas.
- Use of materials: exploration, experimentation and application.
- Recording of ideas: presentation and annotation of her work development where appropriate.
- A final outcome in relation to her exploration of ideas.

She may have all preparatory work in the exam room with her. If your daughter is selected to attend the Art Scholarship examination, you will be asked to inform the school of the materials she intends to use in advance, so that provisions can be made to have sufficient materials available. She is, of course, permitted to bring her own materials to work with her if she prefers.

Application forms for scholarships, and important dates, can be found on our website under Admissions, Scholarships and Bursaries. External candidates will also need to submit a registration form and include a registration fee of £100 to be sent to the Registrar (email: registrar@st-marys.bucks.sch.uk), this form is also available on the website under Admissions.





Drama Scholarships at Year 7

The Drama Scholar will be a confident and capable actor, able to create a range of characters with ease, and ideally have experience performing in full-scale productions, as significant roles. Qualifications from LAMDA, RADA, Trinity Guildhall or similar are encouraged, but not essential.

A short list of candidates who, in the estimation of the Head of Drama, have achieved an appropriate standard will be called for an audition.

For the examination, the applicant will take a practical audition at the school which will consist of a group workshop with other applicants and the presentation of a monologue. This monologue should be chosen by the applicant and prepared prior to the audition day. The Head of Drama can provide some monologue examples if required.

The applicant should be an enthusiastic participant in the dramatic life of the school, showing leadership qualities and influencing other pupils. If successful, the Drama scholar would be expected to perform regularly as part of the school's co-curricular Drama club, Spotlights Theatre, and in the House Drama competitions. They would also be expected to represent the department at school open days. It is anticipated that she will study the Drama GCSE course.

Application forms for scholarships, and important dates, can be found on our website under Admissions, Scholarships and Bursaries. External candidates will also need to submit a registration form and include a registration fee of £100 to be sent to the Registrar (email: registrar@st-marys.bucks.sch.uk), this form is also available on the website under Admissions.





Music Scholarships at Year 7

Ideally, the Music Scholar will be proficient in two instruments and have reached a minimum standard of Grade III in at least one of them.

A short list of candidates who, in the estimation of the Director of Music, have achieved an appropriate standard will be called for an audition. This will be based on examinations passed, references from music teachers and contribution to school music-making.

The applicant will take a practical examination at the school which will consist of a piece of her own choice on her instrument. She will be given sight-reading, aural and a short viva voce. An accompanist will be available on the day of the audition if required, but candidates are equally encouraged to bring their own accompanist.

The applicant should be an enthusiastic participant in the musical life of her current school, and would be expected to show leadership qualities and influence other pupils at St Mary's, performing as a soloist and as a regular member of the school choir and orchestra. It is anticipated that she will follow a GCSE Music course.

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Sports Scholarships at Year 7

Our ambition is to foster a passion for excellence in all sports. Through our commitment to nurturing talent and developing raw ability, we encourage all young athletes to confidently strive for sporting excellence.

The Sports Scholar should be an enthusiastic participant, showing the ability to work well in a team and as an individual. They would be expected to be a regular member at co-curricular clubs, fixtures, and willing to support the PE department where possible. They should demonstrate good communication and leadership skills.

Students applying for the Sport Scholarship should:

- Be an active participant in sports clubs in their present school.
- Be competing at a minimum of Club level, but preferably County or District level in at least one sport.
- Produce a Sports CV, including a supporting reference.

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Scholarships at Sixth Form (16+)

St Mary's School offers Academic, Performing & Creative Arts, and Sports Scholarships at Sixth Form.

Sixth Form scholarships are awarded regardless of financial considerations and are open to any girl from any school, who will be entering Year 12 at St Mary's in the next academic year.

Entry to the Sixth Form at 16+ and award of a scholarship place is conditional upon a candidate achieving a minimum of 5 GCSE grades A* - B, or grade 9-6, including a minimum grade B, or grade 6, in the subjects proposed for study at A level.

It must be stressed that scholarships are awarded for excellence and, therefore, if in any year there should be no candidates of sufficient ability, scholarships will not be awarded. Equally, if a number of applicants of exceptional ability are deemed worthy recipients, the scholarship may be divided between them. Scholarships represent up to 30% of annual fees.



Sixth Form Academic Scholarship

St Mary's School invites all students considering entering the Sixth Form in the next academic year to apply for an Academic Scholarship.

Scholarships are awarded to a girl in recognition of her all round academic potential and will be decided after completion of the scholarship examination.

Candidates will complete Critical Thinking and General Knowledge papers. They will then be required to deliver a short presentation (2-4 minutes) on a subject of their choice which will be discussed for up to 10 minutes with the Headmistress and the Head of Sixth Form.

External candidates will need to submit a completed Sixth Form registration form, indicating their intention to apply for a scholarship, and include a registration fee of £100 to be sent to the Registrar (email: registrar@st-marys.bucks.sch.uk), Admissions Department. External candidates must also provide a supporting reference from their current school or appropriate external teacher or tutor.

Important dates and Sixth Form registration forms can be found on our website.



Sixth Form Performing and Creative Arts and Sports Scholarships

St Mary's School is pleased to offer a Performing and Creative Arts, and Sports Scholarships in the Sixth Form for students applying for Year 12.

The scholarship will be awarded to the student/s who have demonstrated a high level of attainment in Art, Dance, Drama, Music or Sport, as well as a significant commitment to the co-curricular activities of the school.

For the Performing and Creative Arts Scholarship it is anticipated that scholars will have also achieved a high grade at GCSE in at least one of the performing and creative arts subjects, and whilst they will ideally be studying that subject at A level, or have successfully completed at least Grade 6 or equivalent in their chosen discipline, equal emphasis will be placed on their contribution to school performances, a commitment which we expect to be continued into and throughout the Sixth Form.

Those applying for the Sports Scholarship should detail their achievements in a Sports CV and will be invited to attend a fitness test.

Students who wish to apply for one of these scholarships should submit a written application to the Headmistress outlining the contributions they have made so far to the life of the school and giving an indication of how they would demonstrate leadership in the school during their time in the Sixth Form. The student will attend an interview and will present either a portfolio of work or a short performance, or complete a fitness test, depending on the subject. Predicted grades, school reports and the advice of the relevant staff will also be considered.

External candidates will also need to submit a completed Sixth Form registration form, indicating their intention to apply for a scholarship, and include a registration fee of £100 to be sent to the Registrar (email: registrar@stmarys.bucks.sch.uk), Admissions Department. External candidates must also provide a supporting reference from their current school or appropriate external teacher or tutor.

Important dates and Sixth Form registration forms can be found on our website.







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