



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 Scholarship

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 scholars will 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.

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

Art scholars should demonstrate exceptional creativity, technical skill, and passion for the visual arts. They will have a strong portfolio showcasing originality and a willingness to experiment with different mediums and styles. We seek students who are not only talented but also dedicated, eager to take on challenges, and committed to developing their craft.

To apply for the Art scholarship, candidates will submit a portfolio submission which reflects the child's personal style, skills, and passion for art. It should include:

- A maximum of 10 pieces of artwork, demonstrating a variety of skills, techniques, and mediums.
- At least one should be an observational drawing (e.g., still life, figure drawing, or landscape) to show the ability to draw from life.

- A range of media (e.g., pencil, paint, ink, digital, mixed media, etc.) to showcase versatility.
- A piece that highlights their creativity, something that explores original ideas or concepts.
- One 3D work (such as Sculpture or Ceramics) or a photograph of a 3D piece, if possible.
- Annotations or short explanations next to each piece, briefly describing the thought process, materials used, and what inspired the work.

Art scholars should contribute positively to the artistic community of the school, showing leadership, enthusiasm, and the ability to inspire others.

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. Dance scholarships are offered at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

When selecting Dance scholars, we look for a passion for dance in any style. Candidates should have a history of dance training and have experiences which have developed their technical and performance skills. Candidates will need to perform a solo at an audition, participate in a creative workshop and research a professional work to discuss in a group interview.

We expect candidates to be able to perform a piece which they have choreographed; performances for Year 7 and Year 9 applications should be a maximum of 1 minute in length and for Year 12 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. Students are also encouraged to support their application with evidence of their dance skills, such as Dance exam certificates and videos.

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

Candidates for the DT scholarship will need to produce an electronic portfolio that showcases a range of DT and engineering skills. Through various projects showing a variety of practical, drawing and problem solving skills they should demonstrate an understanding of various manufacturing processes and materials.

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.

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. They should also demonstrate knowledge of the role of designers and iconic design.



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. Drama scholarships are offered at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

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. Pupils will be required to memorise and perform a monologue and be prepared to answer questions about the context of the monologue in the play it is 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.

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 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.





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. Music scholarships are offered at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

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

There will also be an interview with the Director of Music who will ask questions about their interest in music. There will also be a short aural test.

When selecting Music 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:

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.

- Music scholars should be performing on at least one instrument to a high level.
- They should be people who are happy to regularly perform in front of large audiences and should have a clear passion for music.
- It is useful if a pupil plays an orchestral instrument or sings.

Candidates selected for interview will audition to the Director of Music; this will include the performance of two contrasting pieces on the main instrument (or singing) and, if applicable, a piece on a second instrument (or singing). A second instrument is not required but may be an advantage; the expected standard will be lower for a second instrument.

Sport Scholarship

Our Sport 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. Sport scholarships are offered at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

Candidates for the Sport scholarship should have the ability to perform in two of the School's main sports; Football, Netball, Rugby, Cricket, Athletics, Swimming, Tennis and Badminton. Consideration may be given to athletes excelling in other sports such as Golf, but priority is on the School's core offerings. They will ideally be playing for club, county or regional level in at least one sport.

Applicants are required to provide video evidence of sporting ability in two sports (5mins max) and a reference letter from a coach, PE teacher or sports club confirming ability, commitment and conduct. Assessment day will include fitness testing, practical assessment in the selected sports and an interview with a member of the Sports department on sporting journey, values and aspirations.

Under the leadership of a Sixth Form Sports scholar, regular meetings will take place with the Director of Sport to share experiences and discuss training and performance ideas. Masterclasses 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. Sports scholars will also be invited to participate in the weekly High Performance Programme (HPP) sessions.



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 offered at 11+, 13+ and 16+.

Candidates for STEM scholarships should already be achieving highly in Science and Maths subjects. 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 scientific thinking, 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.

Candidates will be interviewed on their achievements and interests in Science, reading, extra project work, Science in the news and what future they see for themselves in the Sciences.

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.



Community Service Scholarship

The Community Service scholarship recognises students who demonstrate a strong commitment to making a positive impact within their local or school community. Community Service scholarships are offered for Sixth Form (16+) only.

Candidates for the Community Service scholarship will be required to deliver a 10 minute presentation to a panel of staff which evidences their consistent commitment to the School and/or the local community; this will be followed by a formal Q+A session from the panel.

Community Service scholars are expected to take an active role in leading projects, either individually or as part of a team, and demonstrate the ability to inspire and motivate others. They will be a positive role model, embodying the values of kindness, respect and responsibility, serving as ambassadors for the School and setting a strong example for their peers.

As part of the scholarship, recipients are expected to engage in meaningful service initiatives that benefit others, showing leadership, empathy, and a dedication to helping those in need, and to be drivers in our 100 Hours project.

Scholars will regularly reflect on their service experiences and how these have helped develop their personal and social skills, providing written reports or presentations to showcase their contributions.



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



