

STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

Scholarships

2026



Scholarship FAQs |

General

·How does the school ensure that the workload is balanced and the scholarship is not putting too much pressure on my child's workload. We work with the mantra of 'some pressure – good, too much pressure – bad'. All our pupils' workloads are monitored by tutors, the house pastoral team and the teachers in general, scholars are no exception. Whilst there are heightened expectations for scholars, we are well-used to finding the ideal balance and we will always work to find the right balance depending on individual circumstances and expectations.

·What if my child wants to give up a scholarship
Occasionally, a pupil will simply not be motivated to continue with a scholarship. We will, of course, have discussions to determine why this is the case, but the last thing we want is for pupils to feel undue pressure. There are a variety of solutions to the question of scholarship fee remission which can be discussed between the school and the parents. In the end we will come to a decision based on what is right for the individual pupil.

Music

·How are Music Scholarships awarded?
Music Scholarships are awarded following an assessment by members of the Music Department. Final decisions are based on audition performance, musical potential, and overall suitability for the programme.

·What does the audition involve?
i. Interview with the Head of Music
ii. Perform two contrasting pieces on their first instrument
iii. Perform one piece on their second instrument (if applicable)
iv. Complete brief aural and sight-reading test

·When should music copies be submitted?
Photocopies of both the solo part and piano accompaniment must be emailed or posted to the school at least two weeks before the audition.

Academic

·Will a poor exam result put my child's academic scholarship a risk
Perhaps. The academic scholarship is based on academic performance in the top 10% of pupils at the school, so overall academic performance is important. Existing academic scholarships, for example, will be confirmed for the Sixth Form based on overall performance in the GCSE results. That said, we would not remove an academic scholarship because of the odd, uncharacteristic exam result.

·How do I apply for a Third Form (Year 9) academic scholarship if my child is already in the Prep School?

Third Form academic scholarship are awarded by applying through the following process in March of Second Form (Year 8)

Both internal and external Third Form scholarships are awarded via:

- i. A full report and reference from the candidate's current school in advance of the assessment day
- ii. A 90 minute online cognitive abilities assessment
- iii. Assessments in English and Mathematics
- iv. Assessments in two further subjects from the following: Combined Science, French, Geography, History, Latin or Design Technology
- v. An interview with the Deputy Head Academic and the Head of Scholars.

Sport

·Do sports scholars receive support in managing their academic and extracurricular commitments?

Yes. Many of our scholarship recipients successfully balance their sporting commitments alongside academic work and other co-curricular activities. We actively encourage good time management and open communication. The Director of Sport and Heads of Sport work closely with Housemasters/mistresses and academic tutors to ensure that sports scholars are well supported in managing their time effectively across academic and extracurricular commitments.

·Does school sport take priority over club sport?

Where clashes occur, we do ask that school sport takes priority over club commitments. However, the Director of Sport will liaise with parents in such situations and aims to be as supportive and flexible as possible where appropriate.

Piping & Drumming

·Are instruments provided by the school?

Drummers - Yes, the school provides drums for pipe band events and performances. Pipers are expected to have access to their own chanter and/or set of pipes.

·What is the time commitment?

Students can expect:

i. 1-2 rehearsals per week

1. One weekly lesson

2. Additional rehearsals prior to major performances

3. Participation in school events and selected competitions

The program requires dedication but is structured to support balanced school involvement.

·Can my child participate in other extracurricular activities?

Yes. Many scholarship recipients successfully balance piping and drumming with sport, academic clubs, and other music ensembles. Good time management and communication are encouraged.

Art

·Does my child need to want to study Art at GCSE to apply?

While this is not a formal requirement at Third Form entry, Art Scholars are expected to take Art at GCSE and, in most cases, continue to A Level in the Sixth Form. A genuine long-term commitment to Art is expected.

·What makes a successful portfolio?

We look for:

- i.Strong observational drawing
- ii.Evidence of experimentation and risk-taking
- iii.Development of ideas, not just finished pieces
- iv.Personal voice and curiosity
- v.Sketchbooks that show thinking, research, and refinement

Highly polished work alone is not enough, we are particularly interested in creative process and potential.

·Does my child need formal Art exam grades to apply?

No. While school reports and grades are considered, potential, attitude, and commitment to creative development are more important than formal qualifications at Third Form entry.

·Can digital art be included in the portfolio?

Yes. Digital work, photography, film, and mixed media are welcome.

However, we expect to see evidence of fundamental skills such as drawing and visual analysis alongside digital outcomes.

·What happens if a scholar decides not to take Art at GCSE?

Art Scholarship is awarded in recognition of both ability and commitment. If a pupil chooses not to continue studying Art, the scholarship would normally be reviewed.

·Is the scholarship purely talent-based?

No. Work ethic, openness to feedback, resilience, and enthusiasm for creative development are equally important. We are investing in potential and attitude as much as technical ability.

·Will scholars be required to enter competitions?

Where appropriate, scholars are encouraged to enter regional and national competitions. This is viewed as part of their artistic development and leadership within the department.

·What support is given for pupils considering creative careers?

Art Scholars receive:

- i.Individual portfolio mentoring
- ii.Guidance on foundation courses and art school applications
- iii.Support with preparation for competitive creative pathways

·Can a pupil lose their Art Scholarship?

Scholarship retention is based on:

- i.Enthusiastic participation
 - 1.Consistent effort
 - 2.Positive contribution to the department

Scholarships are not removed lightly, but disengagement from the programme or failure to meet expectations may lead to review.

Drama

·What qualities are you looking for in a scholar?

We look for young people who demonstrate passion, commitment, potential, and a willingness to take part in school productions and co-curricular activities. We value teachability and enthusiasm as much as polished skill.

·What level of experience does my child need?

Applicants come from varied backgrounds. We assess potential and commitment just as highly as experience.

·Will holding a scholarship affect my child's academic timetable?

Scholars follow the same academic timetable as all pupils but are expected to participate fully in rehearsals and artistic commitments. We work with families to maintain a healthy balance.

·What additional opportunities do scholars receive?

Scholars may have access to performance opportunities, workshops with visiting professionals, major productions, leadership roles, and support for audition or portfolio preparation.

·What commitments are expected from a scholar?

Scholars act as ambassadors for the arts and are expected to attend rehearsals, take part in productions, and model commitment to the school's performing arts community.

·How does Strathallan support pupils aiming for careers in the arts?

We provide guidance on conservatoire and drama school entry, support for audition and training. We also assist with applications for professional productions including theatre, film and television. We also aim to support those with ambitions in technical theatre to make connections within the industry.

All-Rounder

·Are expectations of scholars equally balanced between the three scholarship areas

Yes. And, of course, each pupil will be looked after in regard to the workload balance. All-Rounders are part of three different scholarship programmes, so, as with all our pupils, establishing a challenging, but manageable balance is the key.



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