



SOLIHULL

# Scholarships

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*“I have really enjoyed being challenged academically with countless interesting and fun projects, as well as learning new and useful skills.”*

– Charlie, Academic Scholar

## Exceptional support for exceptional talent

I am delighted that you are thinking about putting yourself forward for a scholarship at Solihull. These are highly prestigious awards, given to only a few who apply each year. Our Scholars' Programme is designed to nurture your intellectual, sporting or creative promise through a programme of support, challenge, opportunities and experiences – inspiring and stretching you to perform at the highest level in your chosen field.

During your application, and once you have become a member of the Solihull School community, we will encourage you to show us what you can do. We know what excellence looks like and we know how to help you to show us the very best of yourself. You will find the teachers are your keenest supporters and that we want you to do well. You will enjoy the rigour of our assessments, and I am confident that you will rise to the challenge of the process.

Your application is the start of an amazing journey.

I wish you all the very best in your endeavours.



**Charles Fillingham**  
Executive Headmaster



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**Being awarded a scholarship at Solihull begins a journey of growth, exploration, and self-discovery for pupils with exceptional potential**



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We are not just looking for the brightest talents, but those who have a spark, an independent spirit, and the curiosity and tenacity to invest in their own development. Scholars are the trailblazers, who view challenges as opportunities and emerge even more resilient with each one they choose to face.

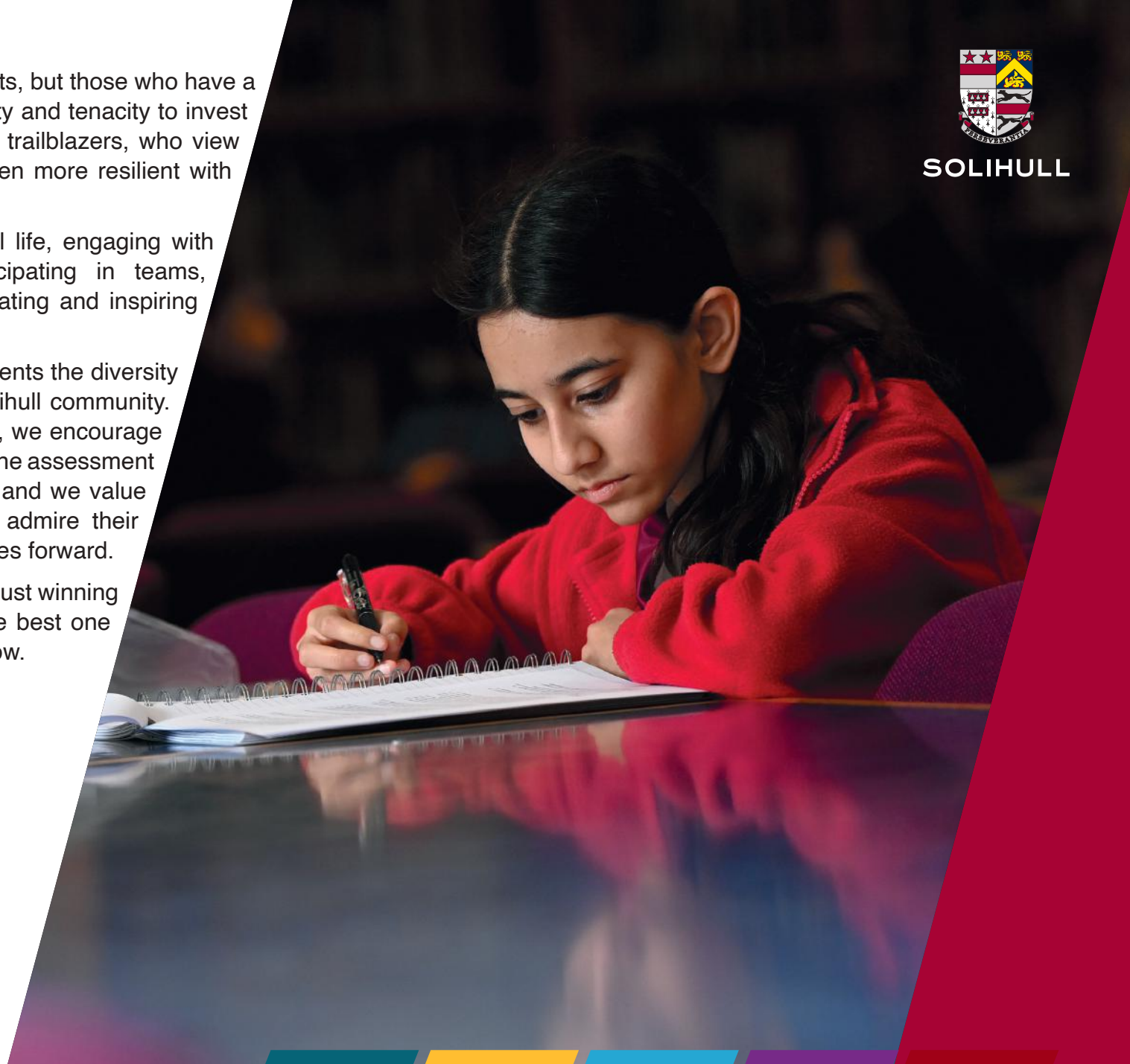
Our scholars are active members of school life, engaging with peers, collaborating with teachers, participating in teams, orchestras, societies and ensembles, motivating and inspiring those around them.

The breadth of scholarships available represents the diversity of talent and skills celebrated within the Solihull community. Whilst not every applicant will be successful, we encourage all pupils with a passion and desire to apply. The assessment process is a fun and enjoyable experience, and we value the effort pupils put into the process and admire their courage in stepping up and putting themselves forward.

Being a scholar at Solihull means more than just winning an award, it's about committing to being the best one can be and leading the way for others to follow.

Kind regards,

**Mrs K L Robinson**  
Deputy Head Academic



# Academic Scholarships

**Solihull's Academic Scholarships at 11+ and at 16+ represent an opportunity to truly excel. We offer both titular scholarships, and scholarships with up to 10% fee remission. Both are highly prestigious and sought after, designed to inspire and stretch you to perform at the highest level.**

The aims of the programme are to nurture exceptional academic ability, create a framework for pupils to excel in their academic studies and be academically aspirational, and provide opportunities for scholars to be active participants in the intellectual life of the school and to share their skills with others.

## **Applicants should demonstrate:**

- High levels of general academic potential
- Intellectual curiosity
- The resources and drive to learn independently
- A passion for academic study

## **Examples of activities and support:**

- Mentoring and support from a designated academic coach
- Internal and external performance opportunities, including:
  - MiSAC competition (Microbiology)
  - UKMT Intermediate and Senior Maths Challenge
  - LAMDA Public Speaking examinations
  - Physics Extension Club
  - Top of the Bench (Royal Society of Chemistry Competition)

- The Orwell Youth Prize (Politics Essay Competition)
- The Royal Society Book Competition
- The UK Linguistics Olympiad and Routes into Languages Translation Bees
- Crest award (Science and Engineering)
- Attending the Loynton Lecture Series and opportunities to present at our "Thinking Outside the Box" lecture series
- A bespoke programme for aspiring Oxbridge applicants, and for future medics, dentists and the next generation of veterinarians.

## **Expectations of Academic Scholars:**

- Demonstrate high levels of effort and attainment
- Contribute actively to the academic life of Solihull School
- Attend all Scholars' sessions and mentor meetings
- Take advantage of the wide range of enrichment opportunities on offer and work to develop their intellectual passion
- Enter academic competitions, such as essay writing and Olympiad
- Read voraciously
- Attend academic lectures regularly
- Support and coach younger pupils; acting as a role model to others
- Act as an ambassador for academia, the Scholars' Programme and the school



# How to Apply

## 11+

- All 11+ applicants are automatically considered for an Academic Scholarship, there is no additional examination or form to complete
- The Executive Headmaster reviews the performance in the entrance examination and interview, as well as a confidential report from the prospective scholar's school, when deciding to award a scholarship

## 16+

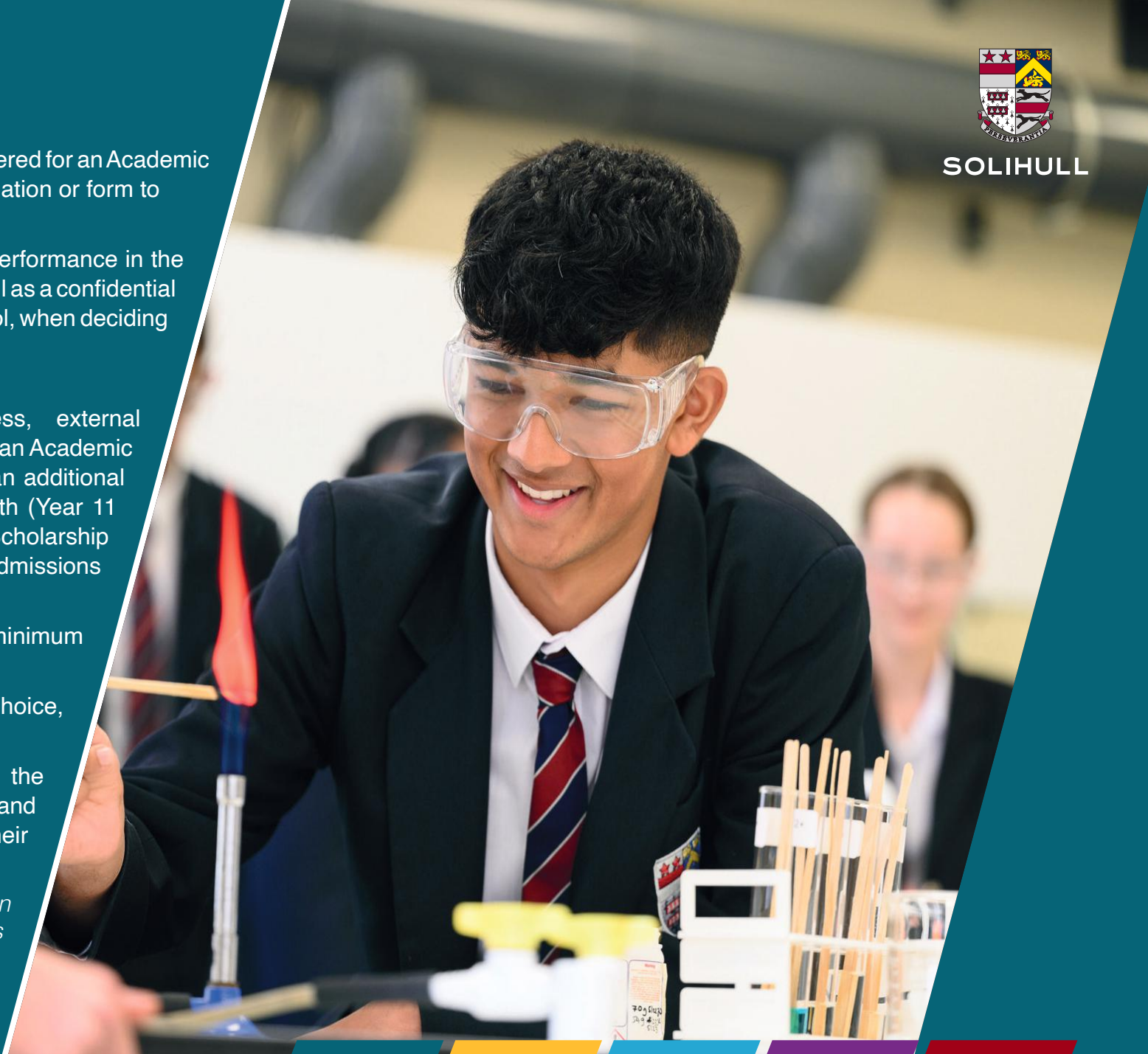
- During the online registration process, external applicants at 16+ may choose to apply for an Academic Scholarship, they will need to complete an additional online form. Pupils currently in Upper Fifth (Year 11 at Solihull School) complete an Academic Scholarship form which they obtain directly from the Admissions Office
- Candidates will usually be predicted a minimum of Grade 8 in at least six subjects
- Candidates will sit a one-hour multiple choice, critical thinking paper

The Executive Headmaster considers the performance of the pupil in the examination and interview (external applicants), as well as their general academic profile.

*All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Executive Headmaster. All dates relating to the scholarship process are available on the school website or from the Admissions Office.*



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# Art Scholarships

Solihull is pleased to offer Art Scholarships at 11+ and at 16+ to talented artists wishing to nurture their artistic promise. We offer both titular scholarships, and scholarships with up to 10% fee remission. Both are highly prestigious and sought after, designed to inspire and stretch you to perform at the highest level.

The aims of the programme are to provide a framework within which scholars can excel in Art, create an environment where pupils have opportunities to create, exhibit and grow in confidence developing their artistic skills and provide opportunities to access high quality teaching and prepare students for university or art college, as appropriate.

## Applicants should be:

- Confident and innovative artists or designers who practise their skill regularly
- Able to demonstrate potential for outstanding performance as an artist or designer
- Able to articulate and demonstrate a passion for Art

## Examples of activities and support:

- Mentoring by art department staff and senior art scholars
- Opportunities to further explore Art by attending workshops and life drawing classes as well as meeting professional artists
- Opportunities to work on whole school Art projects such as completing large canvas works for public spaces

- One-to-one coaching, support and advice to develop as an artist
- Access to outstanding facilities
- Help to organise and lead specific Art events that are scheduled throughout the school year
- Opportunities to teach and to share skills and knowledge with pupils in both the Preparatory School and Senior School

## Expectations of Art Scholars:

- Be confident and innovative artists and designers who practise/draw regularly
- Attend all Scholars' sessions and mentor meetings
- Play an active role in the artistic life of the school
- Direct and mentor younger pupils and act as a role model at all times
- To be an ambassador for the Art Department, the Scholars' programme and the school

## How to Apply

- During the online registration process, external applicants at 11+ and 16+ may choose to apply for an Art Scholarship, they will need to complete an additional online form. Pupils currently in J4 (Year 6) and Upper Fifth (Year 11) at Solihull School complete an Art Scholarship form which they obtain directly from the Admissions Office
- Applicants will be sent a drawing task to produce at home after the registration closing date and given approximately 10 days to complete. The artwork should be completed by the applicant alone without any help from parents, teachers or other sources
- Applicants should submit a supporting reference from their current Art teacher before the assessment
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an Art assessment and should provide a portfolio of their most recent work; completed within the last 12 months

### The assessment will comprise:

- An interview about experience and interest in Art
- A short practical drawing task
- A discussion about the drawing task and portfolio work

It is expected that 11+ Art Scholars will take Art at GCSE and 16+ Art Scholars will take either Art or Photography at A Level.

*All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Executive Headmaster. All dates relating to the scholarship process are available on the school website or from the Admissions Office.*



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## Music Scholarships

Attracting the most talented and tenacious musicians each year, Solihull offers Music, Choral and Organ Scholarships at 11+ and at 16+. We offer both titular scholarships, and scholarships with up to 10% fee remission. Both are highly prestigious and sought after, designed to inspire and stretch you to perform at the highest level.

The aims of the programme are to provide a framework for pupils to excel in musical performance both individually and in ensembles, create an environment where scholars have opportunities to perform, grow in confidence and develop their musicianship and provide opportunities to access high quality individual teaching and to prepare musicians for university or music college entrance, as appropriate.

### Applicants should:

- Be confident performers, having regular tuition on their chosen instrument(s) or voice
- Practise regularly
- Be confident sight readers
- Have good aural skills
- Perform in instrumental or vocal ensembles
- Have a passion for making music

As a guideline, 11+ candidates will be performing at a strong Grade 4 or 5 level on their main instrument or voice, and 16+ candidates will be at Grade 7 or 8 level. That said, promising musicians are encouraged to apply even if they have not yet attained these grades. We are looking for musical potential, as well as achievement.

### Examples of activities and support:

- Free individual tuition on one instrument or voice
- Access to superb facilities in the David Turnbull Music School and Bushell Hall
- Mentoring by music staff and senior music scholars or exhibition holders where appropriate
- Recitals and opportunities to perform at prestigious venues including Birmingham Conservatoire and notable cathedrals across the UK

### Expectations of Music Scholars:

- Practise regularly to develop individual performance abilities
- Play an active role in the musical life of the school, performing in school concerts, recitals, assemblies and other school events such as Open Morning and Prizegiving
- Coach and mentor younger musicians and ensembles, acting as a role model for other musicians and pupils in general
- Study for graded examinations in practical music and theory
- Join appropriate instrumental and vocal groups. Instrumentalists are expected to join at least one vocal group
- Attend all Scholars' sessions and mentor meetings
- Act as an ambassador for the Music Department, the Scholars' Programme and the school



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## How to Apply

- During the online registration process, external applicants at 11+ and 16+ may choose to apply for a Music Scholarship, they will need to complete an additional online form. Pupils currently in J4 (Year 6) and Upper Fifth (Year 11) at Solihull School complete a Music Scholarship form which they obtain directly from the Admissions Office
- Applicants should send a supporting reference for each instrument offered, or voice, before the assessments
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a Music audition

### At audition candidates will be asked to perform:

- Two short but contrasting pieces of their own choice on their main instrument or voice
- One piece of their choice on any other instrument or voice (it is not necessary to offer more than one instrument or voice to apply for a scholarship)
- Scales and sight reading
- Aural tests
- A short song of their choice (unless voice is one of their selected 'instruments')

*All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Executive Headmaster. All dates relating to the scholarship process are available on the school website or from the Admissions Office.*



# Performing Arts Scholarships

**Solihull's Performing Arts Scholarships (Drama/Dance/Musical Theatre) are offered at both 11+ and at 16+. We offer both titular scholarships, and scholarships with up to 10% fee remission. Both are highly prestigious and sought after, designed to inspire and stretch you to perform at the highest level.**

The aims of the programme are to provide a supportive framework in which pupils can excel within Performing Arts; providing opportunities for pupils to grow in confidence and develop their skills, becoming innovative thinkers and creators, and confident performers, and to provide opportunities for pupils to access high quality teaching and experiences to prepare them for higher education and the Performing Arts industry, as appropriate.

## **Applicants should be:**

- Confident and innovative performers in one or more of the disciplines of Drama/Dance/Musical Theatre
- Able to demonstrate potential for outstanding success in one or more of these areas
- Able to articulate and demonstrate a passion for the Performing Arts

## **Examples of activities and support:**

- Mentoring by drama and/or dance department staff and senior drama and/or dance scholars
- Opportunities to further explore the Performing Arts by attending workshops, watching live performances and talking to industry professionals

- Opportunities to teach and to share skills and knowledge with pupils in both the Preparatory School and Senior School
- Opportunities to audition for main parts and roles within the various performances in school
- Help to organise and lead specific events that are scheduled throughout the school year
- One-to-one coaching, support and advice with auditions and higher education applications for Performing Arts courses
- Access to excellent facilities
- Support to expand expertise into other fields of Performing Arts, such as tech, lighting and stage design

## **Expectations of Performing Arts Scholars:**

- Be confident, innovative, dedicated and disciplined
- Attend all Scholars' sessions and mentor meetings
- Play an active role in the Performing Arts life of the school, being involved in relevant experiences, projects or performances, either on or off stage
- Act as a role model for younger peers, showing initiative and guiding them to improve their skills
- To be an ambassador for the Performing Arts (Drama/Dance/Musical Theatre) Departments, the Scholars' Programme and the school



## How to Apply

- During the online registration process, external applicants at 11+ and 16+ may choose to apply for a Performing Arts Scholarship, they will need to complete an additional online form. Pupils currently in J4 (Year 6) and Upper Fifth (Year 11) at Solihull School complete a Performing Arts Scholarship form which they obtain directly from the Admissions Office
- Applicants should submit a supporting reference from a specialist within their chosen area/areas of expertise before the audition
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an audition in the style of a workshop, and an individual performance and interview

### The audition will consist of:

- A practical workshop with other candidates
- An interview about recent experience and interests
- A performance audition in your chosen discipline

*All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Executive Headmaster. All dates relating to the scholarship process are available on the school website or from the Admissions Office.*



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## Sport Scholarships

For talented athletes, we are pleased to offer Sport Scholarships in cricket, hockey, netball and rugby at 11+ and at 16+. We offer both titular scholarships, and scholarships with up to 10% fee remission. Both are highly prestigious and sought after, designed to inspire and stretch you to perform at the highest level.

The aims of the programme are to provide a framework for pupils to excel in sports performance both individually and within a team setting, to create an environment where pupils have opportunities to perform and grow in confidence, whilst developing a positive attitude towards training, teamwork and fair play, and to provide opportunities to access high quality individual coaching and to prepare pupils for performance sport beyond school and university entrance, as appropriate.

### Applicants should fulfil one of the following criteria:

- Regional level or equivalent in cricket, hockey, netball or rugby, where such opportunities exist
- Demonstrable potential for outstanding performance in cricket, hockey, netball or rugby

The school is looking to support outstanding Sport Scholars who, given access to the high level of coaching available at Solihull School, will develop into elite performers in one or more of our major sports.

### Examples of activities and support:

- Specialist coaching from internal and external sports coaches where appropriate
- Mentoring by sport staff and senior sport scholars, where appropriate
- Performance-analysis programmes and support
- Athletic Development Training

### Expectations of Sport Scholars:

- To be confident performers and train regularly
- Play an active role in the sporting life of the school
- Attend all Scholars' sessions and mentor meetings
- Coach and mentor younger pupils, and act as a role model, representing the sporting life of the school in a positive and inclusive manner
- Act as an ambassador for the Sports Department, the Scholars' Programme and the school



## How to Apply

- During the online registration process, external applicants at 11+ and 16+ may choose to apply for a Sport Scholarship, they will need to complete an additional online form. Pupils currently in J4 (Year 6) and Upper Fifth (Year 11) at Solihull School complete a Sport Scholarship form which they obtain directly from the Admissions Office
- Applicants should send a supporting reference from their current Head of Physical Education, or a club coach representative, before the assessments
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a Sport Scholarship assessment

### The assessment will consist of:

- A short briefing by the Director of Sport
- A practical, physical performance assessment marked against criteria selected by the school in one, or more, of the core sports (cricket, hockey, netball and rugby)
- A short interview with our sports staff and Assistant Head (Co-Curricular)

*All scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Executive Headmaster and based upon sporting performance on the day in the assessment. All dates relating to the scholarship process are available on the school website or from the Admissions Office.*



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# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What are the benefits of being a scholar at Solihull?

Scholarships at Solihull are highly prestigious and sought after. They will take part in scholars' activities which will develop their talents and capabilities, tailored to their chosen specialism. Each scholar is supported by a mentor from within the teaching staff who will guide them, encourage them to challenge themselves, and ensure they make the most of opportunities the programme offers. We offer both titular scholarships and those which attract fee remission.

## 2. Can a child apply for more than one scholarship?

Yes, they can. They should complete a separate application form for each scholarship they would like to apply for (with the exception of 11+ academic scholarship, which is automatically considered). There are different application criteria for each one and so it is important to check the 'how to apply' sections within this booklet.

## 3. What is the financial value of a scholarship at Solihull?

Scholarships are principally a recognition of excellence and a signifier of high attainment in the application process. We offer two types of scholarship: a titular scholar, which is an honorary title and, at the discretion of the Executive Headmaster, we also offer scholarships with up to 10% fee remission. Each scholarship application is assessed on its individual merits.

## 4. How will my scholarship be recognised in school?

New scholars are recognised at prizegiving in their first year at Solihull. Scholars also receive a badge which is worn as part of the uniform and, from time to time, we may ask scholars to represent the school at events, open mornings.

## 5. If I am unsuccessful in gaining a scholarship, can I apply for a bursary?

Scholarships and bursaries operate separately from each other. If you would like to apply for a means-tested bursary, you should tick the relevant box on the registration form and paperwork will be sent to you after the registration closing date. We may use an external company to assess applications for bursaries.

## 6. Do I need to sit a separate exam if applying for an academic scholarship?

At 11+ there is no additional examination, the Executive Headmaster considers the performance in the entrance examination and interview, as well as a confidential report from the prospective scholar's school, when deciding to award a scholarship. Please note it is not possible to re-sit the 11+ examination. At 16+, academic scholarship applicants will sit a one-hour multiple choice, critical thinking paper. The interview performance (external applicants) and grade profile of the candidate, mock examinations or predicted grades, will also be considered. Candidates will usually be predicted a minimum of Grade 8 in at least six subjects if they are to be considered for a scholarship.

## **7. Can I change the dates of my scholarship assessment?**

The majority of 11+ and 16+ scholarship assessments take place within the school day during Monday - Friday, with some taking place after school on weekdays. The 16+ academic scholarship examination takes place on a Saturday. Due to the number of applicants, we are not able to accommodate alternative assessment date requests.

## **8. If I am awarded a scholarship at Solihull School, do I have to choose certain subjects at GCSE or A level?**

Generally speaking, there is a free range of options. The only exception is for an Art Scholarship. An 11+ Art Scholar would be expected to take GCSE Art, a 16+ Art Scholar would be expected to take A Level Art or Photography.

## **9. Can I request feedback on my scholarship assessment?**

Scholarship offers are made on merit, with consideration of individual performance demonstrated during the scholarship assessment process and general academic profile. Due to the number of applicants, we are unable to offer personalised feedback on any scholarship application, assessment or audition.

## **10. Do previously earned Solihull 11+ scholarships continue into the Sixth Form?**

11+ scholarships are maintained throughout a pupil's time at Solihull up to the end of the Upper Sixth (Year 13). Sometimes, pupils wish to apply for an additional academic scholarship at 16+ (prior to Sixth Form entry) to demonstrate continued excellence in their academic studies.

## **11. What happens if a scholar does not meet expectations?**

Our priority is to foster a supportive environment to help scholars achieve their fullest potential at Solihull. In the rare event that the school has concerns, this will be discussed with them, and their parents or carers, prior to any decision to remove an award.

## **12. I am already a student at Solihull; can I apply for a scholarship?**

All scholarships are open to pupils at 11+ and 16+. Pupils in J4 (Year 6) or in the Upper Fifth (Year 11) at Solihull can therefore apply for either an 11+ or 16+ scholarship. Given the substantial volume of applications we receive annually, we recommend thoughtful consideration of your suitability before proceeding with your application. Your Form Tutor or Head of Year would be an excellent person to discuss this with.



## Meet some of our current scholars

**“***As a scholar, I have taken advantage of the wide range of super activities such as academic lectures and workshops that have set me up very well for university applications. It also kickstarted my involvement in Debating; something that I have thoroughly enjoyed.***”**

*Sophie (Academic)*

**“***Being a scholar is amazing. I can represent the school in an area in which I have a great interest. I love that I can mentor younger scholars too and get them involved in all the brilliant things that my scholarship offers.***”**

*Caspar (Performing Arts)*

**“***Sport at Solihull School has been so rewarding and has given me so many unforgettable life experiences.***”**

*Seb (Sports)*

**“***Being a scholar has provided me with fantastic support and opportunities as well as enabling me to contribute to school life and develop my team and leadership skills.***”**

*Katy (Music)*

**“***I am immensely appreciative of the extraordinary music community at Solihull School, where I have consistently received support and faced challenges that have enhanced my musical growth. The dedicated Music Department staff and the numerous opportunities available have inspired me to pursue a future career in music.***”**

*George (Music)*



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*“Being awarded a scholarship made me feel recognised for all the hard work and effort that I put in. Furthermore, it provided me with extra support, guidance and some great opportunities.”*

– Tom, Academic Scholar





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**[solsch.org.uk](http://solsch.org.uk)**

**[admissions@solsch.org.uk](mailto:admissions@solsch.org.uk)**

**0121 705 4273**

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