



## **13+ Academic Scholarship**

### **What are we looking for in a scholar?**

An academic scholar will have genuine academic curiosity and passion for discussion, debate and deep thinking. They will relish academic life at St Helen and St Katharine and interested in fully developing their potential across a range of disciplines.

A scholarship candidate will successful demonstrate the following key attributes:

- outstanding performance in the 13+ thinking skills test
- a consistently positive attitude to their work
- enthusiasm for academic discussion
- the ability to reason
- a willingness to reflect on how they learn
- exceptional potential to contribute to the academic life of the school

### **What does a scholar enjoy?**

- Academic scholars will be mentored by the Director for Academic Development and Partnerships who will meet with scholars at least once per half term to discuss their progress and involvement in academic enrichment activities.
- Each academic scholar will be invited to at least two Thinking Suppers, one at Radley College and one at St Helen's over the course of Middle School. Academic scholars from both schools meet for Thinking Suppers to discuss unseen sources related to a particular curriculum area.

### **Expectations of a scholar**

- To display a commitment to learning across the curriculum
- To model excellent attitudes to learning and academic work
- To engage with the supra-curricular opportunities available in School and those offered outside School

The Assistant Head: Academic Enrichment and Extra-curricular Activities will discuss these expectations with each scholar and monitor their academic performance with a particular focus on their attitude to learning.

### **Selection and assessment procedure**

Selection for 13+ academic scholarship for internal and external candidates is by examination and interview. Students who have displayed both a very high standard of academic achievement, effort and potential, be that at St Helen and St Katharine or an external school, are invited to enter themselves for the 13+ scholarship paper which assesses thinking skills and is taken in March of Year 8. This is a multiple-choice paper

which tests the ability to reason both verbally and numerically, to analyse arguments and reach logical conclusions and to think critically. The test is written in everyday language, and absolutely no special preparation is required. It is an opportunity for us to consider candidates' ways of thinking without tying it to their curriculum knowledge which may vary from school to school.

Those candidates who perform well in the scholarship paper will be interviewed by the Head of Middle School and Assistant Head: Academic Enrichment and Extra-curricular Activities. At the interview the candidates will be given an unseen source to read and discuss. They will be encouraged to display their ability to reason, their enthusiasm for academic discussion and their potential to contribute to the academic life of the school. Again, no special preparation is necessary.

Students who wish to participate in this process should submit an application form for the 13+ scholarship paper by the stated deadline.

Details of the Scholarship Programme together with schedules and application forms are available in the 13+ Scholarships of the school website [www.shsk.org.uk](http://www.shsk.org.uk).