



Academic Scholarship 16+

Duration: 2 years

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 subjects.

A successful scholarship candidate will demonstrate the following key attributes:

- Outstanding performances in both of their nominated scholarship papers
- A consistently positive attitude to their work
- Enthusiasm for academic discussion
- The ability to reason and to think critically
- A willingness to reflect on how they learn
- Exceptional potential to contribute to the academic life of the School

What does a scholar enjoy?

- Mentorship by the Deputy Head: Academic Enrichment and C0-curricular Activities who will meet with scholars at least once per half term to discuss their progress and their engagement in supra-curricular activities
- Scholars will be asked to reflect on their learning from curriculum subjects and supra-curricular academic activities ahead of each meeting
- In the Lower Sixth, these meetings are particularly focussed on developing a depth of learning outside of the classroom which will facilitate a successful competitive university application
- The opportunity to participate in The Helena Awards programme

Expectations of a scholar

Academic scholars will be expected to:

- Achieve grades at the higher levels in their (I)GCSE examinations.
- Display their commitment to learning in their Sixth Form subjects
- Engage with supra-curricular activities available in School
- Engage with academic opportunities offered outside School and display initiative in exploring these opportunities
- Act as an academic role model for their peers and younger students, being happy to act as an academic ambassador for the School

Selection and assessment procedure

Selection for a 16+ academic scholarship for internal and external candidates is by examination and interview. The examination element consists of two parts:

- The Cognitive Abilities Test (which external candidates will sit as part of the school admission process anyway). This is a computerised test designed to assess verbal, non-verbal, numerical and spatial reasoning. No special preparation is required as the test does not require subject specific knowledge
- Two subject specific papers: Applicants are also asked to nominate two subjects in which they would like to offer subject-specific papers. We ask that these be based the student's intended A level options but do understand that these choices may sometimes change. None of the papers require any special preparation, we are interested in finding out how you think and the subject-specific academic skills you are developing

Candidates who perform to a very high standard at examination will be invited to interview. The interview will be with the Deputy Head: Academic Enrichment and Co-Curricular Activities and a School Governor and will require applicants to engage in academic discussion using a previously unseen piece of stimulus material such as a recent press article.

Those wishing to apply for an academic scholarship should submit an application by the date stated on the application form.

Details of the Scholarship Programme together with schedules and application forms are available in the 16+ Scholarships section of the school website.