



Art Scholarship 13+ Duration: 3 years

What are we looking for in a scholar?

Art scholars are young artists who demonstrate creativity, curiosity and a genuine commitment to developing their artistic practice. They are enthusiastic about making, exploring and experimenting, and are eager to embrace opportunities beyond the classroom to develop as independent and original thinkers.

The Art Scholarship Programme is designed to nurture students with both talent and potential. We are looking for students who are willing to take creative risks, engage thoughtfully with ideas, and contribute positively to the artistic life of the school. Art scholars are expected to act as creative ambassadors, embracing opportunities for leadership, collaboration and public exhibition.

A successful scholarship candidate will demonstrate the following key attributes:

- Approach their work with imagination, resilience and an openness to experimentation
- Enjoy working both independently and collaboratively, contributing to a vibrant and supportive creative community
- Be motivated to pursue opportunities beyond the curriculum and embrace challenge in their creative work
- Demonstrate technical ability and creative potential, with a willingness to grow, refine their skills and develop a distinctive artistic voice

Above all, we seek students who find joy in the creative process and who are excited by the prospect of becoming part of a dynamic community of emerging artists, makers and innovators.

What does a scholar enjoy?

Art scholars participate in an enhanced creative enrichment pathway centred around professional artistic practice, creative leadership, and public exhibition.

- Mentorship by an appropriate member of the Art Department
- Art scholars become responsible for selected high-profile visual commissions across the school year
- Art scholars Showcase: Art scholars curate an Open Call exhibition of work for which they decide the theme
- Art scholars complete four intensive artist residencies annually with leading creative practitioners
- In Year 10 and 11 Art scholars are invited to attend life drawing classes with Sixth Form A Level students
- Sixth Form scholars have dedicated portfolio and creative development opportunities

The programme is designed to nurture not only technical skill, but originality, experimentation, and creative independence.

Expectations of a scholar

- Play a leading role in art and design activities at St Helen's, for example by entering (and encouraging others to take part in) art and design internal and external competitions
- Regular attendance at one of the Art Department clubs in either art or ceramics
- Write about art trips, visits by artists into school and art events for school publications and the school website
- At 13+ select Art or Ceramics as one of their GCSE choices; at 16+ select Art as one of their A Level choices
- Exhibit their work as part of the Open Call exhibition, providing a valuable opportunity for them to curate and show their own work
- Have a meeting with the Head of Art (or appropriate mentor) at the start and end of each academic year to appraise progress and discuss future work
- Assist the Art Department on Open Day and other events

Selection and assessment procedure

All candidates are required to submit an application form and return this by the date stated on the form. Application forms are available in the Scholarships section of the school website.

Portfolio

Candidates must submit a *digital* portfolio, which should consist of the following:

- 3 pieces of artwork that show a variety of ways of working which have *not* been completed in school
- Selected pages from a sketchbook which demonstrate the process of developing a piece of artwork (may be part of a school project)
- 2 drawings which show observational skill (may be part of a school project)
- Up to 5 other pieces of artwork – either preparatory or completed, in any medium (which may be part of a school project)

To create your portfolio, you should photograph your work and add your photographs to a PowerPoint.

Depending on the number of applications, we may shortlist candidates for interview. All students who submit applications will be invited to the Emerging Artists Studio sessions in Year 9. The programme supports students showing strong creative potential and provides a foundation for future artistic opportunities within the School.

Portfolios should be submitted the week before the assessment dates published on the website to the Admissions Office admissions@shsk.org.uk

Assessment Day

1. Skills Assessment

A 60-minute exercise to test observational drawing skills, in which candidates will produce a piece of work in any media from a still life

2. Interview

Candidates will be interviewed in a group of up to four other applicants to facilitate group discussion.

- Use of processes and materials
- Show some knowledge of artists' work, traditional and contemporary
- Talk about work in the portfolio
- Discuss exhibitions, art galleries and museums visited
- Work produced in skills assessment will also be discussed

3. *Creative Challenge*

Students will be asked to complete an unseen creative challenge. This will be a taught session to understand how the students think through the creative process. This will run while smaller groups are interviewed.

Details of the Scholarship Programme together with schedules and application forms are available in the Scholarships section of the School website www.shsk.org.uk.