



Bloxham School
Scholarships and Exhibitions

Introduction

Scholarships at Bloxham School

We are committed to stretching all of our students to their full potential and we believe that awarding scholarships is one of our most valuable tools to achieve this. We are ambitious for our scholars and have high expectations. In return, we provide state-of-the-art facilities and the support of talented, dedicated staff to help these, our most gifted students, achieve their ultimate goals.

What is a Bloxham scholar?

A Bloxham scholar is an individual who has been recognised for their potential to develop a talent or an ability within an area of school life.

Our scholars are not simply resting upon their achievements to date, but are actively pursuing excellence and striving to achieve higher aspirations, whilst acting as role models for their peers to follow. Most of all, we want our scholars to be open-minded, creative, and receptive to new ideas and approaches.





Which scholarships are available at Bloxham?

At Bloxham, we offer Academic scholarships, Design and Technology scholarships, scholarships in the Creative Arts (Music, Art and Drama), and Sports scholarships.

Candidates may apply for more than one scholarship. An award is tenable throughout the student's time at the school, subject to the Headmaster's satisfaction and the student's ongoing high performance. We offer a number of awards each year, with scholarships offering a nominal discount for fees. Exhibitions are also awarded and come with a smaller reduction in fees. Please note that we offer means-tested financial support through bursaries; for more information, visit our website.

Who can receive a scholarship?

Scholarships and exhibitions are awarded at 11+, 13+ and 16+ (please note that Sports scholarships are not offered at 11+). Our applicants come from different educational backgrounds and we consider each student solely on their own merits.

How do you apply for a scholarship?

For a scholarship application form, or for further information, please contact the Admissions team (admissions@bloxhamschool.com, 01295 724301).

Academic Scholarships

We take great pride in supporting and stretching our academic high-fliers, allowing them to realise their full potential and enjoy stimulating intellectual challenges. We expect our scholars to develop a broad intellectual curiosity and we encourage them to be ambitious in their thinking. Scholars are likely to ask thoughtful and probing questions that take them beyond the confines of exam specification and delight us with their interesting and individual approaches.

Academic scholars and exhibitioners are invited to be members of the school's Eunoia Society, which takes its name from a Greek word meaning 'beautiful thinking'. This society often welcomes guest lecturers, who bring thought provoking, cross-curricular topics to stretch the students.

In addition to attendance at Eunoia events, we expect Academic scholars to engage in other extra curricular academic activities, for example: debating, philosophy club, and subject related extension. Scholars will also normally take an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) which helps them to develop an independent approach to scholarly research (a qualification that is highly valued by top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge).



11+

Scholarships at this age are awarded on the basis of a strong performance in the standard Lower School entrance examination, which comprises a verbal reasoning test as well as exams in English and Mathematics. These tests are based on what a child is expected to have studied for Key Stage 2. All entrance examination candidates can also expect an interview with a senior member of staff.

13+

Candidates for academic scholarships at 13+ will sit mandatory papers in English, Mathematics, and Science, alongside two optional papers chosen from French, History, Latin, Spanish, Geography and Theology/Religious Studies (please note that no previous study of Religious Studies is required or expected). Papers have been designed so that they are of equal challenge for internal and external candidates.

The English paper is one hour and 30 minutes long, whilst all other subject papers last one hour. Specimen papers and some past papers are available from the school's Admissions Office. Candidates will also sit a verbal reasoning test and must submit a letter of support/reference from their school. Successful candidates are those students who are identified as having high academic potential (likely to achieve a series of top grades at GCSE and, later, at A-Level).



16+

All candidates for Academic scholarships at 16+ will choose to sit two papers from the following list of subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Economics, English Literature, French, Geography, History, Mathematics, Physics, Theology and Spanish. The two papers chosen will normally be subjects that the candidate is expecting to take at A-Level.

In addition, all candidates will sit a general paper that will include a series of compulsory questions that test the comprehension of an article, as well as a choice of longer-answer questions that range across current affairs, moral issues, the arts and sciences. All papers will be one hour and 15 minutes in length (with the exception of the General Paper, which will last one hour and 30 minutes).

External candidates will also sit a verbal reasoning test and must submit a letter of support/reference from their school. All papers at this level are set on the understanding that candidates will have followed a wide variety of GCSE courses. Scholarships are awarded to those students who are viewed as having high A-Level potential (as well as being expected to achieve a series of A*/9 grades in their GCSE exams).

Art Scholarships

We expect our Art scholars and exhibitors to have a vibrant imagination, a natural curiosity, and an obvious passion for Art. We want our scholars to take the initiative and demonstrate a skilled and independent approach to the subject, well beyond the classroom. Strong drawing skills and creativity are prerequisites, and we value the ability or potential to experiment with a range of media in innovative and interesting ways. Art scholars will be expected to have an awareness and appreciation of the work of other artists and to use this to innovate their own practice.

We provide opportunities for Art scholars to reach a wide audience with their work. As well as contributing to an annual scholars' exhibition (to which scholars and exhibitors must provide self-generated art work), scholars are encouraged to enter local and national competitions. Scholars and exhibitors will also find themselves making significant contributions to the broader cultural life of the school, such as by creating posters for school events or set designs for school plays.

These individuals will be role models for other students within the Art Department and they may find themselves assisting – or playing a leading role in – specialist lectures and workshops with practising artists.



11+

At 11+, Art scholars and exhibitioners will be expected to go on to take GCSE Art and it is hoped that this will continue right through the school. The assessment process will involve an observational drawing test lasting one hour, a written task (involving research and opinion from a choice of images that will be provided), interviews with members of staff, and the presentation of a portfolio (comprising a maximum of ten pieces). All candidates must submit a letter of support/reference from their current school along with their application. Candidates will be expected to discuss their own work and their involvement in the subject outside of lessons. In addition, 11+ candidates will be expected to sit the standard Lower School entrance examination.

13+

At 13+, Art scholars and exhibitioners will be expected to opt for GCSE Art and it is hoped that this will continue right through the school. The assessment will involve an observational drawing test of up to two hours, a written task (involving research and opinion from a choice of images that will be provided), interviews with members of staff, and the presentation of a portfolio (comprising a maximum of ten pieces).

Candidates will be expected to discuss their own work and their involvement in the subject outside of lessons. Candidates must submit a letter of support/reference from their Art teacher along with their application.



16+

At 16+, Art scholars and exhibitioners will be expected to opt for either Fine Art or Photography at A-Level. The assessment will involve a three hour observational drawing test, a written task (involving research and opinion from a choice of images that will be provided), interviews with members of staff, and the presentation of a portfolio (comprising a maximum of ten pieces). Candidates will be expected to talk lucidly about their own work and their involvement in the subject outside of lessons. External candidates must submit a letter of support/reference from their Art teacher along with their application. We would normally expect successful candidates to achieve a high grade in Art at GCSE.

Drama Scholarships

Drama at Bloxham is vibrant and performances take many forms. Performances range from Shakespeare to musical theatre, with recent highlights including an in-the-round production of Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* and a run at the Edinburgh Festival. Drama scholars and exhibitioners have the opportunity to be central to this part of the school's cultural life. We expect our Drama scholars to work with enthusiasm and energy, to work sensitively to support and to lead others, and to demonstrate intellectual engagement with the text or the subject-matter that is being explored. The Drama Department puts great value on people who are supportive and generous, modest but self-confident – they often make the best members of a cast.



11+

Drama scholars and exhibitioners at 11+ will be expected to go on to opt for GCSE Drama and it is hoped that this will continue throughout the school. The 11+ assessment will require candidates to perform two pieces: one of their own choosing (a pre-prepared monologue from a recognised published play text of a maximum of two minutes) and one which is a contemporary sight reading that they will receive on the day (this will be rehearsed with the Head of Drama). The assessment will also involve an interview where candidates will be expected to demonstrate and discuss previous experience and interest in Drama. Candidates will be expected to sit the standard Lower School entrance examination and must submit a letter of support/reference from their current school.

13+

Drama scholars and exhibitioners at 13+ will be expected to opt for GCSE Drama and it is hoped that this will continue throughout the school. The 13+ assessment requires candidates to perform two pieces: one of their own choosing (a pre-prepared monologue from a recognised published play text of a maximum of two minutes) and one which is a contemporary sight reading that they will receive on the day (this will be rehearsed with the Head of Drama). The assessment will also involve an interview where candidates will be expected to demonstrate and discuss previous experience and interest in Drama. Candidates must submit a letter of support/reference from their current school.

16+

Drama scholars and exhibitioners at 16+ will be expected to opt for theatre studies at A-Level. The 16+ assessment requires candidates to perform two pieces: one of their own choosing (a pre-prepared monologue from a recognised published play text of a maximum of two minutes) and one which is a contemporary sight reading that they will receive on the day (this will be rehearsed with the Head of Drama). Candidates will also have an interview where they will be expected to demonstrate and discuss previous experience and interest in Drama. External candidates must submit a letter or support/reference from their Drama teacher at their current school. We would normally expect a successful candidate to achieve a high grade in Drama or English literature at GCSE.



Music Scholarships

Music forms an integral part of the cultural landscape of Bloxham and Music Award Holders play a key part in this. Actively participating in the many ensembles on offer, they are positive role models for their peers and ambassadors for the Music Department. Music Award Holders are expected to regularly attend and perform in the busy concert programme, throughout the year, including their own dedicated recitals. In return, Music Award Holders have tailored screenings, talks and trips in order to expand their musical knowledge and experiences. These have recently included screenings of Amadeus, composition lectures and trips to Birmingham Symphony Hall, as well as a choir tour to Vienna and performing at St Stephen's Cathedral.

Music scholars are expected to have an inherent drive to excel and a thirst for broadening their own musical horizons. Dedicated, imaginative and creative, they are valued by the school community and inspire others with their love of music. The assessment process will see music scholarship applicants from all age groups attend an audition, which will involve a performance of two contrasting pieces on a first instrument and, usually, a further piece on one other. Voice may be offered as an alternative to an instrument.

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11+

Music scholars and exhibitioners at 11+ will be expected to go on to take the subject at GCSE and to play a full part in the extra-curricular musical life of the school (for example, by participating in choirs, orchestras and chamber groups as appropriate) throughout their time at Bloxham. 11+ candidates should be performing to a standard of at least Grade 3 in one or more instruments (although the awarding of a scholarship will not specifically be linked to earlier success in a graded instrumental examination) and show very good potential for their age. Candidates can also expect ear tests, sight reading and questions about their musical knowledge and interests. 11+ candidates will be expected to also sit the Lower School entrance examination and must submit a letter of support/reference from their school.

13+

Music scholars and exhibitioners at this age will be expected to go on to take the subject at GCSE and to play a full part in the extra-curricular musical life of the school (for example, by participating in choirs, orchestras and chamber groups as appropriate) throughout their time at Bloxham. Candidates should be performing to a standard of at least Grade 5 in one or more instrument (although the awarding of a scholarship will not specifically be linked to earlier success in a graded instrumental examination). Candidates can also expect ear tests, sight reading and questions about their musical knowledge and interests. Evidence of theory training will be expected. Candidates must submit a letter of support/reference from their Music teacher at their current school.

16+

Music scholars and exhibitioners at 16+ will be expected to opt for Music at A-Level and to play a full part in the extra-curricular musical life of the school (for example, by participating in choirs, orchestras and chamber groups as appropriate). A minimum performance standard of around Grade 7 is expected. Please note, whilst candidates are expected to offer two instruments, we reserve the right to offer a scholarship to an outstanding candidate who offers only one. Candidates can also expect aural tests, sight reading and questions about their musical knowledge and interests. External candidates must also submit a letter of support/reference from their Music teacher at their current school. We would normally expect a successful candidate to go on to achieve a high grade in Music at A-Level.



Design & Technology Scholarships

Our Design and Technology (DT) scholars are creative and imaginative individuals who love to identify problems before developing ideas that provide a solution. They might have spent hours as a child constructing virtual buildings in Minecraft and they might well go on to a degree in engineering at a top university. They are likely to be strong at science and mathematics but also hungry to apply their intellect to the task of making things.

Impressive facilities allow individual talent to thrive: some of our current students hold Arkwright Scholarships and the department boasts a history of success in the Young Engineer for Britain competition, in which one of our previous students was judged the overall National Winner. Perhaps, more than anything, our DT scholars stand out because they are passionate about what they do, whether they are explaining their work at an end of year exhibition or taking a leading role in one of the department's clubs and activities.



11+

DT scholars and exhibitioners will be expected to go on to take the subject at GCSE and it is hoped that this will continue right through the school. Candidates will sit a one and a half hour examination. In the 11+ assessment, candidates will be presented with a design question, and asked to produce two or three initial ideas for a solution before offering a more detailed presentation of one.

Candidates will also be required to produce a number of pieces of recent work and these will be assessed for evidence of imagination, skill and a range of interest.

11+ candidates will be expected to sit the standard Lower School entrance examination and to submit a letter of support/reference from their current school.

13+

DT scholars and exhibitioners at 13+ will be expected to take the subject at GCSE and it is hoped that this will continue right through the school. Candidates will sit a one and a half hour examination. They will be asked to produce two or three initial ideas as solutions to a practical problem and then present a detailed drawing of the best one. Candidates will also need to provide a portfolio of their recent work in the following areas: a short written piece (about 50 words) identifying a problem or a situation where a practical solution might be needed; design work and drawings; small pieces of practical work or photographic evidence of practical work (in more than one material if possible); and a written evaluation of a project. Candidates must submit a letter of support/reference from their DT teacher at their current school.



16+

DT scholars and exhibitioners at 16+ will be expected to take the subject in the Sixth Form. Candidates will sit a one and a half hour examination during which they will be asked to design a range of solutions to specific problems and then, after reasoned judgement, choose their best solution.

Candidates will also be required to present at the time of the examination a portfolio of their recent work, including: problem(s) or situation(s) identification; design work to include the development of a design from initial ideas through to final presentation drawings; small pieces of practical work or photographic evidence of practical work (in more than one material); and a written evaluation of a project. All external candidates must submit a letter of support/reference from their DT teacher at their current school.

Sport Scholarships

Bloxham's Sports scholars and exhibitioners have the opportunity to develop their skills under the close supervision of a dedicated team that includes current or past international players or coaches in all the major sports. We provide each scholar with specialist lectures and guidance on managing lifestyle, goal setting and analysing individual performance needs. In the senior years, we offer additional training and athletic development sessions to further performance in their chosen sport.

With this support, and with the added advantage of excellent facilities, talented individuals are often selected for county, regional or national squads. However, what we value in a Sports scholar is more than just success. It is equally important to us that our scholars and exhibitioners act as role models for younger students and that they develop their leadership skills by becoming involved in the running of competitions, in the practice of officiating, and in coaching within the community. We expect our Sports scholars to be determined and committed and to have an obvious passion for Sport.



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11+

We do not offer scholarships specifically for sport at this age. However, sporting ability may be taken into account when decisions are made regarding admissions, and can be considered as a support for other awards.

13+

At 13+, we are interested in receiving applications from individuals who have achieved representative honours at county, regional or national level or who are of a similar standard. We expect candidates to demonstrate leadership skills, to display sportsmanship and to show evidence that they are developing and deepening their knowledge of the game.

In making our decisions, we take into account the following: the nature and standard of the candidate's contribution to school sport; achievement outside the school (e.g. at club or county); performance in tests on the day; the particular sport at which the candidate excels (whilst achievement in any sport is welcome, we may give preference to those who are able to contribute to the major sports: rugby, hockey, netball, tennis and cricket). Candidates must submit a letter of support/reference from their Sports teacher. We expect our Sports scholars and exhibitioners to make an active and positive contribution to the sporting life of the school.



16+

Successful candidates at 16+ are likely to have achieved representative honours at county, regional or national level or be at a similar standard. We expect candidates to demonstrate leadership skills, to display sportsmanship at all times and to show evidence that they are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their knowledge of the game.

In making our decisions, we take into account the following: the nature and standard of the candidate's contribution to school sport; achievement outside the school (e.g. at club or county level); performance in tests on the day; the particular sport at which the candidate excels (whilst achievement in any sport is welcome, we may give preference to those who are able to contribute to the major sports: rugby, hockey, netball, tennis and cricket). All external candidates must submit a letter of support/reference from their Sports teacher at their current school. We expect our Sports scholars and exhibitioners to make an active and positive contribution to the sporting life of the school.



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