



NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL



STUDENT GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS
for academic year 2020/21

Scholarships – a guide for students

Introduction

First of all – well done for putting your name forward to apply for one or more of our Scholarships. Applying will be a very valuable life experience, regardless of the outcome. In the future, you will be certain to face some, probably many, occasions when you will have to put yourself forward for a competitive selection process (think about university applications and job applications, for example).

These experiences are challenging and can be rather stressful but the more practice you get while you are in a supportive environment at school, the better you will get at preparing for them, getting the best out of them and coping with the pressures they bring.

This guide is intended to help you to get the most out of the experience.

Why apply?

Scholarships are well worth having

- they are a 'feather in your cap' on your profile
- have a monetary value in terms of a percentage reduction in your fees
- the process of applying will teach you a great many things about how to present yourself in the best possible light, how to 'think on your feet' and how to cope with pressured situations
- they are a great 'dress rehearsal' for other applications you will do later, such as university and job applications
- they usually stay with you until the end of Sixth Form

What can and should you apply for? 13+

Academic Scholarships

(worth 5% or 10%)

We usually award one Scholarship to an internal applicant and one to an external applicant.

Arts Scholarships

(worth 5% to 20%)

You can apply for a Scholarship in Art, Dance, Drama, Food, Music or Textiles.

We usually award one Scholarship for Creative Arts and one for Performing Arts, depending on the applications we receive in a given year. For Music, our guidance is that you should be at a minimum of ABRSM Grade 5 or equivalent at the time you apply.

Sports and Swimming Scholarships

(worth up to 20% of fees)

You can apply on the basis of any of your sports (with a preference for sports we compete in at school).

Important

You can apply for any or all of these Scholarships.

It is worth bearing in mind that, in practice, we rarely award more than one Scholarship to the same person.

Our advice is – have a go. Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

Remember that you can hold a Scholarship AND a Bursary together. Details about Bursaries are in the Scholarships and Bursaries Booklet.

What does the application entail? 13+

For all Scholarships, you have to submit a completed application form by the deadline. The deadlines are published in the Scholarships and Bursaries Booklet and are also available on our website <https://www.northamptonhigh.co.uk/multimedia/prospectuses/>.

Remember that it is vital – and a part of the selection process – that you submit your application punctually.

Ability to meet deadlines is one of the criteria for selection.

For Arts, Sports and Swimming Scholarships, you will be required to submit a portfolio to support your application. Again, consult the Scholarships and Bursaries Booklet for details.

If in doubt about what is required, talk to someone in school:

- Mr Rickman for Academic Scholarships
- Mrs Beacroft, Mrs Care, Miss Knight, Mr Nathan or Miss Lycett for Arts Scholarships
- Mrs Littlewood for Sports Scholarships
- Miss Cheng in Admissions, if you are an external applicant

Selection process

The selection process is as follows:

Academic Scholarship

You complete a non-verbal reasoning and answer an essay question from a choice of essay titles under test conditions.

Arts Scholarships

Your portfolio is examined and, for Performing Arts, shortlisted candidates will be invited for an audition; for the Creative Arts Scholarships, shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview.

Sports and Swimming Scholarships

Your portfolio is examined and shortlisted candidates will attend a Sports Scholarship selection session and will be interviewed.

Consult the Scholarships and Bursaries Booklet for details.

How are the Scholarships awarded? 13+

For Academic awards, the non-verbal reasoning paper and your essays are marked with your candidate number (not your name) and the applicants who score the highest marks receive the awards.

For Arts, Sports and Swimming Scholarships, your application as a whole (submission and performance) is judged according to pre-agreed criteria and the candidate(s) scoring the highest marks receive the awards.

How will I know how I have done? 13+

We will write to you mid-February to let you know the outcome.

We do not give out actual marks but we will give you some valuable feedback on your application to enable you to get the most out of the application process as a learning experience.

Remember that, whether or not you are successful in the 13+, you will have an additional chance to gain a Scholarship (or, if you have one, to increase the level of award) upon entry to the Sixth Form.



What can and should you apply for? Sixth Form

Academic Scholarships

(worth 5% to 20%)

The number of awards we make will vary somewhat from year to year, depending on the size of the financial 'pot' we have available and the spread of results of candidates in a given year. We aim, as far as possible, to maintain a threshold standard from year to year so that the award process is transparent and fair. As a guide, we have tended to award between 7 and 10 Scholarships per year in recent years.

Arts Scholarships

(worth 5% to 20%)

You can apply for the following disciplines: Art, Dance, Drama, Food, Music or Textiles.

We usually award one Scholarship for Creative Arts and one for Performing Arts. For Music, our guidance is that you should be at a minimum of ABRSM Grade 5 or equivalent at the time you apply.

Sports Scholarships

(worth 5% to 20%)

You can offer any of your sports (with a preference for sports we compete in at school).

We usually award one Scholarship.

GDST Spirit Scholarship

(worth 5% to 20%)

This is based on all-round achievement in academic, and other areas, including service to your current school and the wider community.

We usually award one Scholarship to an internal applicant and one to an external applicant.

Exceptionally, we may divide the award between two applicants.

Important

You can apply for any or all of these Scholarships.

Remember that you can hold a Scholarship AND a Bursary together. If you already hold a Scholarship from 11+ or 13+, this will continue into Sixth Form, but you may be able to increase the award at this level by a further application. It is up to you whether you decide to try for this.

Details about Bursaries are in the Scholarships and Bursaries Booklet.

It is worth bearing in mind that, in practice, we rarely award more than one Scholarship to the same person.

What does the application entail? Sixth Form

For all Scholarships, you have to submit a completed application form by the deadline. The deadlines are published in the Scholarships and Bursaries Booklet and are also available on our website <https://www.northamptonhigh.co.uk/multimedia/prospectuses/>.

Remember that it is vital – and a part of the selection process – that you submit your application punctually.

Ability to meet deadlines is one of the criteria for selection.

For Arts and Sports Scholarships, you will be required to submit a portfolio to support your application. Again, consult the Scholarships and Bursaries Booklet for details.

If in doubt about what is required, talk to someone in school:

- Mr Rickman for Academic Scholarships
- Mrs Beacroft, Mrs Care, Miss Knight, Mr Nathan or Miss Lycett for Arts Scholarships
- Mrs Littlewood for Sports Scholarships
- Miss Cheng in Admissions, if you are an external applicant

Selection Process

The selection process is as follows:

Academic Scholarship

You take a cognitive ability test and answer an essay question from a choice of essay titles, under test conditions.

Arts Scholarships

You will be required to submit a completed application form and a portfolio of some kind. You will be asked to supply references so start to think about who could give you a good reference as early in the process as possible. Again, consult the Scholarships and Bursaries Booklet for details.

Your portfolio is examined and, for Performing Arts, shortlisted candidates will be invited for an audition; for the Creative Arts Scholarship, shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview.

Sport Scholarships

You will be required to submit a completed application form and a portfolio of some kind. You will be asked to supply references so start to think about who could give you a good reference as early in the process as possible. Again, consult the Scholarships and Bursaries Booklet for details.

Your portfolio is examined and shortlisted applicants will attend a Sports Scholarship selection session and interview.

GDST Spirit Scholarship

For the **GDST Spirit Scholarship**, you will be required to submit a letter of application, outlining why you are the best applicant for the award.

Remember that the letter should be set out formally, using standard conventions. Accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar and the quality of presentation will be considered as well as content when assessing the applications.

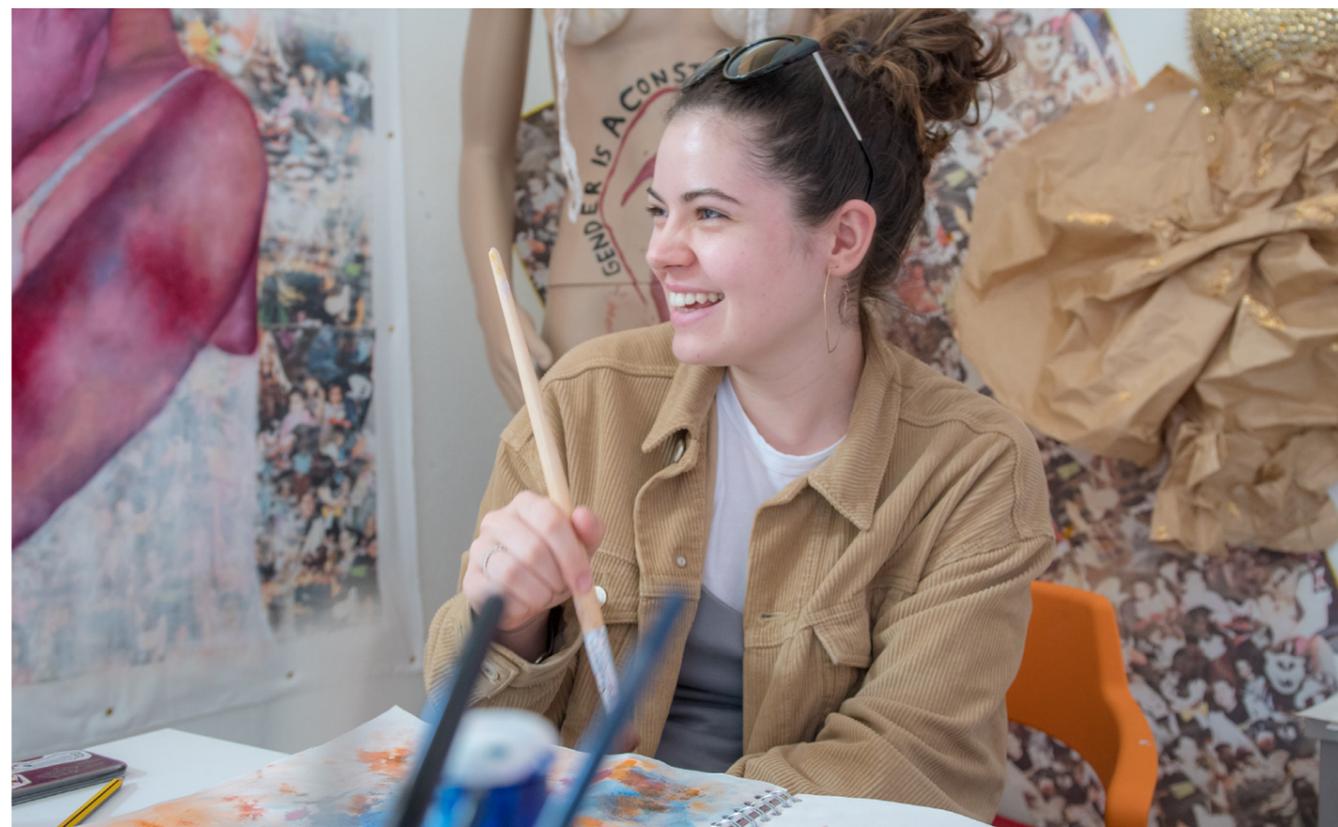
There is no set formula for letters in terms of content but, as a guide, the most successful letters are those which outline a broad variety of aspects of experience, both in school and outside school – academic, creative, physical and in service.

The best letters have typically included reflections on the experiences outlined.

You take a cognitive ability test and answer an essay question from a choice of titles, under test conditions.

Shortlisted applicants (based on the letter of application and academic performance) have an interview with Mrs Petryszak and Mrs Cantwell.

Consult the Scholarships and Bursaries Booklet for details.



How are the Scholarships awarded? Sixth Form

For Academic awards, your essays are marked with your candidate number (not your name) and the applicants who score the highest marks in the essay section and the aptitude test combined receive the awards.

For Arts and Sports Scholarships, your application as a whole (submission and performance) is judged according to pre-agreed criteria and the candidate(s) scoring the highest mark receive the award.

For the **GDST Spirit Scholarship**, greatest weight is placed on the letter of application and performance at interview. Once our provisional list of awardees is drawn up, we cross-reference the academic results to ensure that the proposed recipients have the strong all-round profile we are looking for.



A crucial point to remember is that the awards are based on the application you make combined with performance on the day, rather than on an accumulation of merits or accomplishments through the years leading up to your application. This is to ensure that we offer equality of opportunity for internal and external applicants. This may seem harsh, but it is worth remembering that most selection processes you meet in life will work on this basis. It is tough but fair, in the sense that it is objective and transparent.

Our awards at Awards Evening are intended to reward ongoing achievement, effort and progress.

How will I know how I have done? Sixth Form

We will write to you within a month of the assessment day(s) to let you know the outcome.

We don't give out actual marks but we will give you some feedback on your application to help you get the most out of it as a learning experience.

Good luck with your application!





NORTHAMPTON
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Please contact Miss Olivia Cheng on o.cheng@nhs.gdst.net with any questions.

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