

ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP DATES 2020

MERCHISTON JUNIORS

Entrance Assessments – By arrangement with the Admissions Department

Entry to J4, J5, First, Second & Third Forms (ie 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 years of age in September of the year of entry)
Candidates should expect to be at the School from 9.15am until 1.30pm approximately.

MIDDLE YEARS

Entrance Assessments only for entry to Fourth and Shell Forms (ie 13+ and 14+ years of age in September of the year of entry) and All Rounder, Art & Design, Music, Design & Technology and Sports' Scholarships and Pipe Band Exhibition - (Prep and non-Prep Schools) for entry to Fourth Form only (ie 13+ of age in September of the year of entry) - Thursday 30 January & Friday 31 January 2020

Candidates will sit entrance assessments in Maths, English, a Non Verbal Reasoning Test and a Support for Learning screening test and have an interview. There will be specialist assessments for the all Scholarships.

Scholarship candidates should expect to be at School from Thursday morning until Friday lunchtime approximately. Those candidates only sitting entrance assessments will be free to go home after lunch on Thursday.

Closing date for applications: **Friday 24 January 2020**

Open Academic Scholarship - Tuesday 18 February – Thursday 20 February 2020

Entry to Fourth Form (ie 13+ years of age in September of the year of entry)

Candidates will sit examinations (based on the Common Entrance Syllabus) and have interviews.

Candidates (inc applicants for day places) will be invited to stay at the School from the evening of Monday 17 February 2020.

Closing date for applications: **Friday 14 February 2020**

SIXTH FORM

Academic, All Rounder, Art & Design, Music, Design & Technology Sports' Scholarships – Thursday 30 January & Friday 31 January 2020. Candidates will sit examinations, have an interview and be assessed in their chosen fields for a Scholarship.

Closing date for applications, together with selected AS/A Level subjects: **Friday 24 January 2020**

PLEASE NOTE THAT WHERE APPLICABLE MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED BY MERCHISTON AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE CANDIDATES COMING FROM A DISTANCE.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR ALL AWARDS ARE GIVEN OVER THE PAGE.

ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS - ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Academic Scholarships

Scholarship candidates will be expected to demonstrate academic excellence on entry, and throughout their school careers at Merchiston. Specific criteria depend upon the point of entry to School, and further details can be obtained from the Admissions Department, or from our website at www.merchiston.co.uk. Additional information on academic assessments is also given on the application form.

Art & Design and Design & Technology Scholarships

Candidates should be able to demonstrate artistic or technological aptitude, and will normally be seeking entry to Merchiston at 13+ or 14+, (pre GCSE courses including: Art & Design, Design & Technology and/or Electronics) or at a later age to enter the Sixth Form to study Art & Design or Product Design, ICT and/or Maths/Physics/Electronics at A Level. Candidates will be asked to submit, and to discuss, a well-presented portfolio of work, and show interest in and knowledge of either art and artists, or designs and products. There will also be a practical assessment for each subject for which materials will be provided. Art or Design & Technology candidates also sit academic entrance papers appropriate to their age on entry and are expected to achieve a sound level in these.

Music Scholarship / Pipe Band Exhibition

Candidates wishing to compete for a Music Scholarship or a Music / Pipe Band Exhibition must be of good academic standard and must also attend a practical Music examination. Academic entrance papers are as indicated on the application form, but musical ability will not be assessed by written papers. The music examination will consist of

- Performance, on a main musical instrument, of two contrasting pieces, and some sight reading;
- Performance on a second musical instrument if sufficiently advanced (this is not compulsory);
- A simple voice test;
- Aural tests and questions on the Theory of Music; including key signatures, rhythms, Italian terms etc.

Although the standard of performance required on the main instrument is equivalent to approximately Grade 5 of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, age and potential will be taken into account.

The Pipe Band Exhibition will be assessed on the bagpipes or drums, though candidates will be asked to perform more than one contrasting piece. Candidates will also be asked to complete aural tests and questions on the theory and practice of piping or drumming, and will sit academic entrance assessments.

Sports' Scholarship

Rugby, cricket and athletics are the key sports offered to all pupils with options including tennis, swimming, squash, basketball, hockey, football and rugby fives. Candidates for the Sports' Scholarship are expected to offer at least two sports for practical assessment, of which one will be chosen from the three key sports of rugby, cricket and athletics. Other sports offered at Merchiston will be considered in conjunction with these.

Sports' Scholarship candidates will be asked to demonstrate their ability and fitness in their chosen areas, and to undergo an interview with the Director of Sport to discuss their team participation and sporting aspirations. A Sports' Scholar will display the potential and motivation to achieve National honours in their age groups and beyond. Awards holders will be expected to make a significant contribution to sport at Merchiston, and show commitment to their specialist sports, in the department, in the School and beyond.

All Rounder Scholarship

All-rounder entrance assessments are based on above average academic performance in academic assessments and include assessments in at least two specialist areas which should be drawn from:

- **Art & Design:** Candidates will be asked to submit, and to discuss, a well-presented portfolio of work, and demonstrate interest in and knowledge of art and artists. There will also be a practical assessment (still-life composition).
- **Design & Technology/Computing:** Candidates should present a portfolio with details of completed projects, and should show both interest and real technical aptitude. There will also be a practical assessment.
- **Drama:** Assessed by recitation of speech from a play, dramatic recitation of a poem, and prior involvement and interest in dramatic productions.
- **Music:** 1 or 2 instruments, and/or voice. Assessment by audition of two contrasting pieces of music
- **Sport:** Assessment by practical display of ability, fitness, commitment and potential in one or more of Merchiston's major sports taken from rugby, cricket or athletics.

It is expected that successful All-Rounder candidates will play a key role as leaders in their year groups. Candidates may therefore be asked to take part in some activities designed to bring out their leadership and team participation qualities and potential.