

Abbotsholme School Scholarship Policy

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Rationale

Abbotsholme has a proud tradition of students excelling in a diverse range of areas across our disciplines. Our dedicated support and small class sizes allow students of all ability to flourish both inside and outside of the classroom, with students achieving excellent results across the school. Abbotsholme award several scholarships annually to recognise pupils with excellence, potential and talent in specific areas.

Scholarships are not awarded to support families with school fees, but instead to recognise talent – please see the Abbotsholme School Bursary policy for information on means-tested awards. The number of scholarships awarded annually are subject to the school's budgetary constraints.

Whilst Abbotsholme is a non-academically selective school we do recognise student talents and are therefore pleased to offer scholarships to appropriate students in several areas.

- Academia
- Sports and Equestrian
- Music, Dance and Performing Arts
- Technology, Art, Design and Agriculture

Applicants are welcome to apply for any number of areas they feel suited for, if they feel they meet the criteria set out in Appendix A. Although only one scholarship may be awarded.

All Awards are made at the discretion of Abbotsholme School, further to receipt of a completed Scholarship Application Form, reference and completion of an assessment and interview. The recommendation of a scholarship award, its level, its increase, decrease, or removal is made by the Headmaster with consultation of the Advisory Board Scholarship and Bursary Committee.

Please note that the decision of the Scholarships Committee is final.

Scholarships are awarded for the duration of the scholar's education at Abbotsholme, unless their progress, attendance, engagement, or commitment are unsatisfactory and/or the scholar is not upholding Abbotsholme's ethos and values.

For further information regarding our scholarship awards and to request a scholarship application form please contact our Admissions Office.

What is expected of a scholar?

Should a pupil be awarded a scholarship they will be expected to play a full part in life within the school, as well as continuing to push themselves to excel in their chosen scholarship field. Each student will have an ambassadorial role to play throughout the year including (but not limited to) assisting with campus tours for prospective families and aiding the school in providing content for marketing purposes.

Scholars are expected to lead by example, always following and instilling the Abbotsholme school values. Failure to do so will result in a review of the scholarship with the possibility of having scholarships removed for poor behaviour. Scholarships will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that students are constantly striving to do their very best in their chosen discipline and beyond.

Each scholarship area will have additional requirements and obligations from scholars and their parents/guardians which are detailed below in Appendix B.

How are scholarships decided?

Scholarship applications are welcomed, and awarded, on an ongoing basis throughout the year for students considering Year 7 and above, with additional focused scholarship days running at various points that applicants are welcome to attend.

In each scholarship area students will be tested on their abilities and achievements and placed into one of three possible scholarship categories. Applicants will then be offered a scholarship based on their category, with the highest scholarships offered to those in the top level. Each area has different criteria to be in the top levels and further information can be found under each scholarship area in Appendix A. For details on the selection criteria please see Appendix A: Scholarship areas and assessment criteria.

Pupils will be assessed on achievements to date in the relevant area, potential for the future, attitude to learning and added value to the school. Applicants will be compared to the existing student body in their area(s) of expertise as well as general academic ability to ensure that scholarships are awarded fittingly.

Removal of Scholarships

The Headmaster, together with Scholarship Review Committee, can withdraw or reduce a Scholarship award, if a Scholar's progress, behaviour, or attitude is unsatisfactory, involvement in their specialised area is minimal, or Abbotsholme School's ethos is not being embraced and upheld. Scholarships may also be removed where there is a lack of parental support for the school including the timely payment of school fees.

Confidentiality & Conditions of the Scholarship Award

Abbotsholme School respects the financial confidentiality of Scholarships awards made to families. Parents/guardians and their child/ren are also expected to maintain the confidentiality of the award. Any breach of confidentiality may result in the award being removed. For conditions of the Scholarship award, please see Appendix B Conditions of the Award.

Mr SMF Ruscoe-Price
October 2021

Appendix A: Scholarship areas and assessment criteria

Academia

- Applicants will be expected to show ability across a multitude of academic subjects.
- For applicants in Year 10 and above, there will be an expectation of students to apply for competitive universities and courses at the appropriate time.
- Applicants will sit an aptitude test which will be compared to our existing student body.
- At least two academic references must be provided in addition to wider school reports.
- Applicants seeking the highest level of scholarships should be expecting to achieve As or Distinction* in each A level and BTEC subject area, or 7s and above across a range of subjects at GCSE level.

Sports and equestrian

- Applicants will be expected to be competing at county level at minimum.
- All sports will be considered but emphasis will be placed on those competing in Cricket, Hockey and equine disciplines.
- At least two references from a current coach will be required.
- Applicants will need to submit a sporting CV showcasing their achievements in their chosen discipline.
- Applicants will be invited to a trial to showcase their prowess and fitness levels where appropriate.
- Applicants will be required to sit an aptitude test to ascertain general academic ability.
- Successful applicants will be expected to represent the school in their chosen sport.
- Applicants seeking the highest level of scholarship would be expected to be on a national pathway programme or to be competing at national level.

Music, Dance and Performing Arts

- Applications are welcomed from performers of all musical instruments.
- Musicians will be required to perform two contrasting pieces on their instrument of choice (including voice)
- Music applicants will also be given sight reading and aural exercises to complete.
- Dance and Performing arts students will be required to prepare a 1 minute to 2-minute monologue and a song which will be performed in front of the Performing Arts team
- Applicants must also be able to discuss the performance pieces.
- All scholarship applicants will be required to sit an aptitude test to ascertain general academic ability.
- Successful applicants will be expected to participate fully in the school orchestra, choir and school productions where appropriate.

- Applicants seeking the highest level of scholarship in Music would be expected to grade 6 and above on an instrument and to be studying the subject at GCSE or A Level
- Applicants seeking the highest level of scholarship in Dance and Performing arts would be expected to be studying Performing arts at BTEC Level 3, with the ambition of continuing the area at university.

Technology, Art and Design and Agriculture

- Applicants in Technology and Art must be able to present a portfolio of work and be prepared to discuss their work.
- Art applicants will be required to produce a still life sketch within 30 minutes
- Technology applicants must be able to explain and demonstrate the use of workshop machinery
- Applicants for Agriculture must provide a reference for aptitude with regards to farming and be prepared to discuss the workings of a farm on a given day
- Agriculture scholars would be expected to play a key role in the ongoing management of the school farm
- All scholarship applicants will be required to sit an aptitude test to ascertain general academic ability
- Applicants seeking the highest level of scholarship in these areas would be expected to study the relevant subject at Level 3, with the ambition of continuing the area at university.

Appendix B - Scholarship Award: Conditions of the Award

1 Grant of the Award:

An Award is granted at the sole discretion of Abbotsholme School.

2 Obligations of the pupil:

The pupil who is the subject of an Award is required to work hard, to contribute positively to the life of the school, to be a credit to the school and to set a good example to other pupils. The pupil must adhere to the school required standards of conduct and progress. These are the Purposes of the Award.

3 Obligations of the parent(s) and guardians:

Parent(s) and guardians are required to:

- 3.1 support and encourage the pupil to achieve the Purposes of the Award
- 3.2 support and uphold the aims, values, ethos and good name of Abbotsholme School
- 3.3 comply with the Abbotsholme school's Terms and Conditions.

4 Continuation of the award:

Continuation of the award is dependent upon the following conditions being fulfilled:

- 4.1 the financial resources allocated by Abbotsholme School to support the award being sufficient to maintain the award; and
- 4.2 it being in the financial interests of Abbotsholme School to maintain the award.

5 Confidentiality:

The value and terms and conditions of the Award shall remain confidential between the parents/guardians and the pupil and Abbotsholme School.

6 Termination of the Award:

The Award may be terminated on the following grounds:

- 6.1 termination on financial grounds: Abbotsholme School may terminate the Award on one term's notice in writing if, in the opinion of Abbotsholme School Advisory Board acting in good faith:
 - 6.1.1 the parents have not satisfied the school's financial requirements under clause 3.1; or
 - 6.1.2 the school is no longer able to continue the Award under clause 4.1
- The termination shall take effect from the date set out in the written notice;

6.2 termination on the grounds of conduct:

Abbotsholme School may terminate the Award by written notice sent to the parents with immediate effect if, in the opinion of Abbotsholme School Advisory Board acting in good faith, one or more of the following conditions has been fulfilled:

6.2.1 the pupil has not complied with the obligations set out in clause 2 and in the further opinion of Abbotsholme School Advisory Board there has been no significant improvement following consultation with the parents/guardian and / or the pupil and the issue of a written warning; or

6.2.2 the parents/guardian have not complied with the obligations set out in clause 3.2 or 3.3

6.2.3 the parents of the pupil do not keep the value and terms and conditions of the Award confidential in accordance with clause 5; or

6.2.4 the parents withdraw the pupil from the Abbotsholme School without providing a full term's written notice.

6.3 Repayment of the Award:

The parents will be required to repay all or part of the benefits received under the Award, if it is terminated in any of the following circumstances:

6.3.1 under clause 6.1.1 if the parents have knowingly or recklessly provided false or inaccurate information to support the pupils scholarship application, all benefits received from the date on which the false or inaccurate information was supplied may be repayable; or

6.3.2 under clause 6.2.1 if the pupil has been found to have committed a serious breach or series of persistent minor breaches of discipline for which the sanction would normally be expulsion or required removal, up to three terms' benefits (if received) may be repayable.

7 Fees in lieu of notice:

For the avoidance of doubt, the benefit receivable under an Award will not apply to any term for which Abbotsholme School requires payment of fees in lieu of notice.

8 Conditions of Award: These conditions of award take precedence over any of the Abbotsholme School's Terms and Conditions which are inconsistent with them but in all other respects the school's Terms and Conditions as amended from time to time shall apply and these conditions of award shall be interpreted in accordance with them.