



**MERCHISTON**  
EDINBURGH



**SCHOLARSHIPS BOOKLET**



## **OUR APPROACH**

Scholarships at Merchiston are designed to recognise and support the ambitions of pupils particularly talented in a specific area. We offer a robust, supportive programme to stretch, inspire and enthuse scholars across all scholarship areas: Academic, Sport, STEM, Arts and All-rounder. Being a scholar at Merchiston is something to truly be proud of.



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## **OUR OFFERING**

At Merchiston, across all Scholarship programmes, we take a holistic approach to ensure that each scholar thrives. To do this, we focus on three key areas:

- **The Individual:** Their specific goals, plans and needs
- **Subject Specific:** Tailored development across their scholarship subject
- **Scholarship Plus:** Ensuring that the scholarship holder is developing in the broadest sense

Whilst in practice this will look different for each scholar, the core offering will remain the same.

Being a scholar at Merchiston is a great achievement and scholarship holders should be proud of the talents they have demonstrated. A range of scholarships are offered each year across the different subject areas and, as of 2025 entry, carry a 5% reduction in school fees.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

When choosing scholars, we look for bright, engaged students who show a real commitment to their studies and the opportunities available to them. We look for inquiring minds, fresh thinkers, innovators and those who also consider their peers by demonstrating kindness and collaboration.

### **ALL SCHOLARS WILL ALSO BE EXPECTED TO HAVE:**

- A positive attitude
- Excellent attendance
- Ambition and drive
- A responsible attitude to their studies
- Pride in their appearance
- Leadership potential
- Respect for their peers and teachers
- Continuous commitment

## **ACADEMIC (13+ & 16+)**

Scholarship candidates will be expected to demonstrate academic excellence on entry, and throughout their school careers at Merchiston.

Scholarships are awarded to those students who possess outstanding academic ability so their future potential can be nurtured through our structured scholarship programme. Scholarships not only lift the performance of scholars but, through the academic leadership we expect of scholars, lift outcomes for all pupils in the school.

### **ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP EXPECTATIONS**

- Demonstrate a high level of academic ability
- Show potential for continued development
- Positive attitude to learning and intellectual challenge
- Consistently high academic achievement
- Natural interest in and passion for academic subjects

### **ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

At 13+ your son's scholarship level assessment will take the form of our own examinations and interviews. All papers sat will be ranked with the most successful candidates being awarded an academic scholarship.

At 16+ For Sixth Form entry he will sit papers at GCSE level in the subjects that he would like to follow at A Level. An interview will also take place to ascertain skill level and passion for his chosen academic subjects. For internal candidates, this will be based solely on their GCSE grades.

### **ADDED VALUE**

During his career as a Scholar, your son will have opportunities to participate in a variety of prestigious external competitions such as the British Maths and Physics Olympiads, The Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition, Arkwright Trust Scholarships for Engineering and Technology, and the Young Engineer of the Year awards. He will also be invited to join the Cecil Stagg Society, for academic stretching within school.



## SPORT (13+ & 16+)

At Merchiston, your son will be joining a community with a Sport for All philosophy and an enviable reputation for sporting achievement. He will be able to play a wide variety of sports to a high level, benefit from excellent coaching at all levels and representing the School in local, national and international tournaments.

### SPORTS SCHOLAR EXPECTATIONS

- Demonstrate a high level of sporting ability
- Show potential for continued development
- Positive role model
- A passion for sport

### ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Your son will attend our Scholarship Day and should offer at least one sport for practical assessment, one of which must be drawn from Athletics, Cricket, Golf, Hockey, Rugby or Tennis. He will have the chance to demonstrate his skills technically, physically and tactically. Throughout the day each boy will have the chance to show his talents. There will also be an opportunity in the day to be interviewed by the Director of Sport or one of the Heads of Sport. Your son must also satisfy the academic entrance requirements for his age.

### ADDED VALUE

Merchiston prides itself on bespoke support of the young men in their care. In sport, that philosophy is brought to life in the scholar's program, *Fear Slàn*. Where each student is given tailored support and guidance to excel and reach their potential.

*Fear Slàn (the whole man)* is our whole mission and encompasses three areas of support.

- **Integrated Planning.** Various stakeholders are involved to map out a student's year and ensure there is room to excel academically, in sport and socially
- **Sport Specific.** Each scholar will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP) and individual sessions to ensure they are progressing tactically, technically and physically
- **More Than Sport.** Exposure to workshops and latest research on everything else the player needs to excel; sports science, psychology and nutrition to name a few



## **MUSIC (13+ & 16+)**

Your son will find that music making, and the appreciation of music play a major part in life at Merchiston. He will benefit from full-time staff and instrumental specialists who are experienced in teaching and developing talented young musicians and enjoy all the facilities of the purpose-built Music Centre and auditorium, as well as the magnificent Memorial Hall where performances to larger audiences take place.

### **MUSIC SCHOLAR EXPECTATIONS**

- Demonstrate a high level of musical ability
- Show potential for continued development
- Positive attitude
- Consistently high achievement
- Natural interest in and passion for music

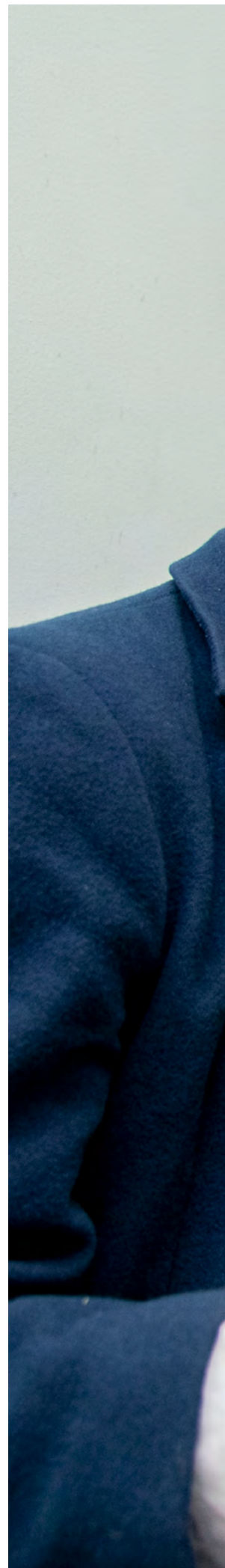
### **ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

As part of the assessment process, your son will attend a practical Music examination. He will be expected to perform at a standard approximately equivalent to Grade 5 of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music on his main instrument, although his age and potential will be taken into account. Your son will also need to satisfy the School's academic entrance requirements for his age.

### **ADDED VALUE**

Your son will enjoy a wide range of performance opportunities, both as a soloist and in ensembles, such as Choral Society, Chapel Choir, Close Harmony and other singing groups, Orchestra, Junior Music Ensemble and a number of rock groups.

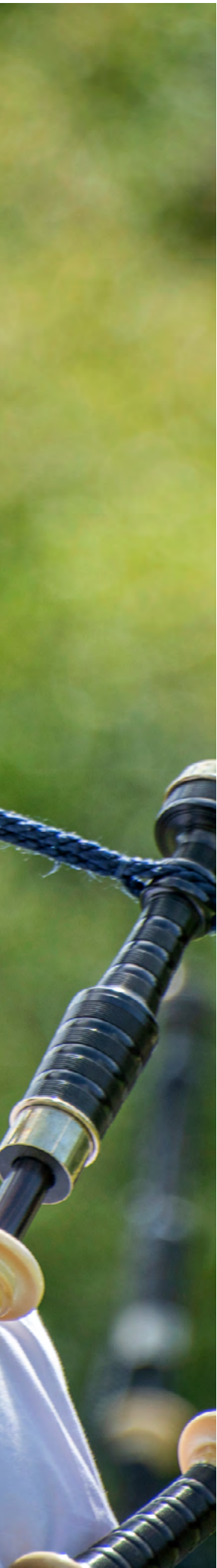
If your son is successful, he will be expected to make a significant contribution to music and performance at Merchiston throughout his school career.











## **PIPE BAND (13+ & 16+)**

Pipers and drummers at Merchiston benefit from world-class tuition. Opportunities for boys in the Pipe Band extend beyond the School grounds, with performances and competitions attended locally, nationally, and internationally. The Merchiston Pipe Band blends together elements of music and sport to create a unique challenge and opportunity for boys in which to thrive, aiming to harness passion and develop talents to their fullest potential whilst at School.

### **PIPE BAND SCHOLAR EXPECTATIONS**

- A minimum of two years study on the bagpipes/drums. For pipers, this must be two years on the full bagpipes and should not include time learning on the practice chanter
- A minimum of ten tunes performed to a high standard on the bagpipes/drums
- Competition experience with a Pipe Band is essential
- Competition experience in solo competition is desirable, though not essential
- Show potential for continued development
- Positive attitude
- Natural interest in and passion for piping/drumming

### **ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

As part of the assessment process, your son will attend a practical performance examination. He will be expected to present a written list of ten tunes of various and contrasting time signatures. Tunes will have been rehearsed prior to audition, of which five will be chosen to be performed live for the assessing panel. Help with tuning bagpipes is available to scholarship candidates if required.

### **ADDED VALUE**

Benefitting from dedicated, experience staff delivering world-class tuition, he will be encouraged and supported to excel. If successful, your son will be expected to make a significant contribution to the Pipe Band at Merchiston, showing excellent commitment and attendance to Pipe Band rehearsals and performances throughout his time at School.



## **ART & DESIGN (13+ & 16+)**

Your son will have a stimulating environment in which to develop his creative and technical abilities thanks to our purpose-built Art & Design Centre. The department is set up in such a way that he will be able to progress both the creative and technical aspects of these disciplines.

### **ART & DESIGN SCHOLAR EXPECTATIONS**

- Demonstrate a high level of artistic ability
- Show potential for continued development
- Positive attitude
- Consistently high achievement
- Natural interest in and passion for art and design

### **ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

To succeed, your son will have to demonstrate artistic or technological aptitude. He will be asked to submit and to discuss a well-presented portfolio of work and show interest in and knowledge of art and artists. Your son will also need to satisfy the School's academic entrance requirements for his age.



### **ADDED VALUE**

An Art scholarship at Merchiston will afford your son opportunities to explore and engage with a wide range of practical and contextual art activities beyond the scope of the normal Art curriculum. There will also be chances for your son to engage first hand with contemporary Art practice and visits to galleries. We actively promote opportunities for displaying pupils' work thus encouraging them to take confidence and pride in their achievements.

If your son is successful in his application for scholarship, he will be expected to make a significant contribution to Art at Merchiston throughout his school career.

## **STEM (13+ & 16+)**

Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths (STEM) at Merchiston is built on a foundation of essential 21st Century skills for success: critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, collaboration and communication. Opportunities in STEM may find your son preparing to launch a rocket into space one day or designing a building to withstand earthquakes the next! We see no limit to exploration and innovation in STEM at Merchiston. Our goal is to prepare students involved in the STEM scholarship programme for future career(s) in our technology-driven world. As such, we seek pupils for the STEM scholarship who are passionate about the STEM disciplines, both in and beyond their day-to-day, taught curriculum. Through a range of 2D, 3D and publishing software programs, a rapid-prototyping suite, modelling facilities as well as traditional workshop spaces STEM enrichment at Merchiston will equip scholars with the essential skills they need to excel and make meaningful contributions in an ever-evolving world.

### **STEM SCHOLAR EXPECTATIONS**

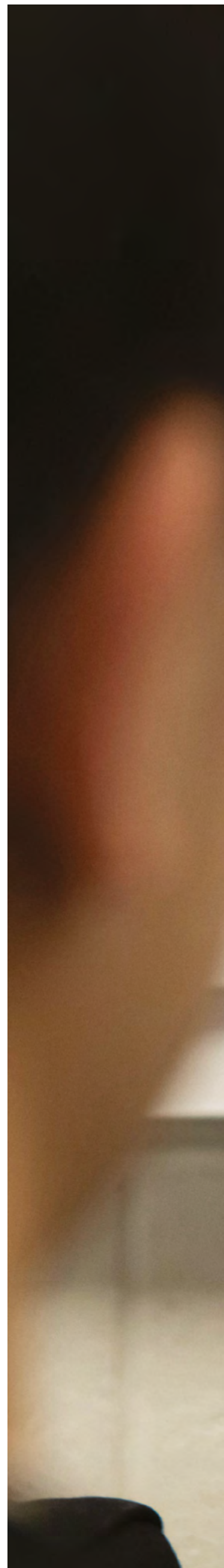
- Demonstrate a passion for all four STEM subject disciplines – Science, Technologies, Engineering and Maths;
- Illustrate a passion in STEM beyond the classroom environment – this could be an independent hobby or project;
- Commitment to engage with the MerchiSTEM extracurricular activities programme;
- Ability to work as part of a team as well as independently when required;
- Be a positive role model to younger years who are also part of the MerchiSTEM programme, as well as to the members in their own team;
- For all 13+ scholars, be open to applying in the Autumn Term of Fifth Form for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship as administered by The Smallpiece Trust

### **ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

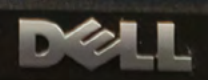
To succeed, your son will have to demonstrate a commitment to and passion for the STEM subjects. Your son will be asked to present a portfolio of work that should largely be made up of personal inquiry or hobby project work but can also include some work completed in school. Your son will be asked to discuss his portfolio with a member of specialist staff. Your son will also need to satisfy the School's academic entrance requirements for his age.

### **ADDED VALUE**

A STEM scholarship at Merchiston will afford your son opportunities to explore and engage with STEM in a learning environment that nurtures analytical thinking, problem-solving, hands-on learning and fosters innovation. There will be ample opportunities for your son to engage in practical, real-world STEM enrichment programmes; including a range of national and international competitions, CREST Award scheme and Young STEM Leader Award scheme. He will have access to exceptional mentors, award-winning facilities, and a vibrant academic community. We routinely promote adaptability and collaboration; two essential skills for our rapidly changing society. STEM bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and its practical implementation; ultimately enhancing your son's understanding and enthusiasm for these disciplines.



```
main.py x +
8  for index in range(len(self.StockList)):
9  if self.StockList[index][0] == ItemName and cashInput
   >= self.StockList[index][1]:
10 if self.StockList[index][0] == "Pringles" or
   self.StockList[index][0] == "Pringles2":
11     if random.randint(0,1) == 1:
12         print("Apologies for the inconvenience, please
           contact the manager")
13     else:
14         cashInput -= self.StockList[index][1]
15         self.StockList[index][2] -= 1
16         if cashInput > 0:
17             print(cashInput,"changes are given!")
18     else:
19         cashInput -= self.StockList[index][1]
20         self.StockList[index][2] -= 1
21         if cashInput > 0:
22             print(cashInput,"changes are given!")
23
24
25 def Restock(self):
26     for index in range(len(self.StockList)):
27         if self.StockList[index][2] < self.StockList[index]
   [3]:
28             self.StockList[index][2] = 100
29
30
31
32
33 class ITEM:
34     def __init__(self,Name,CurrentStock,Price,RestockLevel):
35         self.
36
37
```







## **ALL-ROUNDER SCHOLARSHIPS (13+ & 16+)**

Your son will have a wealth of opportunities for academic achievement and co-curricular success at Merchiston ensuring he will fulfil his potential in a number of areas. To be successful in an All-Rounder assessment, your son will need to demonstrate above average academic performance in his academic tests as well as selecting two of the following specialist areas for practical assessment, supported by interview and/or presentation of samples of work:

### **ART & DESIGN**

- Submit and discuss a well-presented portfolio of work
- Demonstrate interest in and knowledge of art and artists
- Practical assessment in still-life composition

### **STEM**

- Present a portfolio with details of completed projects
- Show interest and real technical aptitude
- Practical assessment

### **DRAMA**

- Recite a speech from a play
- Give a dramatic recitation of a poem
- Discuss his prior involvement and interest in dramatic productions

### **MUSIC / PIPE BAND**

- Offer one or two instruments and / or voice
- Perform two contrasting pieces of music

### **SPORT**

- Practical display of ability, fitness, commitment and potential in one or more of Merchiston's major sports (Athletics, Cricket or Rugby) or in Golf or Tennis

If your son succeeds as an All-Rounder he will be expected to play a key role as a leader in his year group. He may, therefore, be asked to take part in some activities during the assessment that are designed to bring out his leadership and team participation qualities and potential.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

If you wish to apply for a Scholarship, please complete our Scholarship Application Form and return alongside all supporting documents such as sports CV or list of accomplishments in your chosen scholarship field to us by the relevant date. You will also need to ensure that your son is registered with us by completing a Registration Form and sending it to the Admissions Department before any exams or interviews take place.

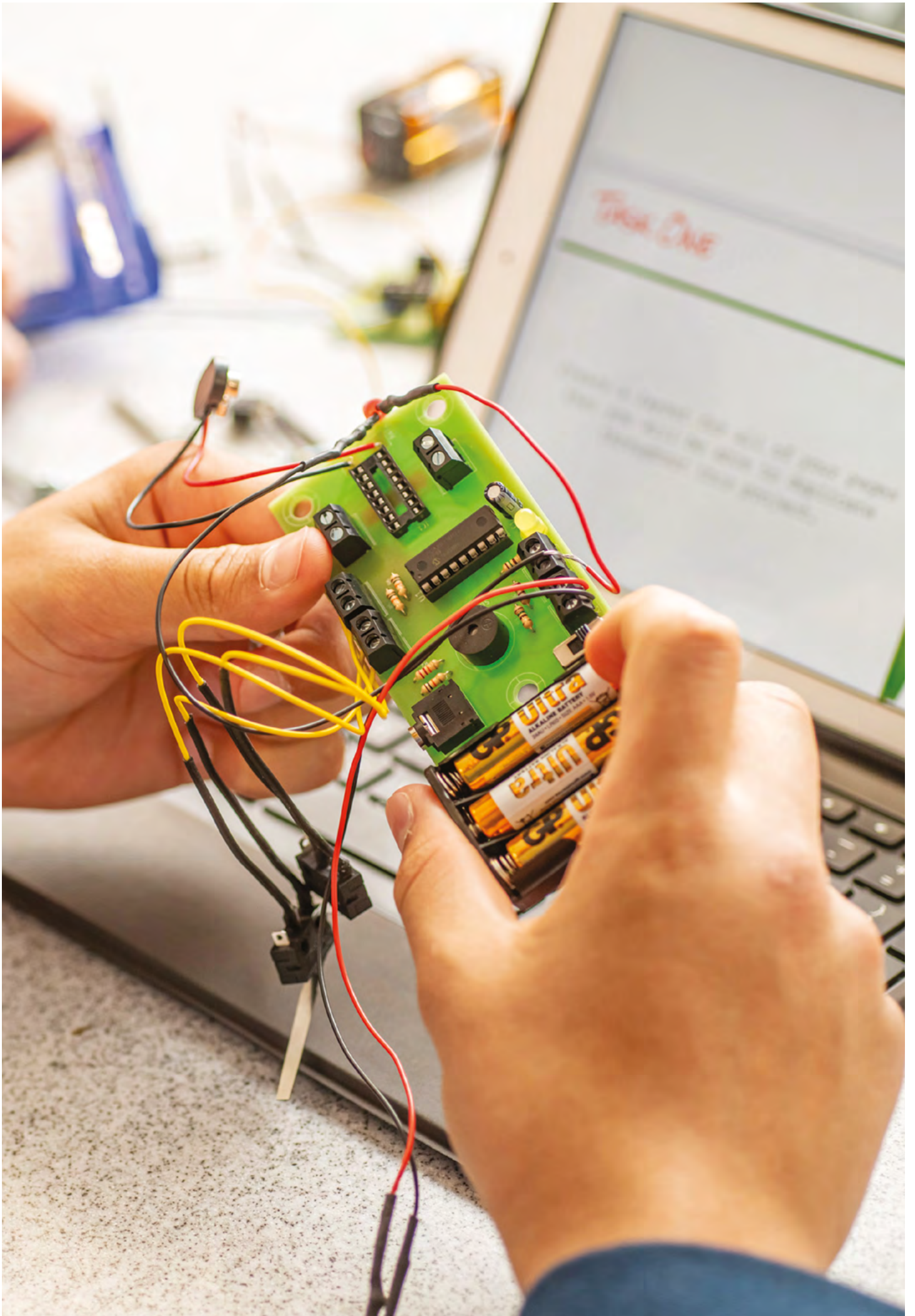
**Assessments for 2025 entry will take place at Merchiston on Tuesday 5th November.  
Online assessments can be arranged for those pupils located overseas.**

Please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Office with any questions.

## **MEANS TESTED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Scholarships at Merchiston are competitive and are awarded for the duration of your son's School career, subject to his continued progress and good conduct. Because we seek to ensure that financial assistance is used to widen access and assist the greatest number of parents who require support, your son will not automatically receive a financial concession with his Scholarship.

However, you may apply for means-tested assistance up to the value of 100% of the fees. For further information on the bursaries available at Merchiston, please email [bursar@merchiston.co.uk](mailto:bursar@merchiston.co.uk) for information on the application process.





**MERCHISTON**  
EDINBURGH

**A BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AGED 7–18  
CO-ED NURSERY–P3**

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