Ellesmere College

Scholarships, Awards and Financial Support



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Ellesmere

02

"We were impressed by the pupils; ambitious, enthusiastic and focused. Ellesmere opens a lot of doors"
– TATLER

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Introduction

The information contained in this booklet is for the guidance of parents. In some cases, it may prove difficult to know which scholarship to apply for. Please be assured that we regard it as our job to advise parents and no parent would find themselves disadvantaged by applying for the "wrong scholarship".

Also included in this information booklet are details of the conditions under which scholarships are awarded and information about the College's bursary provisions. Please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Department if there is anything you wish to discuss prior to submitting a scholarship application.

Ellesmere College's Awards and Bursary System

Key Terms

Award: a term used for scholarships and exhibitions, which are made on the basis of merit and without reference to parental financial circumstances.

Scholarship: usually an award up to the value of 5% - 20% of school fees.

Exhibition: usually an award up to the value of 5% -20% of school fees.

Bursary: a reduction in fees based on a means-tested assessment of and consideration of parental financial circumstances, assessed following the completion of the College's financial circumstances form.

Bursaries may be awarded separate from, but in addition to scholarships and exhibitions.

These awards will be reviewed annually at the current £70 fee.

PleaseNote:

There are a limited number of non-means tested scholarship awards available each year - These awards are within the region of 5% - 20%.

If any award is to be combined with an OE or Sibling discount, then the maximum combined award will not exceed a figure of 25%.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are past papers available for scholarship exams?

No. No special preparation is required for our scholarship exams: they are designed for candidates following the National Curriculum.

Are awards made for the duration of a pupil's school career?

There are formal review points of scholarships on transfer from Lower School to Middle School and Middle School to Sixth Form. A student working hard and behaving well should have nothing to fear from a review.

Can an award or bursary be withdrawn by the school?

Yes. Under circumstances of poor behaviour or failure to work or to fulfil the commitments required of an award holder. The school will do its best to give reasonable warning if such circumstances seem likely to arise. However, in circumstances of serious poor behaviour (such as behaviour leading to a suspension from school), an award may be withdrawn without notice. Failure to maintain payment of fees in line with the College's terms and conditions would also lead to withdrawal of an award or bursary.

What is expected of an award or bursary holder?

An award or bursary holder is expected to work hard (effort grades should show better than "average" effort) and to be committed to the life of the College, both in general and specifically in relation to the award held. For example, a Music Award holder will be expected to take part in choirs, ensembles and performances as directed by the Director of Music.

Similarly a Sports Award holder will be expected to represent the College as a priority (above external club commitments) and as directed by the Director of Sport. A pupil in receipt of an all-rounder award or bursary would be expected to show commitment to the life of the College in line with his or her particular talents.

Are bursaries awarded for the duration of a pupil's school career?

Bursaries are held on the same basis as scholarships in respect of effort and behaviour. In addition, parental financial circumstances are liable to reassessment on an annual basis.

As a bursary is awarded to support a pupil whose parents could not otherwise afford to pay full fees it follows that an improvement in parental financial circumstances should normally lead to a reduction in the level of bursary awarded.

Are awards and bursaries available for award at other than the entry points listed in the table on page 6?

The entry ages identified (8, 9, 11, 13 and 16) are the principal points at which awards are made. In special circumstances the Headmaster has discretion to consider making awards on entry for exceptional candidates who do not join at the entry ages identified in the table on page 6. Bursaries may be awarded at any age.

What sort of income level is likely to attract bursary support?

An outline explanation of the factors that influence bursary decisions can be found at page 18 of this booklet. However, as a very rough guide a family with a gross income of more than £70,000 (the figure is higher for Lower School, where the fees are lower) is unlikely to qualify for bursary support.

The opportunity to study at Ellesmere and to receive an academic scholarship to study the International Baccalaureate was a dream come true. It was the most incredible thing that happened to me and enabled me to continue with my dream of being a Doctor. I am now in University halfway through my medical degree.

Michal Zarzecki

Awards throughout the College

TYPE OF AWARD	AGE ON ENTRY				
	LOWER SCHOOL			MIDDLE SCHOOL	SIXTH FORM
	8	9	11	13	16
Academic	X	X	X	X	X
All-Rounder	-	-	X	X	X
Art	-	-	-	X	X
Drama	-	-	-	X	X
Music	X	X	X	X	X
Schulze Organ	-	-	-	-	X
Sports	-	-	-	X	X
Woodard	-	-	-	-	X

Academic Awards

The Award

Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded each year as a result of the candidate's performance in examinations across a range of academic subjects; the examination may be supplemented by an interview and other assessment methods. These awards are worth up to a maximum of 5 - 20% of the school fees.

An academic scholar will be of a standard that would lead to A's & A*'s or Level 8 and 9 equivalent at GCSE.

The Assessment Procedure

The examinations for Lower School and Middle School entry take place across the year as part of the required "Taster Day" experience. The assessment will be taken during the taster day with staff supervision.

The examinations will cover the subjects of English and Mathematics, and tests in verbal and non-verbal reasoning will also be applied. Past papers for these examinations are not available.

Pupils currently in Lower School are eligible for this award at 11+ based on academic performance throughout Year 6 and the end of year examinations, and again on entry to the Senior School based on academic performance throughout Year 8 and in the end of year examinations.

Internal candidates are eligible for an award on entry to the Sixth Form based on their Mock GCSE results and interview with the Head of Sixth Form or member of SLT at the College.

For direct entry to the Sixth Form, Academic Awards will be made conditional upon success at GCSE following an interview with the Head of Sixth Form or member of SLT at the College.

In recognition of the different academic standards of the courses concerned, Sixth Form academic awards - either continuing or newly-awarded - will normally be limited to 5% - 20% of the fees for pupils choosing to follow their course of study.

All-Rounder Awards

The Award

Ellesmere has long prided itself in being able to bring out the best in pupils with a whole range of interests and abilities.

To this end we offer a number of All-Rounder Awards to provide financial assistance for children with particular all-round talents.

These talents can cover the whole spectrum, from sporting to cultural to academic. An All-Rounder Award holder will normally be above average academically, and where the talents to be recognised are also rewarded through other categories of award (Music, Academic, Sport, Art) the standard achieved will normally be close to the standards expected for these specific awards and candidates will show the potential to develop significantly in their specific area of ability.

Qualities recognised for an All-Rounder Award include, academic, dramatic, artistic, sporting and leadership. They may also cover expertise in a particular selection of academic subjects.

This particular Award can also be used to aid those pupils who have talents spread across a whole range of fields. They may not necessarily be experts in any one of these areas but their general profile should indicate a depth and breadth of skills. As "good all-rounders" they will need to show proven ability and potential.

These Awards are worth up to a maximum of 5% - 20% of the school fees.

The Assessment Procedure

Provided candidates are of a suitable academic standard they will be eligible to apply for the Award. Each case is considered on its merits.

Art Awards

The Award

Art Awards are offered worth up to a maximum of 5% -20% remission of the school fees.

The Art School is a Department with specialist areas for sculpture, textiles, photography and two art studios for general use. There is a strong emphasis on the individual being given the opportunity to experiment in a variety of media, developing their skills, techniques and styles. Basic skills in painting, drawing and mixed media are developed, art work is produced in conjunction with a strong, contextual element to all aspects of the creative process.

The Assessment Procedure

Art Exhibitions are awarded annually on the basis of the submission or a portfolio of work and an interview with Head of Art. The portfolio should contain examples of work completed during the previous year demonstrating various aspects of art and design, including drawing and colour experimentation. Other work including 3 dimensional work in any media examples of textiles, printing and photography may also be included. The portfolio should be accompanied by an art reference from the pupil's present teacher.

My passion for Drama was something I did from the pleasure of performing. To be identified and recognised by Ellesmere as a Drama Scholar allowed me to really devote my time and attention into this both in and out of the classroom. The experiences and performances I have been involved with, will stay long in the memory and have given me an enormous platform to take my studies to another level.

Jo Jameson

Romeo and Juliet

Drama Awards

The Award

The College boasts an excellent reputation in Drama by virtue of its extensive facilities, which include a 200-seater professional standard arts centre and high quality teachers and teaching. There has been a long tradition in drama and dramatic productions at Ellesmere.

There are many outlets for Drama in the Senior School. There are regular Senior School productions at Sixth Form and Middle School levels. A range of productions have taken place and regular overseas tours are undertaken. Large-scale combined events are undertaken with the music department but drama at Ellesmere is for everyone and some of the most successful events take place at a House level including the recently introduced House Drama Festival.

The Assessment Procedure

Drama Awards are awarded annually based on an audition at the College, a report or recommendation from the current school or arts organisation and meeting the school's academic criteria for entry. The award may be up to a maximum of 5% - 20% of school fees.

Schulze Organ Awards

The Award

The scholarship offers access to two fine organs: the Chapel Organ (Hill Norman and Beard) and the Schulze Organ (constructed in 1864 and one of only four working examples in the UK). The successful candidate will accompany the Chapel Choir and will have opportunities to rehearse and direct choirs and other ensembles.

The Schulze Organ Award is reserved for Sixth Form candidates only; talented organists at other ages will be considered through the College's normal Music Award arrangements.

The scholarship is to the value of 20% of fees.

The Director of Music would be pleased to see potential organ scholars for a preliminary audition at any time.

The Assessment Procedure

Formal auditions are normally held in January and February.



Music Awards

The Award

The Ellesmere Music Department has a long and successful record of nurturing and developing talented musicians.

Individual tuition is available across a wide range of instruments and is delivered in the purpose-built College Arts Centre.

Music Scholarships entitle the Award holder to a fee reduction up to a maximum of 5% - 20% of school fees.

Music Exhibitions entitle the Award holder to a fee reduction of up to a maximum of 5% - 20% of school fees.

The normal minimum requirements for a Music Award are as follows (it should be understood that attainment of the standards qualifies a candidate for consideration of an award; it does not guarantee the award itself):

- Lower School Entry: At Least Grade 3 (good pass: merit/distinction) on one instrument for a Music Exhibition; at least the same standard in two or more instruments for full scholarship.
- Year Nine Entry: Around Grade 5 (good pass) on one instrument for an exhibition; at least the same standard in two or more instruments for full scholarship.
- Sixth Form Entry: Around Grade 7 (good pass) on one instrument for an exhibition; at least the same standard in two or more instruments for full scholarship.

There are numerous performance opportunities through a comprehensive programme of events each term, augmented by House singing and instrumental competitions, including the popular 'Battle of the Bands' event. There are a variety of ensembles including Chapel Choir, Lower School Choir, Junior and Senior Orchestras/ Ensembles, Rhythm 'n' Blues Band, Marching Band plus regular concerts, tours and visits.

Facilities for music at Ellesmere include the famous Schulze Organ in the Big School, constructed in 1864 and the Chapel Organ which was rebuilt in 1991. There is a fully-equipped recording studio using digital recording technology and the College offers hands-on experience with this and the professional standard sound and lighting rig in the Arts Centre auditorium. The teaching room features a suite of Yamaha keyboards and four music PC's running Sibelius and Cubase software. There is a long tradition of preparing pupils for entrance to top University Music Departments and Music Colleges.

The Assessment Procedure

Music awards are made based on audition at the College, a report or recommendation from the current school or music organisation and meeting the College's academic entry criteria. Auditions typically take place in late January or early February each year, although appointments for premilnary auditions many be made at other times.



The Sports Scholarship at Ellesmere enabled me to move my game on to the next level. The dedication and support of the great coaches alongside the fabulous training facilities have all enabled me to become a better player, but I have been able to do this alongside my own academic work has been an added bonus. It is an incredible platform that has allowed me opportunities to compete at the highest of levels and help get identified by professional clubs.

Dewi Jones

Sports Awards

The Award

The College boasts an excellent reputation in Sport by virtue of its facilities, its extensive grounds which extend to 144 acres and the professional standard of its coaching. Its facilities as well as numerous pitches include a golf course, shooting ranges and access to nearby sailing facilities.

Pupils from Ellesmere excel in a variety of sports. The major boys' sports are rugby, soccer, tennis, swimming and cricket. The major girls' sports are hockey, netball, swimming and tennis. Players in these sports, and others, have regularly gone on to County, Regional and National representation, including recent Olympians. In addition, the College offers opportunities in a variety of other sporting areas such as sailing, golf and shooting where pupils have gone on to national and international success.

As a general guide, sports scholars are normally only awarded for prowess in the College's major sports, and preference is given to talent in the following sports: (see table below)

As a further general guide, to be considered for a Sports Award a candidate would need to be performing at the equivalent of one level above County standard, where such a hierarchy exists.

For the purposes of tennis and swimming the national ranking and rating systems are used.

To be considered for a swimming award a candidate will need to have achieved multiple District Qualifying times in the immediate period prior to the application and be ranked in the ASA top 75 swimmers by age and sex in at least one event.

To be considered for a tennis award a candidate will need to be ranked in the top 10 of his or her particular county at his or her age-group level.

Sports Awards may be up to a maximum of 5% - 20% of school fees, although entrants below Sixth Form level are unlikely to receive merit awards higher than 10% of school fees.

Boys	Girls
Cricket	Cricket
Football	Football
Golf	Golf
Hockey	Hockey
Rugby	Netball
Shooting	Shooting
Swimming	Swimming
Tennis	Tennis

The Assessment Procedure

Sports Scholarships are awarded annually, based on a general fitness test at the College, a report or recommendation from the current school and (where relevant) sports club and meeting the school's academic criteria for entry.



Woodard Award (a closed award)

The Award

Funds have been reserved by the Governors to allow the College to offer Sixth Form scholarships to pupils from maintained schools affiliated to the Woodard Corporation, most particularly the Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School. These funds may also be accessed by pupils studying at other Woodard Schools.

The Assessment Procedure

The successful candidate will show considerable academic promise or a combination of sound academic performance and a talent in at least one other area of school life such as sport, music or drama.

Awards will be made on the basis of a reference from the Headmaster of candidates current school and interviews at the College. Awards will be made subject to performance in GCSE examinations.

Woodard Foundation Award (a closed award)

The Award

Funds have been reserved by the Governors to allow the College to offer up to four means-tested awards for day pupils in the Sixth Form. It is a condition of these awards that candidates should previously have attended local maintained schools to GCSE level. For the purposes of these awards "local" is defined as the area bounded by and including Shrewsbury, Chester, Oswestry and Whitchurch.

The means-tested element of this award will be based upon an assessment of parental income and assets following the completion of one of the College's Financial Circumstances Forms. The fee assessment will apply to the net fee only and will not include extras such as daily transport (although meals are included as part of the basic fee).

The Assessment Procedure

The primary factor in determining receipt of these awards will be academic prowess and a candidate should normally be expected to achieve a majority of his or her GCSEs at grade A* standard.

Additional factors such as sporting, musical and dramatic talent may also be taken into account.

The giving of awards and bursaries is a fundamental part of the ethos and commitment to the individual at Ellesmere College. To see the pupils flourish and to witness their commitment to Ellesmere in and out of the classroom is testament to the continued support of this most rewarding aspect of the College.

OE Benefactor

Conditions under which awards and bursaries are made

Awards may be removed in the light of poor effort or poor conduct. Under normal circumstances parents will be warned of the possibility of such removal if there is not an improvement in effort or conduct, but the College reserves the right to remove an award without prior warning. The removal of an award under such circumstances would include removal of the financial benefit of the award.

In circumstances where an individual's performance falls short of that expected of an award holder despite his or her efforts (in other words failure to maintain the expected standard without moral fault) the title of Exhibitioner or Scholar may be removed but the financial benefits of the award would normally remain, although such benefit would then be subjected to means-testing.

The judgement regarding circumstances of removal of an award outlined above is made by the Headmaster.

In the case of specific awards, such as Academic, Drama, Music or Sports Scholarships, a further condition for a pupil retaining the award throughout his or her time at the College is that he or she makes a significant contribution to the life of the College in the area covered by the award.

The decision as to whether a pupil is making such a contribution is the Headmaster's. In circumstances where an award is removed for failure to maintain an appropriate level of commitment to the College in general or the award area in particular the financial benefit of the award will be removed and will not be replaced by any bursary arrangements.

NB: this list is not exhaustive. A full set of terms and conditions relating to the offering and acceptance of an award or bursary will be issued to parents who receive an offer of an award or bursary.

Means-Tested Financial Support

The following is an extract from the College's bursary policy. The full policy is available upon request.

The College is committed to broadening access to the school by offering to eligible parents/guardians means-tested financial support with the payment of schools fees.

Such support is known as a Bursary and may be awarded in the form of a significant discount on tuition fees payable, depending on the individual financial circumstances of each family application.

Bursary awards are liable to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards, depending on parental circumstances.

Awards are made on the basis of a scale of awards, which sets out award levels in relation to a family's financial circumstances.

Though awards are generally tied to this scale, they may be varied upwards or downwards depending on individual parents/guardians' circumstances (e.g. their savings, investments and realisable assets, as well as their income, the size of their family, any other persons dependent upon them and like factors), compassionate or other pertinent considerations.

The Case for Assistance

The Headmaster and Director of Finance will consider a number of factors when making the judgement as to the justification for support, and the extent of such support. In the main, the child's suitability for the school is the first consideration in granting support.

Suitability

In assessing a child's suitability, attention will be given to the academic assessment result of each applicant, but potential will also be considered as well as actual achievement. Bursary funds are limited and those judged most suitable will be given priority as those likely to gain most from the educational provision. Each pupil to whom support is offered must, in the opinion of the Headmaster, be likely to make sound academic progress following admission and possess the potential to develop the quality of his or her work, and benefit from participation in the wider, extra-curricular activities on offer at the School. In normal circumstances, each applicant should meet the School's normal academic requirements. Previous school reports will be consulted for evidence of good behaviour.



I know that without the support and encouragement of Old Ellesmerians, I would not have been able to attend Ellesmere College. The opportunity created is fantastic and I hope that the tradition of Ellesmere Alumni funding scholarships and mentoring students continues for many years to come. It is totally life changing.

Ben Hall

Financial Limitations

The amount of the Bursary award is influenced by the level of the ability of the child but is primarily assessed on the basis of need, and the College's ability to fund bursaries. Each case is assessed on its own merits and awards are made accordingly, subject to the School's ability to fund these within the context of what is viable within the context of its overall budget. It is recognised that judgements about what sacrifices a family should make to pay school fees will be personal. However, the School has a duty to ensure that all Bursary grants are well focussed and so, as well as current earnings, other factors which will be considered in determining the necessary level of grant will include:

- The ability to improve the financial position or earning power of the family. For example, where there are two partners, both would be expected to be employed unless one is prevented from doing so through incapacity, the need to care for children under school age or other dependents, or the requirements of their partner's work.
- Opportunities to release any capital. Significant capital savings and investments would be expected to be used for the payment of school fees, as would equity values in houses.
- In cases of separation, the contribution made by the absent parent.
- Contribution to household costs by other, wider, family members, any adults unrelated to the child or by outside sources.
- Where fees are being paid to other schools (or universities) the School's grant will take into account all these outgoings.

Acknowledging that others might have a different view, the School considers that the following would not be consistent with the receipt of a Bursary:

- Frequent or expensive holidays.
- New or luxury cars.
- Investment in significant home improvements.
- A second property/land holdings.

Other Factors

It is recognised that, in addition to academic ability and financial constraints, there may be other circumstances which should be considered. These include:

- Where a child has siblings at the School.
- Where the social needs of the child are relevant (eg: may be suffering from bullying at their present school).
- Where a parent/guardian is terminally ill or is unable to secure permanent employment due to poor health.

Confidentiality

The School respects the confidentiality of Bursary awards made to families and recipients are expected to do likewise.

Annual Review

All Bursary awards are liable to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the charitable funds are being used appropriately and there has been no material change of circumstances that renders a bursary no longer necessary, but in practice they are normally reviewed less frequently than annually. Current Bursary holders may, therefore, be issued with repeat means-testing forms. For those previously in receipt of Bursaries, the Headmaster and Director of Finance have the discretion to reduce or withdraw an award not only where a pupil's progress, attitude or behaviour has been unsatisfactory but also where the parents/guardians have failed to support the school, for example by the late payment of any contribution they are making to the fees.

Other Sources of Bursary Assistance

In addition to the School's Bursary Fund, there are a number of educational and charitable trusts which provide assistance with tuition fees. In the majority of cases, these are to assist children who are already attending a feepaying school and due to a change of circumstances may be unable to remain. The College encourages parents/ guardians to apply for support where it is felt a good case can be made for assistance. Further information on how to pursue such assistance may be obtained from:

The Director of Finance
Ellesmere College
Ellesmere
SY12 9AB

Email: directoroffinance@ellesmere.com

The Educational Trusts Forum and also The Joint Educational Trust
6 Lovat Lane
London EC3R 8DT

Email: admin@jetcharity.org
Website: www.jetcharity.org

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