

11+ Scholarships 2025

Academic

Academic scholars are expected to display a positive attitude to their work across all subject areas. Academic scholars are expected to work hard in class, behave well and ensure that homework tasks are completed to a high standard. It is recognised that even scholars may struggle in certain subjects but in such cases it is imperative that they maintain a positive attitude.

At 11+, candidates sit written papers in English and Mathematics. The exams are based on the National Curriculum expectations for Year 6, and therefore these exams are accessible to children from any setting (i.e. state primary schools as well as other independent schools).

Art

Art scholars are expected to play a full role in the Art Department. They are expected to participate in and promote extra-curricular activities in art. Art scholars are ambassadors for art in and out of lessons and should show this through their effort and attainment in art lessons and in broader participation beyond lessons. It is possible that an art scholar can retain their scholarship even if they choose not to take art as a GCSE or A Level option. However the expectations to participate fully in the broader life of the subject remains and retention of the scholarship is dependent upon it.

At 11+, candidates are required to produce two pieces of work at home, unaided:

- A drawing using any dry colour media. For example, it could be pastel, fine-line pen, conte crayons, coloured pencils or charcoal. The drawing can be of any subject e.g. a landscape, portrait or still life and could be in colour or black and white
- A painting copying or interpreting a painting by a well-known artist. This can be done using any type of paint except oil. We recommend using good quality paper or canvas for this to achieve the best result.

On the assessment day, candidates will complete an observational still life pencil drawing in the relaxed environment of the Art Department. This will last approximately an hour. The purpose of this is as much to identify creative potential as well as to assess current ability.

Drama

Drama scholars are expected to play a full role in the Drama Department. They are expected to participate in and promote extra-curricular activities in performing arts. Drama scholars are ambassadors for performing arts in and out of lessons and should show this through their effort and attainment in drama lessons and in broader participation beyond lessons. It is possible that a drama scholar can retain their scholarship even if they choose not to take drama as a GCSE or A Level option. However the expectations to participate fully in the broader life of the subject remains and retention of the scholarship is dependent upon it.

At 11+, candidates will be required to perform one prepared monologue of their choice, lasting approximately two minutes. This monologue should be learnt by heart. Candidates will also be asked to perform a short monologue or poem which shall be given to them during the audition. Following the performances, there shall be a discussion with the teacher with regards to the role that drama plays in the candidate's life. Candidates should also provide a drama portfolio which details any drama examinations that they have taken, roles that they have had in a play or drama clubs that they belong to.

Music

Music scholars are expected to play a full role in the Music Department. They are expected to participate in and promote extra-curricular activities in performing arts. Music scholars are ambassadors for performing arts in and out of lessons and should show this through their effort and attainment in music lessons and in broader participation beyond lessons. It is possible that a music scholar can retain their scholarship even if they choose not to take music as a GCSE or A Level option. However the expectations to participate fully in the broader life of the subject remains and retention of the scholarship is dependent upon it.

In addition to the discount in fees, Music Scholars will also receive the equivalent of one free peripatetic lesson per week during term time.

At 11+, candidates should have achieved at least Grade 3 in their chosen instrument (which could include voice). They will be required to play one prepared piece of their choice, play a piece at sight and complete some aural tests.

Sports

Sports scholars are expected to play a full role in the PE Department. They are expected to participate in and promote extra-curricular activities in sport. Sports scholars are ambassadors for sport in and out of lessons and should show this through their effort and attainment in PE lessons and in broader participation beyond lessons. It is possible that a sports scholar can retain their scholarship even if they choose not to take PE as a GCSE or A Level option. However the expectations to participate fully in the broader life of the subject remains and retention of the scholarship is dependent upon it.

Sports scholars should either be exceptional in any sport (which does not need to be part of the school's standard PE curriculum) or very good at a range of sports normally undertaken at Rookwood School.

At 11+, candidates should be involved in their chosen sport at local club level and/or school team standard. They will be asked to submit a brief resume of their sporting activities to date, and should also provide a letter of recommendation from their coach or PE teacher. The assessment includes a fitness test and a group sporting activity.