

Scholarships Policy

Leighton Park seeks to admit students who will give their all to get the most from the opportunities provided at the School, who will work hard to achieve excellent academic progress and actively contribute to the life of the School. We aim to inspire Achievement with Values, Character and Community and we seek students whose families will be in sympathy with this ethos and the aspirations of a community based on Quaker values and ideals.

This Scholarship Policy should be read in conjunction with our Admissions Policy.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Leighton Park School serves the secondary education needs of boarding and day students. The School is owned by Leighton Park Trust.
- 1.2. Admission is normally given to years 7, 9 and Lower Sixth, although entry for all years is possible. Scholarships are available for entry in Year 7, 9 and 12 and exceptionally at other points of entry.

2. Aims of our scholarships programme

- 2.1. To attract exceptionally talented students to the School and recognise outstanding students at key transition stages.
- 2.2. To support the School's reputation for excellence in Music, STEAM and Ethical Enterprise.
- 2.3. To establish lead students within different academic areas, to act as an example for other students and work with academic staff to support a culture of dedication and excellence within their scholarship area.

3. Overview

- 3.1. A number of scholarships are granted for entry to Year 7, Year 9 and Sixth Form, to prospective and existing students of the School.
- 3.2. Awarded on the basis of a competitive examination and/or interview, candidates can apply for any combination of scholarships but can only be awarded one. An exception is the David Lean Scholarship, which can be held in combination with one of the other scholarships. The scholar can benefit from a package of support with exclusive access to facilities to help them develop their talents.
- 3.3. Once received, a scholarship customarily lasts throughout the student's time at Leighton Park but is subject to a satisfactory review of progress each year.

4. Categories of scholarship

There are five categories of scholarship:

Title	Areas covered	Award	Music lessons (if applicable)
Leighton Park Scholarship Majors	Music, STEAM, Ethical Enterprise	Up to 25% remission of day fees per annum	Two free music lessons per week
Head's Scholarship Award	Academic, Sport, Music, Art, Drama and Dance	10% remission of day fees per annum	Two free music lessons per week
Exhibition Scholarship Award	Academic, Sport, Music, Art, Drama and Dance	£500 award per annum	One free music lesson per week
Honorary Scholarship Award	Academic, Sport, Music, Art, Drama and Dance	Honorary	One free music lesson per week
David Lean Scholarship	Awarded to Lower Sixth students that achieve excellent GCSE results	Honorary	

- 4.1. Where possible, the school will seek to have at least one scholar from each area at Years 7, 9 and Lower Sixth.
- 4.2. The number of David Lean Scholars are not limited, are not by application nor subject to sections 5, 6 and 7 of this policy.
- 4.3. Leighton Park Majors may not be awarded every year.

5. Expectations of our scholars

Scholars are expected to make an active contribution to departments and their own development through:

- 5.1. Being an ambassador for their department and within the School, entering relevant competitions and performances, attending related trips and extension activities
- 5.2. Acting as a mentor to support younger students
- 5.3. Working with others to raise the profile of their subject both internally and at outreach events
- 5.4. Extending knowledge by participating in, and leading, activities and clubs
- 5.5. Different subjects place additional expectations on their scholars, full details can be found on our scholarships webpage.

Subject to performance and commitment, scholars will retain their award for the duration of their studies at Leighton Park. Scholars are reviewed each year, however, and awards will not be renewed if scholars are not felt to have met the expectations laid out above.

6. Application process

- 6.1. All categories except academic
 - 6.1.1. Complete the online scholarship application form by the deadline stated on the school website, usually in mid-November. This includes a 250 word personal statement detailing their work and suitability for the scholarship.

All applicants should submit supporting evidence as detailed in section 7. External applicants should also provide their most recent school reports. External applicants will only be considered if they have also completed the online registration form to apply to the School.

- 6.1.2. The application will be reviewed and an email will be sent inviting successful candidates to attend a test day in December. Unsuccessful candidates will be contacted by letter.
- 6.1.3. Successful candidates from the test day will then be invited to attend an interview and assessment.
- 6.1.4. If successful at this stage, a scholarship offer will be sent via email. Prospective students will receive this offer at the same time as their offer of a place to the School, usually in the last week on January. Unsuccessful candidates will also be contacted by email at this stage.
- 6.1.5. The School may hold a reserve list for Scholarships, which may not adhere to this timetable.

6.2. External applications for academic scholarships in Years 7 and 9. Lower Sixth academic scholars apply as per 6.1 above.

- 6.2.1. Apply to the school by the stated deadline and attend entrance tests.
- 6.2.2. Students that achieve exceptional results in our entrance tests will be invited to sit an additional scholarships test and interview.
- 6.2.3. If successful at this stage, a scholarship offer will be sent via email within a fortnight of the interview. Unsuccessful candidates will be contacted by email at this stage.

7. Evidence sought

7.1. Academic, STEAM and Ethical Enterprise

As part of the initial scholarship application, students are expected to provide supporting evidence. This can include: examples of outstanding pieces of work, details of prizes and certificates and references from teachers or other suitable professionals.

Please note, that in order to suitably assess a candidate's natural academic aptitude, we will not be issuing exemplar test papers or any further details regarding scholar's interviews in advance of the scholarship assessment day. Students are unable to take the French, Spanish or Mandarin paper if this is a home language, spoken by one or more parents. Every student will be required to submit a maximum of 250 words expressing why they would like to be a scholar in their chosen subject(s).

7.2. Art and Design

Candidates are requested to submit a portfolio of work, relevant achievements in the field, recordings and references from suitable professionals. The portfolio is one of the most important aspects of the scholarship submission.

The portfolio should show an understanding of representational drawing, as well as a personal response to the individual's own experiences, environment and culture. The work submitted need not be restricted to drawings and paintings, but may show evidence of a broad area of study, which might include, for example, prints, photographs or ceramics. Within a portfolio we are looking for the ability to record observations and experiences, develop ideas through various materials and techniques, and communicate ideas and feelings in a visual form.

Candidates successful at the initial screening, will be invited to take a short practical exam. In advance of the assessment day, candidates will receive a brief and are advised to spend some time producing preliminary/supporting studies. This work forms a very important part of the examination. We are looking for ideas from various sources, the development of these ideas and an ability to work independently towards a final piece.

The final piece will need to be produced unaided and under supervision in the Art Department, on the Art Scholarship assessment day. In the final stage of the assessment process each candidate is interviewed by a member of the Art Department. This is an opportunity to discuss their portfolio and general interests.

7.3. Dance

Candidates are requested to provide support for their application in the form of examination certification (LAMDA/RADA) or some form of dance grading. If this is not available, information on the student's involvement relating to performance, design or technical support within dance should be provided.

The Dance Department encourage applications from students interested in all aspects of performance, and wish to emphasise that scholarships are also open to students who are keen to pursue their interest in the technical and design aspects of dance.

Candidates successful at the initial screening, will be invited to audition or present their portfolio. The audition performance could be any scripted piece from any medium and time period or even an original presentation devised by the student themselves. If the student chooses to perform a dance audition, the dance audition should be performed to suitable music. The design portfolio could include original designs for costume, lighting or sound, together with any visual evidence of the candidate's interest in these areas. In the final stage of the assessment process each candidate is interviewed by a member of the Dance Department. This is an opportunity to discuss their dance ambitions and general interests.

7.4. Drama

Candidates are requested to provide support for their application in the form of examination certification (LAMDA/RADA) or some form of drama grading. If this is not available, information on the student's involvement relating to performance, design or technical support within drama must be provided.

The Drama Department encourage applications from students interested in all aspects of performance, and wish to emphasise that scholarships are also open to students who are keen to pursue their interest in the technical and design aspects of theatre.

Candidates successful at the initial screening, will be invited to audition or present their portfolio. The audition performance could be any scripted piece from any medium and time period or even an original presentation devised by the student themselves. The design portfolio could include original designs for costume, lighting or sound together with any visual evidence of the candidate's interest in these areas.

In the final stage of the assessment process each candidate is interviewed by a member of the Drama Department. This is an opportunity to discuss their theatrical ambitions and general interests.

7.5. Music

Candidates are requested to provide support for their application in the form of graded examination and theory certificates (if applicable). If the student's current music teacher would like to provide a reference, this should be included in their application.

Candidates who are successful at the initial screening will be invited to an assessment day at Leighton Park and audition, whereby they can offer one or more instruments (voice included). Two contrasting pieces should be prepared for the first instrument offered and only one for any subsequent instrument. No more than three instruments will be heard at the audition. Compositions can be included as an 'instrument' for the purposes of this audition.

In the final stage of the assessment process each candidate is interviewed by our Director of Music and are encouraged to talk generally about their musical experience and ambitions. We expect students to demonstrate evidence of widening musical interests and to complete some aural tests. Please note candidates are assessed on the basis of musical potential as well as prior musical achievement. Associated Board practical exams and other examination boards are a useful indicator, but other factors are considered.

7.6. Sport

Candidates are requested to provide evidence of playing for a rugby, cricket, hockey, netball, football, tennis or athletics team at county level or equivalent, or be on an advanced pathway, to support their application. Students who play alternative sports will also be considered but should be able to evidence playing their sport at a level that is considered elite. It must be noted that the final decision on these criteria will be down to the discretion of the Director of Sport.

Successful candidates are required to attend a trial session at Leighton Park, most likely linked to a games session amongst peers. They may bring a portfolio on their assessment day demonstrating their sporting abilities and passion if they wish to do so. All sports played should be indicated in an application. Students will be given the opportunity to display skills in more than one sport (of the sports indicated above) during the assessment day, where possible. In the final stage of the assessment process each candidate is interviewed by the Director of Sport and are asked to complete a fitness test. Students are encouraged to talk generally about their sporting experience and ambitions.

8. Decisions and feedback

Decisions to award Scholarships are made by Committee, chaired by the Head. In all matters pertaining to Scholarship awards the Head's decision is final and there is no right of appeal or formal complaint.

Feedback on decisions shall be given on written request to the Registrar and will be made available only after the Acceptance Deadline for all students has passed.

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