Scholarship Policy

SLM

Updated September 2026

Review and amendment record

Date	Person Conducting the Review	Changes Made
January 2026	HL / SLM	Creation (but adapted from PND's)
September 2026	SLM	Reviewed and updated

INTRODUCTION

The ethos at Summer Fields encourages excellence in every sphere. Staff are keen to share their passion for their subject, and this enthusiasm is emulated by the boys. Every endeavour is made to nurture talent in all areas, be it academic work, music, art, DT, drama or sport.

Paul Davies is currently the Master i/c of Academic Scholars, and the Heads of Department for music, art, DT, drama and sport have oversight of scholarships in those areas: currently, Hannah Hudson, Eddie Orr, Ben Hudson and Alex Lane.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Heads of Department

If boys express an interest in scholarship in a particular subject, Heads of Department will familiarise themselves with the requirements for the boy's given senior school and assist pupils in compiling the necessary portfolios of work and in writing the necessary reports. This may take the form of extra teaching sessions and allocation of time in Activities, or the setting of necessary work to be completed outside of school. Heads of Department should inform the Master i/c of Scholars, the DOS and the Headmaster's PA of boys intending to take scholarships.

Master i/c of Scholars

The Master i/c of Scholars is responsible for disseminating information regarding scholarships and advising parents and boys in Year 7 on the process and its challenges. This takes the form of a presentation to parents in Michaelmas term, letter communication with interested families in Lent term and the compiling of a list of boys suggested for scholarship before form allocations are made in the summer term. This list will be discussed with the DOS, Deputy Head and the Headmaster for finalisation. Inform the Headmaster's PA of boys intending to take scholarships. Every calendar year, the Master i/c of Scholars should compile a list of the external scholarship examination dates. When scholarships are being undertaken at Summer Fields the Master i/c of Scholars must provide the details of the examinations (students sitting the papers, number and length of papers etc.) to the DOS at least two weeks before the examination date so a timetable of staff invigilation can be prepared.

Parents
Parents are responsible for entering their sons for a scholarship, completing the necessary paperwork for the school in question by the deadlines the senior school set. Parents are responsible for confirming they have entered their sons for a scholarship with Summer Fields, specifically their son's tutor and the Headmaster's PA (hm.pa@summerfields.com).

Parents should enter their sons for a scholarship **only** if they have met with the relevant curriculum head (Master i/c of Scholars, Director of Music, Director of Sport, Head of Art and Head of Drama) and that member of staff agrees that their son is a suitable candidate. Parents should be aware that the school will teach pupils in the groups that, in the professional judgement of school staff, are deemed to be the most appropriate for them, enabling best access to the curriculum and where the most progress will be made, regardless of whether they are intending to take a scholarship. Pupils will not be moved to a different form, class, musical group or team as a result of being entered for a scholarship – they will continue to be supported in the group that has been judged to be the best fit for their current profile.

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Scholarship

Aims:

- To allow boys the opportunity to sit scholarships for senior schools if appropriate for them
- To identify criteria by which boys are evaluated for suitability at Summer Fields for scholarships
- To outline the process, including key dates, for staff and parents
- To identify necessary provision

Criteria for academic scholarship suitability

Boys need to demonstrate:

- A proven academic track record demonstrated through:
    - Entry assessment / CAT data
    - Orders – both effort and attainment
    - Internal examination results
    - Attitude to learning
- A consistent and genuine passion for learning (a scholarly attitude) and a genuine desire to sit an academic scholarship.
- Significantly above average ability in all core subjects (English, Maths and Science).

The school and parents together need to agree:

- the boy fulfils the academic criteria above for the given senior school
- that any pastoral concerns are taken into consideration
- the boy has a place at the senior school in question.
- whether it is necessary to sit the scholarship as part of the entry requirement for the given senior school, for example to support an application for bursarial assistance.

Process

- Presentation by Master i/c Scholars, Director of Studies, Head of Year for parents of Year 7 boys on the scholarship process in Michaelmas term.
- Letter sent to Year 7 parents, from Master i/c of Scholars, in first half of Lent term outlining the process and inviting expressions of interest in a boy taking scholarship to given school sent to Master i/c of Scholars.
- Master i/c of Scholars compiles list of Year 7 boys, discussed with the Director of Studies and tutors by end of Lent term.
- Option for parents to meet Master i/c of Scholars regarding suitability before end of Lent term.
- Parents are informed by Master i/c of Scholars regarding suitability for scholarship before Summer Term Long Leave and before allocation of forms.
- Decisions should be in place before the allocation of Year 8 forms in the summer term. Boys believed capable of taking the scholarship route to their senior school will be placed in 8D or 8E.

Provision

Boys pursuing the scholarship route to their senior schools are likely to be taught an adjusted curriculum in order to prepare them for the altered nature of scholarship examinations. This will include an additional two General lessons timetabled (in 8D) in the place of one geography lesson and one history lesson.

Music, Art, DT, Drama and Sport Scholarships

Aims

- To allow boys the opportunity to sit scholarships for senior schools if appropriate for them according to their talents
- To identify criteria by which boys are evaluated for suitability at Summer Fields for scholarship
- To outline the process

To be considered a suitable candidate for scholarship, boys need to demonstrate an exceptional ability in - and genuine passion for - the relevant area in their time at the school. A pupil must have achieved a very high level of expertise in addition to demonstrating a serious commitment in working to improve their skills in the relevant area for a scholarship.

In practice, examples in different areas include:

- Music - for most of the senior schools we send boys to, candidates will have achieved at least Grade 7 and preferably Grade 8 standard having passed the examination with at least a Merit in their major musical instrument and will have a second instrument of at least Grade 6+ standard. Many also have an additional instrument such as Organ at a lower level. They will have been a part of two or more school musical groups (the Chapel Choir, 1st Orchestra, Strings group, etc.) and will have performed regularly internally in Assemblies and Coffee Concerts as well as outside Summer Fields. In addition, many candidates will offer additional disciplines such as a composition portfolio to support their application.

- Sport - candidates should demonstrate outstanding commitment, performance and potential across a range of sports, typically by representing the school's 1st team in at least two major sports (football, rugby, hockey, cricket) and one minor sport (athletics, cross-country, swimming, fives, golf), or alternatively by representing the 1st team in one major sport and at least two minor sports. A sport pursued outside school in which a boy has achieved a significantly high standard may be recognised as a minor sport equivalent. In exceptional cases, candidates applying on the basis of a single sport must be performing at an outstanding level for their age. All judgements are made at the discretion of the Director of Sport, and successful applicants will also have shown consistent representation across school teams, engaged in additional coaching opportunities, and demonstrated strong sporting character, including excellent teamwork, leadership, commitment and coachability.

- Drama - candidates will have achieved at least Grade 5 in LAMDA, or will have been chosen to play a major role in school performances in the last two years, and they will have auditioned for and taken part in school performances throughout their time at the school.

- Art and DT - candidates will have achieved a very high level of skill in their curriculum lessons; projects will be completed to a demonstrable level of considerable flair. Candidates will have chosen to have additional extra-curricular Art and DT (through either paid extras or the Activities programme) throughout their time at the school.

Process

Boys will approach the Head of Department and arrangements will be made to develop portfolios of work or gather evidence of attainment. This may be completed in the boy's own time or in sessions set aside for the use of school resources such as the Portfolio Group for art in Activities time. Guidance will be given to help the boys reach their potential, but evidence of independent work is also necessary.