

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Wrekin College Policy on Bursaries

1. Wrekin College was founded by Sir John Bayley in 1880 with a commitment to providing a top quality all round education, with the focus on the individual. As a Charitable Foundation, the intention of the Founder was to extend this opportunity as widely as possible, to the benefit of as many as possible, and thereby to the community as a whole. This remains the spirit and intention of the school, and the provision of benefit to as many as possible, including as many as possible who cannot pay the full fees, remains the objective of the school Governors.
2. It is of benefit to the community to have access to the school's excellence, and it is also of benefit to the school that the community should do so. It is a good thing for the school to have pupils drawn from different backgrounds, and too narrow a catchment, either geographically or financially, could be harmful. The school is also very important to the local economy, and has outstanding facilities. The Governors believe it is a good thing to make these available to the community as a whole, interlinking with the needs of the school. Often these facilities will be extended at very low or no cost, especially for Charitable functions such as use by the Lions Club, use by other schools (particularly Primary Schools), and other non-profit making local groups.
3. It is the explicit intention of the Governors to use Bursaries for the following purposes:
 - I. To include children who would not, in usual circumstances, for financial reasons, be able to benefit from the opportunities which the school has to offer.
 - II. To assist current parents whose financial position significantly worsens whilst a pupil is a member of the school, and who are therefore unable to pay the full fees.

However, the Governors do not have unlimited funds available for this, and any money which is dispersed as Bursaries simply comes from the general income of the school, which is virtually all from collected fees. The Governors periodically set a target for all remissions, so this constitutes a limited fund and not all applications will be successful.

The Governors will make available to the Headmaster a fund which can be used for Bursaries and other remittances. It is clear that a large proportion of this money will be dispersed at the beginning of each academic year, with just a small amount held back for emergencies, which are likely to be particularly covered by Point 2 above, i.e. parents who find sudden financial difficulties. It follows that applications made in good time for the start of the academic year, may be in a stronger position for consideration.

Awards: Criteria and Timing

1. Applications for a Bursary should initially be made to the school Bursar, though they may be discussed informally with the Headmaster. **Prospective parents** may prefer to outline their perceived need for a Bursary at an early stage in the application – it can be done with the initial enquiry. **Current parents** whose financial circumstances change, should inform the Bursar of this at the earliest possible opportunity to enable the Bursar to explore various possible avenues which may offer assistance.

2. All awards will be based on means-tested application forms, using a form devised by the Bursars' Association. This produces a sliding scale of possible award and all the details will remain confidential.
3. The means-tested application form must be fully completed and must be accompanied by the required documentation if it is to be considered.
4. The Bursar and the Headmaster, if necessary with the help of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, will decide what awards can be made from the resources which are available. A means-tested Bursary can cover the whole of the school fees.
5. A Bursary will be made specifically for a Day or Boarding place; if a Day pupil transfers to Boarding status the award will not necessarily be increased. Similarly, if a Boarding pupil reverts to Day status then, of course, the amount is likely to be reduced.
6. All awards are subject to annual review. If parental circumstances do not change, then once an award is made it will remain in place.
7. In practice, although awards of Bursaries can extend to 100%, they will usually be less in order to share the limited funds between more applicants.

Timing

1. An advertisement will be placed in the local press about three months before the Entrance Examinations to advertise the existence of Bursaries.
2. Decisions on Bursaries will usually be made at the following times:

11+ - January of the year of entry after the entrance examinations in January. It is possible, but not likely, that Bursary places will be available after that date.

13+ - after the Entrance Examinations and Scholarship in February of the year of entry. Bursary places may remain after that, but it is not likely.

Sixth Form – Awards will usually be made in January of the year of entry, conditional upon GCSE results.

It follows that applications must be made before these dates together with any school visits and discussions with the Bursar. All paperwork and applications must also be completed before these dates.

A Note on Scholarships and Bursaries

Scholarships are awarded for merit; Bursaries for need. Scholarships are available for academic excellence, and also exceptional potential in Music, Art or Sport. Awards are also occasionally made to students of great all-round ability, but who may not be the very best in any of these areas. However, for an all-round award it would be usual to be very strong at a minimum of two of these categories.

Scholarships will not usually exceed 25% of the school fees and will generally be less. Bursaries can reach 100%. It is possible to top up a scholarship with a further Bursary, and a letter explaining the process of

applying for a topping-up Bursary will accompany all awards of scholarships. However, this top-up is not guaranteed.

A scholarship remains in place so long as a student continues to perform at a level which merits that award; a Bursary remains in place unless the financial circumstances of the parents change.

The terms of a Bursary and Scholarship do not usually cover 'extras'.

Foundation

The school Foundation supports up to three students in the school through the Fund, donated by supporters of the school, especially Old Wrekinians. Foundationer places are means-tested in the usual way, and subject to annual review.

Letter of Offer

All students who are awarded a Bursary must satisfy the usual entry procedures through examination or GCSE achievement. Any Bursary award is conditional upon that. A letter of offer will be sent which specifies the amount of Bursary which is awarded, together with the conditions.

The conditions specified will include:

1. The period for which the Bursary is tenable.
2. The specific area covered by the Bursary, i.e. Day fees or Boarding fees.
3. A requirement on parents to notify the school of any changes in their financial circumstances.
4. A requirement for annual review.

The award of Bursaries remains confidential between the school and parent. They are not advertised by name in school materials. Scholarships on the other hand are cited in school literature as a celebration of achievement.

Withdrawal of Bursary

1. A Bursary will be withdrawn and the school reserves the right to reclaim Bursary funds if false or misleading information has been given at the application stage.
2. A Bursary may be withdrawn after written warning if the behaviour or performance of the student falls significantly below the expectation of the school.
3. A Bursary may be withdrawn if the remaining parental contribution to the school fees is not maintained.

Acceptance

The acceptance of a Bursary is a legally binding contract in which the school undertakes to maintain the Bursary on the terms explained and the parents agree to maintain their contribution, if any, to the remaining fees and extras.