



BURSARIES

A limited Bursary fund is available to enhance the value of scholarships to those in financial need. Assistance is, in some cases, available for up to 100% of tuition fees, although Pembroke Scholarships are designed to provide this level of support.

All bursarial awards and Pembroke Scholarship awards are means tested. Parents are required to submit a Statement of Financial Circumstances form, together with appropriate backing evidence. As part of the assessment process the Finance Director, or another senior manager, may visit you at home to confirm the financial information submitted. All applications are assessed in light of the funding available each year and offers are made to individuals accordingly.

Applicants are judged on the individual child's academic assessment, current level of achievement and educational potential. As funds are limited, awards will be made to those judged most likely to gain from our educational provision. All such pupils will be expected to possess the potential to develop the quality of their work, and benefit from participation in the wider extra-curricular activities on offer. The level of an individual award will be based on financial need, and not on educational ability.

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 bursaries 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.
- 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.

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.
- Where a parent/guardian is terminally ill or is unable to secure permanent employment due to poor health.
- Where a separation has resulted in the child having to be withdrawn from the School adding to the stress of coping with the parents/guardians separating.

Annual Review

All bursary awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards depending on parental circumstances. The College reserve the right 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.

Confidentiality

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

Other Sources of Financial Assistance

There are a number of educational and charitable trusts which may be able to provide assistance with some fees in cases of genuine need and within some specific categories. Further information can be found on the Independent Schools Council website at www.isc.co.uk/ParentZone/GrantGivingTrusts.htm. Parents should also ask employers and other organisations to which they belong whether there are any relevant benevolent funds available to them. Further information is available from the Admissions Registrar.