



SCHOLARSHIPS POLICY

Responsible person: Bursar
Last reviewed: November 2025
Next review: September 2027

Section 1

Scholarships are designed to recognise excellence and to celebrate exceptional talent and potential. Academic and Music scholarships are available at 11+, 13+ and 16+. Drama scholarships are available at 13+ and 16+. Sports scholarships are available at 16+. Scholarships can be held alongside bursaries where candidates qualify for additional fee support.

Scholarships are normally offered as an award as a reduction on the annual fees charged. It is possible for a student to have two scholarship awards in different disciplines. In exceptional cases, the Headmaster has the discretion to grant a larger scholarship award.

Scholarships are reviewed at the end of each Key Stage and may be removed if the recipient is not meeting the terms of the award. In certain cases, as a last resort, after due warning, the Headmaster reserves the right to withdraw a scholarship before the normal review period.

Outstanding Senior students not in receipt of scholarships may be invited to participate in performance programmes for Sport, Music and Drama alongside subject scholars. These programmes will vary from year to year but may include expert workshops, trips and coaching sessions.

The Prep School does not operate a scholarships programme in the same way as the Senior School. From Prep 3 onwards the Prep Leadership Team may make awards which carry fee remission either on the basis of assessment (internal or external) or by parents making a direct application to the Head of Prep. These awards will be reviewed on an annual basis and terminate at the end of Prep 6.

1a) Academic Scholarships

Academic scholarships are awarded at 11+ and 13+ on the basis of performance in the entrance examinations. Academic scholarships at 16+ (entry into the Sixth Form) are awarded on the basis of grades achieved in Key Stage 4 school reports and grades achieved in internal examinations. Academic scholarships are typically only offered to students likely to excel across the range of their GCSEs. All current pupils will be eligible for consideration of a scholarship award at the same time.

11+ and 13+ Academic Scholarships to external students are awarded on the basis of excellent performance in the entrance tests and strong academic references from the feeder school. These awards are issued with the offer letters.

Academic Scholarships to pupils transferring internally at 11+ are awarded on the basis of excellence and recommendation, which will include academic performance, attitude to learning and a positive contribution to wider College life and the College ethos. These awards are sent out in the first half of the Lent term prior to the Prep School pupils transferring to the Senior School in September.

Academic scholarships are reviewed at the end of each Key Stage, that is at the end of Form 3 (Year 9) and Form 5 (Year 11). Students will be assessed on their performance, attitude and conduct together with their contribution to College life. Conditional Sixth Form Offer letters are sent to Form 5 students during the Michaelmas Term and will give details of academic scholarships being awarded, retained or removed.

1b) Music Scholarships & Performance Programme

Music scholarships and membership of the Performance Programme are dependent on securing entry to the Senior School.

Candidates should be established performers on one or more instruments or voice with strong musical skills. For 11+ they are likely to have reached Grade 3 ability or above, for 13+ should be at Grade 5 ability or above (or equivalent); and for 16+ should be at a minimum of Grade 7 or above.

To apply for a music scholarship, candidates will be asked to submit the application form along with a personal statement explaining why they believe they are a suitable candidate. Candidates should prepare an unaccompanied study on their chosen instrument and attend an audition by appointment. There will not be any sight-reading or aural tests, but candidates will be asked questions about their musical skills and interests. A reference about musical aptitude will be requested from the candidate's current music teacher / school (whichever is more appropriate).

- Music scholarships carrying a reduction of 10% against the annual College tuition fee will be awarded to at 11+, 13+ and 16+.
- Music Performance Programme memberships will also be awarded; these do not bring a fee reduction.
- Successful scholars and Performance Programme members will participate in an extension program devised by the Head of Music to include mentorship, performance, trip, workshop and masterclass opportunities. Those taking Music to GCSE and / or A level will also receive a curriculum adjustment equivalent in value to 10 individual music lessons per term at the rate charged by Visiting Music Teachers who provide lessons within the College.

The awards are reviewed annually on the basis of fulfilment of the following conditions:

- Support of College-based musical activities such as orchestras, bands, choirs and chamber groups as indicated by the Head of Music;
- Continuation of instrumental lessons at an appropriate level.
- Being an active music leader and role model across the Music Department;
- Mentor music students lower down the College;
- 6th Form Scholars / Exhibitioners may be asked to support some students in lessons;
- Good academic progress across the curriculum; and
- Good behaviour and conduct.

1c) Drama Scholarships & Performance Programme

St Columba's College Senior School offers **Drama Scholarships** and **Drama Performance Programme memberships** at 13+ and 16+ and applicants may be internal or external.

Candidates should be established performers and be able to show genuine passion for and commitment to the subject. Performance may take part inside or outside the College.

To apply for a drama scholarship or membership of the Performance Programme, candidates will be asked to submit the application form along with a personal statement explaining why they believe they are a suitable candidate. Candidates should prepare a 1-2 minute monologue to be performed at an audition. The audition will be followed by an interview with the Head of Expressive Arts.

The awards are reviewed annually on the basis of fulfilment of the following conditions:

- A committed role model and leader within the department
- Support of College-based drama activities such as theatrical productions and shows as indicated by the Head of Expressive Arts;
- Participation in the Whole School Show, Senior Actors Ensemble and the Eisteddfod;
- Continuation of drama lessons at an appropriate level.
- Good academic progress across the curriculum; and
- Good behaviour and conduct.

Successful Scholarship Candidates will benefit from:

- a 10% reduction against the annual College tuition fee;
- Theatre trips and professional in-house workshop opportunities at no additional cost;
- Academic support and mentoring from drama teachers.
- Those taking Drama to GCSE and / or A level who choose to participate in LAMDA lessons offered at the College by the visiting LAMDA practitioner will also receive a curriculum adjustment equivalent in value to 10 individual LAMDA lessons per term at the rate charged by the LAMDA teacher.

Successful Performance Programme Candidates will benefit from:

- Theatre trips and professional in-house workshop opportunities at no additional cost;
- Academic support and mentoring from drama teachers.
- Those taking Drama to GCSE and / or A level who choose to participate in LAMDA lessons offered at the College by the visiting LAMDA practitioner will also receive a curriculum adjustment equivalent in value to 10 individual LAMDA lessons per term at the rate charged by the LAMDA teacher.

1d) Sport Scholarships (Sixth Form only) & Performance Programme (13+)

Membership of the Sports Performance Programme is first available to internal and external applicants at 13+.

At 13+ the College is interested in receiving applications from individuals who have achieved representative honours at county, regional or national level or who are of a similar standard. Candidates should demonstrate leadership skills, display sportsmanship and show evidence that they are developing and deepening their knowledge of their game.

The following will be taken into account;

- the nature and standard of the candidate's contribution to College sport;
- achievement outside the College (e.g. club or county);
- the particular sport at which the candidate excels (whilst achievement in any sport is welcome, preference will be given to those who are able to contribute to the major College sports: rugby, football, netball, basketball);
- performance in an interview with a senior member of staff.

Candidates will be asked to complete an application form including a personal statement and to provide a reference from their coach.

Exhibitioners will be expected to make an active and positive contribution to the sporting life of the College.

Performance Programme places will be awarded at 13+. The programme will include:

- 6 sessions – 1 per half term from the following
 - Technical skills
 - Tactical game awareness
 - Physical preparation (S&C)
 - General and performance nutrition
 - Injury prevention
 - IPP
 - Seminars from ICE

They will also have access to a range of related benefits such as sport mentors, off -site visits and specialist workshops.

Sports Scholarships - St Columba's College Senior School offers Sport Scholarships into the Sixth Form (16+) for both internal and external applicants. The award can be made to students in recognition of sporting excellence, talent, and future potential. The scholarships are dependent on the candidate satisfying the academic entry requirements to the Sixth Form.

Scholarships to the value of 10% of the annual College tuition fee are available each academic year.

Successful candidates are likely to have achieved representative honours at county, regional or national level or be at a similar standard. They may well be in an elite player pathway.

Candidates should demonstrate leadership skills, display sportsmanship at all times and show evidence that they are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their knowledge of their game.

The following will be taken into account;

- the nature and standard of the candidate's contribution to College sport;
- achievement outside the College (e.g. club or county);
- the particular sport at which the candidate excels (whilst achievement in any sport is welcome, preference will be given to those who are able to contribute to the major College sports: rugby, football, netball, basketball);
- performance in an interview with a senior member of staff.

Candidates will be asked to complete an application form including a personal statement and to provide a reference from their coach.

Scholars will be expected to make an active and positive contribution to the sporting life of the College and will participate in the Performance Sports Programme detailed above.



APPLICATION FORM

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Candidates should be established performers on one or more instruments or voice with strong musical skills. For 11+ they are likely to have reached Grade 3 ability or above, for 13+ should be at Grade 5 ability or above (or equivalent); and for 16+ should be at a minimum of Grade 7 or above.

Music scholarships and membership of the High-Performance Programme are dependent on securing entry to the Senior School.

Requirements

To apply for a music scholarship, candidates will be asked to submit the application form along with a personal statement explaining why they believe they are a suitable candidate. Candidates should prepare an unaccompanied study on their chosen instrument and attend an audition by appointment. There will not be any sight-reading or aural tests, but candidates will be asked questions about their musical skills and interests. A reference about musical aptitude will be requested from the candidate's current music teacher / school (whichever is more appropriate).

- The awards are reviewed annually based on fulfilment of the following conditions:
- Support of College-based musical activities such as orchestras, bands, choirs and chamber groups as indicated by the Head of Music
- Continuation of instrumental lessons at an appropriate level.
- Being an active music leader and role model across the Music Department;
- Mentor music students lower down the College;
- 6th Form Scholars / members of the Performance Programme may be asked to support some students in lessons;
- Good academic progress across the curriculum; and
- Good behaviour and conduct.

Procedure

Candidates will be asked:

- to submit the application form for a Music Scholarship with details of a referee
- to provide a 'music CV' showing details of their musical tuition, involvement in musical groups and productions
- to provide a copy of their audition piece
- to attend the College for an audition by appointment. It is hoped that they will bring their own accompanist, but one will be made available if necessary.

The awards are made in February following the 11+ and 13+ entrance examinations and the audition process for 16+.

Candidate's surname _____

First name _____

Date of birth Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

Current school _____

Entry age group _____

Candidate's Musical Profile

Instrument 1 _____ Grade _____

Instrument 2 _____ Grade _____

Other comments _____

Candidate's Referee

Name _____

Instrument taught _____

Referee's email _____

Signature of parent _____

Date _____

Please return this form to:
Admissions Department, St Columba's College, King Harry Lane, St Albans, AL3 4AW

Email: admissions@stcolumbascollege.org



APPLICATION FORM

DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP

St Columba's College offers Drama scholarships to the value of 10% of the annual fee. These are offered to external applicants at 16+ (Sixth Form) and to existing pupils at St Columba's College moving into the Sixth Form.

The scholarships are dependent on passing the College entrance process and will be reviewed annually.

Requirements

To qualify for a Drama Scholarship the process involves an audition and interview with the Head of Expressive Arts and a Drama Teacher. The audition piece should be a monologue of roughly 1-2 minutes. It must be from a published and reputable text/play; the details of which should be submitted in advance.

Aim to showcase what you are good at; keep the performance 'live' by reacting to thoughts/moments as the scene unfolds. What main emotion are you showing? Is there a key moment? Is the character thinking out loud, or does he/she need to directly address the audience, as with a Shakespearean soliloquy?

The interview will last roughly 10-15 minutes and will involve questions about why you chose the audition piece and how you prepared for it. We will want to know about your commitment to Drama. What Drama you have done in or outside of school, and what shows have you been to see. What did you like and why? A genuine passion for and commitment to the subject will need to be conveyed.

The awards are reviewed annually on the basis of fulfilment of the following conditions:

- Support of College-based drama activities such as theatrical productions and shows as indicated by the Head of Expressive Arts
- Continuation of drama lessons at an appropriate level.
- Good academic progress across the curriculum.
- Good behaviour and conduct.

Procedure

Candidates will be asked;

- to submit the application form for a Drama Scholarship with details of a referee
- to provide a ‘drama CV’ showing details of involvement in dramatic productions & organisations
- to provide a copy of their audition piece
- to attend the College for an audition by appointment

Candidate’s surname _____

First name _____

Date of birth Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

Current school _____

Gender _____

Candidate’s Referee

Name _____

Role _____

Referee’s email _____

Signature of parent _____

Date _____

Details of audition piece _____

Please return this form, a Drama CV and a copy of your audition piece to:
Admissions Department, St Columba’s College, King Harry Lane, St Albans, AL3 4AW

Email: admissions@stcolumbascollege.org



APPLICATION FORM

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

St Columba's College offers Sports scholarships to the value of 10% of the annual tuition fee. These are offered to internal and external applicants at 16+ (Sixth Form).

The scholarships are dependent on meeting the academic criteria set for entry to the College Sixth Form and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Requirements

Successful candidates at 16+ are likely to have achieved representative honours at county, regional or national level or be at a similar standard. They may well be in an elite player pathway.

The Director of Sport will invite successful applicants for an interview. Pupils are assessed on the basis of their Sport CV and will be asked to talk about their sports skills and interests. A reference from a current sports teacher will be required.

The awards are reviewed annually on the basis of fulfilment of the following conditions:

- Full participation in College sport, including weekend & evening fixtures.
- Good academic progress across the curriculum.
- Good behaviour and conduct.

Procedure

Candidates will be asked:

- to submit the application form for a Sports Scholarship with details of a referee
- to provide a ‘sports CV’ showing details of their sporting history, talents and achievements
- to attend the College for an interview by appointment

Candidate’s surname _____

First name _____

Date of birth Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

Current school _____

Gender _____

Candidate’s Referee

Name _____

Sport and Role _____

Referee’s email _____

Signature of parent _____

Date _____

Please return this form together with the Sport CV to:
Admissions Department, St Columba’s College, King Harry Lane, St Albans AL3 4AW

admissions@stcolumbascollege.org