

THIS SECTION DESCRIBES THE MERIT AWARDS THAT ARE AVAILABLE AT BLOXHAM SCHOOL

In what areas are Merit Awards offered?

We offer the following awards

- academic
- art
- design and technology
- music
- sport (not at 11+)

Does Bloxham offer 'all-rounder' awards?

Not as such, but if a candidate sits for more than one award and comes close to, without actually reaching the required standard in all of them, a Chapel Centenary Award for all round merit can be made.

At what age can a boy or girl sit for an award?

Merit Awards are made at the following stages in a child's education

- at 11+ for entry into the Lower School; pupils are in Year 6 when they take the exam
- at 13+ for entry into the Middle School; pupils are in Year 8 when they take the exam
- at 16+ for entry into the Sixth Form; pupils are in Year 11 when they take the exam

What are the values of awards?

The maximum value of any award is 50%. As an HMC School we have agreed to a general policy that this is the maximum award. If the parents' financial circumstances warrant it, an award can be increased by a means-tested bursary, whose value is based on documentary evidence produced by the parents.

There are four levels of Merit Awards, in order of merit

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| • Major Scholarship | value 50% |
| • Scholarship | usual value 33% |
| • Exhibition | usual value 25% |
| • Chapel Centenary Award | these are usually fixed sum awards of a value less than an Exhibition would be |

Music Scholars and Exhibitioners receive their instrumental tuition, and theory tuition if required, free of charge when taught by the School's own music staff.

How many awards are made each year?

There is no fixed number or upper limit to the number of awards that can be made. We try to award them on an absolute standard so that, for example, a Scholarship means the same thing each year. If there are more candidates of a good standard in a particular year, then more awards will be made.

For how many different awards can a candidate sit?

As many as they like – though we do not advise anyone to sit for an award if they do not expect to perform reasonably well in the exam or tests. Awards are not strictly added up, but someone who wins an Exhibition in two areas can expect to be awarded more than 25%. The upper limit of 50% always applies.

Can a pupil who holds an award try for one again at a later stage?

Yes. For example, someone who wins an award at 11+ can sit for one at 13+ to see if he or she can improve. If a higher standard is achieved, relative to the age, then a higher award can be made. However, the original award will not be lost if the reverse is true! This is also the case at 16+.

Academic

Standard expected:

The tests are based on what a child is expected to have studied for Key Stage 2. An award winner is likely to have a high Verbal Reasoning score.

Nature of exam:

The exam is the same one that is used for selection for the Lower School. It consists of a Verbal Reasoning test, and exams in English and Mathematics.

Art

Standard expected:

Candidates are expected to produce a portfolio of recent work in any medium, which will be assessed for evidence of imagination, skill and range of interest. A high standard of drawing is looked for in the exam.

Nature of exam:

Candidates will need to sit the standard set of academic tests for selection for the Lower School. For the Art award, there is a practical drawing test of about two hours, and there is also an interview with the Director of Art.

Design and Technology

Standard expected:

Candidates are expected to produce evidence of recent work, which will be assessed for evidence of imagination, skill and range of interest.

Nature of exam:

Candidates will need to sit the standard set of academic tests for selection for the Lower School. For the Design and Technology award there is a two hour paper. Candidates will be presented with a practical problem, and will be asked to produce two or three initial ideas and then a more detailed presentation of one of them. There is also an interview with the Head of Design and Technology.

Music

Standard expected:

No music award is specifically linked to any earlier success in a graded instrumental examination, but a candidate applying at 11+ should offer one or more instruments at the equivalent of at least Grade 3 standard, and should show good potential for their age. Voice may also be offered.

Nature of assessment:

Candidates will need to sit the standard set of academic tests for selection for the Lower School. For the music award, a candidate will attend for an audition, at which they will be asked to perform two contrasting pieces on the first instrument, and at least one on any other. There are also ear tests, sight reading and questions about musical knowledge and interests.

Sport

We do not offer awards specifically for sport at this age. However, sporting ability is taken into account when decisions are made about admission, and can be considered as a support for other awards.

Scholarships and Exhibitions

Candidates for Scholarships at 13+ must be under 14 years of age on 1 September of the year of entry. In the case of potential candidates who are older than this you should approach the School to discuss the situation. An age allowance is given to younger candidates. All candidates must be registered for the School.

Academic

Standard expected:

Awards are made to those who can be expected to gain high grades at GCSE and later at 'A' level.

Nature of exam:

Papers will be set in the following subjects

English	1 hr 40 mins	History	1 hr	Geography	1 hr
French	1 hr 30 mins	Mathematics	1 hr	Science	1 hr 30 mins
Religious Studies	1 hr	Mathematics 2	1 hr 30 mins		

The length and nature of the papers will be as in the specimen papers available from the Registrar.

All candidates will sit a Verbal Reasoning test.

Supporting Subjects:

It is hoped that candidates will enter for these papers where possible. Good results will count in a candidate's favour, but poor ones will not count against in considering an award.

1 hr German or Spanish an examination will be set by the School if requested

If candidates are unable to offer any one or more of the above papers the parents or Heads should consult the Headmaster of Bloxham about other options available.

Optional subjects:

Candidates may offer any of the following:

Music

Art

Design and Technology

The nature of the examination will be as for the Music, Art and Design and Technology as shown below. When these are offered as a support for an Academic Award a lower standard will be expected than for a Music, Art or Design and Technology Award.

Art

Standard expected:

Candidates are expected to produce a portfolio of recent work in any medium, which will be assessed for evidence of imagination, creativity, sustained effort and range of interest. The portfolio is considered of prime importance. A high standard of drawing is looked for in the exam. It is recommended that the parents, Heads or Directors of Art of potential candidates contact Bloxham's Director of Art well in advance to discuss the examination and the candidacy.

Nature of exam:

A practical test of 2 hours will be done in the Art School. Candidates will be asked to work from a still life group. There will be an interview with the Director of Art and the Headmaster. All candidates will sit a Verbal Reasoning test and a Maths test.

Design and Technology

Standard expected:

Candidates are expected to produce a portfolio giving evidence of their best recent work in the following areas:

- a short written piece of work (about 50 words) identifying a problem or a situation where a practical solution might be needed;
- design work and drawings;
- small pieces of practical work or photographic evidence of practical work (in more than one material if possible);
- a written evaluation of a project.

It is recommended that the parents, Heads or Heads of Design and Technology of potential candidates contact Bloxham's Head of Design and Technology well in advance to discuss the examination and the candidacy.

Nature of exam:

A paper of 2 hours will be done in the Technology Centre. Candidates will be asked to produce two or three initial ideas as solutions to a practical problem and then make a detailed presentational drawing of the best of their ideas. There will be an interview with the Head of Design and Technology and the Headmaster. All candidates will sit a Verbal Reasoning test and a Maths test.

Music

Standard expected:

No music award is specifically linked to any earlier success in a graded instrumental examination, but a candidate applying at 13 should offer one or more instruments at the equivalent of at least Grade 5 standard, voice may be offered in place of a second instrument. Choristers from Cathedral or Collegiate Choirs are particularly welcome in this respect if they are keen to continue singing after their voices have changed.

Nature of assessment:

The audition consists of the performance of two contrasting pieces on the first instrument and at least one on the other(s). There are also ear tests, sight reading, and varied questions about musical knowledge and interest, but no written paper. Evidence of fluency in musical notation is expected. Instrumental scales and arpeggios are expected to be played and seriously presented, rather than offered as incidental extras of uncertain standard. There will be an interview with the Headmaster. All candidates will sit a Verbal Reasoning test and a Maths test.

Sport

Standard expected:

Awards will be made to those who can be expected to make an active contribution to the sporting life of the school, as individual players and as members of teams. They will be expected to provide leadership at their own level, by their example and sportsmanship and in their knowledge of the game. They will have achieved or be of a standard to achieve representative honours at County, Regional or National level.

The awards will be based on:

- a report from the present school, indicating the nature and the standard of the contribution to the school sport, as well as on general behaviour;
- achievements outside the school at county or club level;
- performance in the tests and interviews on the day

Achievements in any sport that the school offers is welcome, but preference may be given to those able to contribute to the major sports.

Nature of exam:

The tests will consist of (i) tests of physical attainment, (ii) performance on the day in their sport or sports, (iii) interview. All candidates will sit a Verbal Reasoning test and a Maths test.

Scholarships and Exhibitions

Academic

Standard expected:

Awards are made to those who can be expected to gain high grades at 'A' level.

Nature of exam:

Candidates will be asked to sit papers as follows:

- A General English Paper of 1½ hours, it will include a compulsory comprehension and a choice of questions that will range across current affairs, moral issues and the arts and sciences.
- Written papers of 1¼ hours in **two** subjects, preferably ones which the candidates hope to follow to A-Level.

The following subjects are available:

Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Economics, English Literature, French, Geography, German, History, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Spanish,

Candidates who wish to submit papers in subjects other than those listed above or wish to offer Art or Design and Technology in support of an academic scholarship should contact the Registrar.

All papers are set on the understanding that candidates will have followed a wide variety of syllabuses in their GCSE courses. All subject papers will seek to test not only the soundness of the candidate's knowledge but also potential in the subject. Modern Languages will include an oral. All candidates will be interviewed and will sit a Verbal Reasoning test.

Art

Standard expected:

All candidates will be required to present **at the time of the examination** a portfolio of recent examples of their own work. These may be in any medium and can include several sketches or prints mounted on a single sheet. Unfinished works and work in progress should also be included. The portfolio of work is considered of prime importance.

Nature of exam:

The examination will consist of a two hour session in which candidates will be asked to make a drawing or painting from a plant or fruit or flowers or other natural objects selected from the objects provided. Candidates will be interviewed, and their portfolio discussed with them. They will also sit a Verbal Reasoning test.

Design and Technology

Standard expected:

Candidates will be required to present **at the time of the examination** a portfolio of their best recent work. It should include:

- Problem(s) or situation(s) identification
- Design work to include the development of a design from initial ideas through to final presentation drawings
- Small pieces of practical work or photographic evidence of practical work (in more than one material)
- A written evaluation of a project

Nature of exam:

There will be a two hour examination when candidates will be asked to design a range of solutions to specific problems, and then after reasoned judgement choose their best solution. Candidates will be interviewed and expected to discuss their recent projects. They will also sit a Verbal Reasoning test.

Music

Standard expected:

Candidates are expected to offer two instruments but an award might be made to an outstanding candidate who offers only one. Voice can also be taken into account. As a guide a minimum standard of around Grade 7 is expected.

Nature of assessment:

Candidates will be expected to play two contrasting pieces on their first instrument, and at least one piece on any other instrument offered. There will also be sight-reading and aural tests together with questions about musical knowledge and interests. In addition candidates will be interviewed and will be asked to sit a Verbal Reasoning test. The examination will not take more than two hours. (This is not the same examination as Music offered as a written paper for an academic award.)

Sport

Standard expected:

Awards will be made to those who can be expected to make an active contribution to the sporting life of the school, as individual players and as members of teams. They will be expected to provide leadership at their own level, by their example and sportsmanship and in their knowledge of the game. They will have achieved or be of a standard to achieve representative honours at County, Regional or National level.

The awards will be based on:

- a report from the present school, indicating the nature and the standard of the contribution to the school sport, as well as on general behaviour;
- Achievements outside the school at county or club level;
- Performance in the tests and interviews on the day

Achievements in any sport that the school offers is welcome, but preference may be given to those able to contribute to the major sports.

Nature of assessment:

The tests will consist of

- (i) test of physical attainment
- (ii) performance on the day in their sport or sports
- (iii) interview

Candidates will be asked to sit a Verbal Reasoning test.

HOW TO ENTER FOR AN AWARD

All candidates for an award must be registered for the School. Please write to or telephone the Registrar, who will send you the necessary entry forms.

Her address is: The Registrar
Bloxham School
Bloxham
Banbury
Oxon OX15 4PE
Tel: (01295) 720222
Fax: (01295) 721897
e-mail registrar@bloxhamschool.co.uk

For the 13+ Scholarships it is necessary that the candidate's birth certificate be sent with the completed entry form, or as soon afterwards as possible, and in any case before the closing date for entries. It will be returned after inspection.

GENERAL RULES AND CONDITIONS

The School reserves the right to terminate any award at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory progress or conduct or for any other cause which they think sufficient. An award becomes cancelled automatically if the School Account is not paid in accordance with the regulations for such payments. Subject to these conditions the Scholarships, Exhibitions and Bursaries are tenable as long as the holders remain at Bloxham School. All or part of the value of an Award may be returned to the Headmaster for assisting an award holder with greater financial needs.