

# Scholarships, Bursaries and Application for Places

## Introduction

Most pupils enter Bloxham at 11+ or 13+, and there are usually some Sixth Form places available each year. If you are interested in entry to the School please contact the Admissions Office.

We are very keen to meet all pupils and parents before they join the School and the Headmaster will always be pleased to meet you and your children. We ideally like to meet families at least two years ahead of the intended joining point. You are welcome to visit on an Open Day with other families or on an individual visit. Please contact the Admissions Office to arrange a mutually convenient date for an appointment.

Our applicants come from different educational backgrounds and we consider each case individually. We are much more interested in what a pupil has the potential to achieve or what they might contribute than what he or she has been taught before they arrive.

We hope pupils will have a sound grasp of the basics in Maths, English and Science and that they are going to make a contribution to Bloxham life beyond the classroom. We also expect them to be capable of following our curriculum through to 'A' levels and then go on to University.

All candidates must be registered for the School before taking any Scholarship or Entry Test.

## **Entry to Lower School**

Entry at age 11 (Day pupil or weekly boarder)

Boys and girls qualify by sitting our Entrance Examination, which takes place in January each year. Academic Scholarships may be awarded for an outstanding performance in this examination.

## **Entry to the Middle School**

Entry at age 13 (Boarder or dayboarder)

The Common Entrance or our Entry Exams  
Scholarship Examinations

Pupils coming from traditional Preparatory schools will usually enter via either Scholarship or Common Entrance examinations but parents will be asked to commit to accepting a place, subject to examination success, prior to the examination being sat.

If you would like an early indication as to whether or not your son or daughter is likely to be offered a place here we should be pleased to meet your child and discuss this with you.

## **Entry to the 4th Form (Boarder or dayboarder)**

Occasionally there are a small number of places available in the Year 10, the first year of the GCSE course. Whenever possible, pupils are interviewed at Bloxham and take an Entrance Examination to help us identify how readily they can join our classes. Parents seeking a 4th Form place should contact the Registrar as early as possible.

## **Entry to Sixth Form**

Entry at 16+ (Boarder or dayboarder)

We expect candidates to achieve a minimum of six GCSE passes at grades A\* - C, preferably with at least a B grade in each proposed 'A' level subject where possible.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

At Bloxham we like to recognise, and wherever possible, reward talent.

Several awards are made each year.

Scholarships are typically worth up to 20% of the fees, Exhibitions Chapel Centenary Awards also made to a lesser degree

Academic, Music, Art, Design & Technology Awards are available at 11+ with Sports Awards added to the list for 13+ and 16+ applicants.

### **At 11+**

In all cases Scholarship candidates will be expected to sit the standard Lower School Entrance Examination.

#### **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:

Scholarships are decided on the results of the Lower School Entrance Examination which consists of a Verbal Reasoning test, and exams in English and Mathematics. An interview with a senior member of staff will also be held.

#### **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.

Nature of exam:

There is a practical drawing test.

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 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 as an alternative to an instrument.

Nature of assessment:

Candidates 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 may be taken into account when decisions are made about admission, and can be considered as a support for other awards.

## **At 13+**

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.

Through the generous legacy of an Old Bloxhamist, The Roger Raymond Trust Fund sponsors the boarding education of pupils of outstanding all-round ability who would not otherwise be able to attend the School. This award is made at the sole discretion of the Headmaster, to whom an early application or enquiries should be addressed.

Additionally the following Scholarships are offered:

### **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 30 mins

History 45 mins

Geography 45 mins

French 1 hr

Mathematics 1 hr

Science 1 hr

Religious Studies 45 mins

Specimen papers are available from the Admissions Office.

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 Latin, 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:

A portfolio of classwork and art done at home should be available on the day of the exam. The portfolio is considered of prime importance and should include a good selection of recent drawings, paintings and three dimensional artwork (if available.) Photographs of fragile or large pieces are acceptable. 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 Verbal Reasoning and Mathematics tests.

The Art Scholar is required to take GCSE art and we hope he or she will continue with the subject in the Sixth Form.

## **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 Verbal Reasoning and Mathematics tests.

The Design and Technology Scholar is required to take GCSE art and we hope he or she will continue with the subject in the Sixth Form.

## **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 two or more instruments with at least one at the equivalent of Grade 5 standard or above. Voice may be offered in place of an instrument.

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 theory training will be expected.

There will be an interview with the Headmaster. Music scholars are expected to play a full part in the extra-curricular musical life of the School – for example, by participating in choirs, orchestras, chamber groups as appropriate.

All candidates will sit Verbal Reasoning and Mathematics tests.

## **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 Verbal Reasoning and Mathematics tests.

## **At 16+ for Sixth Form entry**

### **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 1 1/2 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 1 1/4 hours in two subjects, preferably ones which the candidates hope to follow to 'A' level. The following subjects are available for Scholarship examinations:

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

Candidates who wish to submit papers in subjects other than those listed above or wish to offer Art, Music 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 judgment 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.

## **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.

### **Further financial assistance**

Parents whose children receive a Scholarship or other Award can apply for a Grant or Bursary for additional financial assistance with the fees.

Parents whose children have been offered a place, but not a Scholarship or Award, may also apply for financial assistance. This assistance is normally only available to parents whose children are in the Middle School and Sixth Form.

Generous support is available to children of Armed Forces personnel, Clergy, Teachers and Old Bloxhamists, (who may also be eligible to apply to the Woodard Benefit Fund). All Grants and Bursaries are means tested. The Bursar's Office can provide further information.

## **The Next Steps**

If you decide you would like your child to come to Bloxham, the next steps are to complete the Registration form and return it to us, with the registration fee.

About a year before 13+ entry to Bloxham we will contact you and ask you to confirm your registration and pay a deposit. This confirms your place subject to (a) your son or daughter meeting the academic entrance requirements and (b) a satisfactory reference from the Head of their present school.

At 11+ boys and girls qualify by sitting our Entrance Examination which takes place in January each year (i.e. nine months before entry).

At 13+ boys and girls qualify by sitting our Scholarship Examination or Entrance Tests, or via Common Entrance in the summer.

Entry is sometimes possible into the Fourth Form. Please contact the Registrar directly to discuss this option.

At 16+ pupils complete a two-part application form, which the Head of their current school returns to Bloxham. Candidates are then invited to Bloxham for an interview with senior members of staff. Offers will be made, on or soon after 1 December, only to those who are expected to achieve a minimum of 6 GCSEs 3 at Grade B and 3 at grade C; they should ideally achieve B grades in their proposed AS subjects if followed at GCSE.

### **Overseas Applications**

Boys and girls applying from outside the UK may take their entrance examinations under different arrangements agreed with the Registrar.

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