



# St Mary's School

## CAMBRIDGE

### **Scholars' Policy**

## **Ethos**

Mary Ward was a pioneer of female education in a male dominated society. She believed that, 'There is no such difference between men and women; yet women, may they not do great matters, as we have seen by the example of many saints who have done great things? And I hope in God it will be seen that women in time to come will do much.' Mary Ward, herself an exceptionally gifted woman, founded educational establishments which enable young women to develop their gifts to the utmost so that they could serve their community to the greater glory of God.

The Catholic Church, based on scriptural teaching, encourages young people to put their God-given gifts at the service of the community, avoiding self-importance and recognising the value of every member of the community.

Mary Ward founded her Institute to enable women to fulfil their calling to an apostolic religious life which freed them to serve their community. The gifts of social conscience and social responsibility are recognised and nurtured through the awarding of Mary Ward Scholarships.

## **Rationale**

Provision of Scholarships is designed to:

- celebrate proven talent.
- recognise identifiable potential.
- give students the means and opportunity to develop and hone their talents and areas of interest.
- encourage students to share their gifts with the school community both by assisting others and by setting a motivational example.
- help create a culture of aspiration and achievement in a broad range of fields by encouraging the recruitment of able students and optimising their impact on the school community.

## **The Senior School Range of Scholarships**

In the Senior School, Scholarships may be awarded at the three key points of entry into the school: in three age ranges:

- 11+ (Years 7-8)
- 13+ (Years 9-11, to be extended into the Sixth Form where appropriate)
- 16+ (The Sixth Form)

Scholarships may be offered in any of the following categories: Academic (all-round), Art, Creative Writing, Dance, Design and Enterprise, Drama, Mary Ward (for leadership, charitable activity and good influence), Music, Performing Arts, Photography, Sport, Academic STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Textiles One scholarship, the Ogden Trust Scholarship for Physics students joining the Sixth Form from the state sector, falls into a separate category, and is externally funded.

Most types of Scholarship are available at all three age groups, some only at 13+ and 16+. Full details are available in the Scholarships and Bursaries booklet, which is produced by the Admissions Office.

## **Applications, Assessments and Awards**

For all but one type of Scholarship, student assessment is made in the winter of the academic year preceding the one in which the Scholarship starts. The exception is the 11+ Academic Scholarship, where application and assessment take place in the Autumn term when the candidates are already in Year 7, and the award is backdated to the start of that term.

Typically, candidates submit applications towards the end of the Autumn term, for assessment either in November, December or January. Application forms are completed by the candidate and returned to the Admissions Office. Where a portfolio is required, this is also submitted at this time. In the case of external candidates, a referee is required. The nature of the assessment varies depending on the type of scholarship: the Academic and STEM Scholarships require a written paper in exam conditions; others require an audition, the submission of a portfolio or sporting performance. All candidates will also be interviewed by a subject specialist and by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Candidates are advised of the decisions shortly after the assessment (usually within one week) and successful external candidates are asked whether or not they wish to accept the award.

Further details of the process are available in the Scholarships and Bursaries booklet.

## **Financial Remuneration**

The financial value of a Scholarship may vary at the discretion of the Headmistress, who will take into account whether the candidate is in receipt of any other Scholarship. The typical value of a Scholarship is 5% remission of the day school fees. Candidates who perform well at assessment, but not well enough to be considered for a full Scholarship, might be awarded an Exhibition at 3% fee remission. The absolute maximum that may be awarded in Scholarships is 20% school fee remission and the maximum number of Scholarships which may be awarded to a student is two.

## **Expectations of Scholars**

Scholarships which are administered by a particular department (e.g. Art, Drama, Music, Sport) and those which come under the remit of a particular individual (e.g. STEM), are offered out with expectations in writing of the nature of the commitment expected of the Scholar. These will necessarily vary depending on the type of Scholarship and the age of the pupil, but it is expected that the Scholars will make some sort of commitment to school activities in the relevant field. This may mean that Scholars who are involved in a wide range of activities will be expected to prioritise the field in which they have been awarded a Scholarship, something which girls are advised to bear in mind before applying for and before accepting a Scholarship.

The expectations of commitment will reflect the idea that Scholars are to be generous with their talents to serve the greater good of the school community. Aside from performing, competing and enjoying prominent success, our Scholars will be expected to assist with younger pupils, help with the set-up and clearing away of clubs and activities, and work behind the scenes. Some expectations include participating in visits and trips, of which a few entail missing curriculum time.

Academic Scholars are expected to set an example of scholarly application across the curriculum, and of excellence in at least one area of the curriculum. Their expectations include attendance at speaker meetings and, for Years 7, 8 and 9, their participation in the Junior Scholars' annual balloon debate. Their progress is overseen by the Scholars' Officer.

The Mary Ward Scholars will be expected to contribute in particular to the Charitable and Service elements of the school. Their progress is overseen by the Director of Christian Life.

It is not always necessary for Scholars to be studying the subject for which they have been awarded a Scholarship, although those who do not do so may have to make a particular effort to demonstrate their commitment. Thus a Music Scholar who does not study Music would be expected to play a prominent role supporting ensembles and performances. In these circumstances, individual Scholars should negotiate reasonable levels of commitment with the relevant teachers.

If there is any doubt about how well a Scholar is fulfilling her obligations, this is raised in the first instance with the Head of Department most closely attached to her Scholarship, and in the second instance with the Scholars' Officer. Should the problem persist after monitoring and informal warning, the Headmistress has the discretion to remove the Scholarship.

### **The Junior School**

Scholarships are no longer awarded to pupils in the Junior School, but Junior School teachers help to identify potential scholarship candidates for the 11+ awards and, where appropriate, to prepare them for assessment.

### **Other Policies**

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Equality Policy and the Differentiation Policy.

### **Policy Review**

This Policy will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team in January 2018.