



St Mary's
Colchester

ST MARY'S YEAR 7

scholarships

Scholarships programme

The Scholarship programme is designed to accelerate the development of pupils that are able, in a variety of disciplines. Scholars act as role models and leaders to other pupils, and as ambassadors for St Mary's. They are encouraged, and expected, to make the most of the wealth of educational opportunities available to them to extend, broaden and strengthen their aptitudes and talents, and to gain valuable experience that will stand them in good stead for the future.

The Scholarship programme will grant students a pivotal role within the school, with responsibilities and privileges that help develop their leadership skills and talents as well as grant them opportunities to participate in a range of initiatives. Scholars will help plan activities and events to enrich school life, including trips, competitions and initiatives. Scholars will also take part, and sometimes run, subject-based clubs or meetings.

Scholars will act as ambassadors for the school, attending open days, taster days and events such as occasional visits to feeder schools, to promote the school and Scholarships available.

Scholarship applications can be made on our website from 1 September when pupils are in Year 6. Please refer to our admissions timelines for deadlines. There is no financial assessment for St Mary's Scholarship applicants. All Scholarships are awarded solely on merit and in open competition. There is no set limit to the number that may be offered in one year of entry. Scholarships may attract a partial fee remission, at the discretion of the Principal and on condition that expectations of a Scholar are met.

Academic Scholarships

In addition to those awarded Academic Scholarships as a result of exceptional performance in the Year 7 entrance assessment, STEM Scholarships are awarded on the basis of applications and interviews, to those who show a passion for and talent in this area.

Academic Scholars will take a lead role in the school's academic activities such as debating, seminars and educational challenges. They will represent the school in competitions, take part in workshops and attend talks. At St Mary's we are passionate about providing girls with an environment free from gender stereotyping and we actively encourage the pupils here to pursue any subject or career choice they desire. We purposely provide the girls with positive female role models, particularly in fields where women are under-represented.

STEM SCHOLARSHIPS

Our STEM Scholars will help organise and deliver STEM based activities within the school. With their passion for the subject, STEM Scholars will act as ambassadors for the subject, actively engaging students across the school in STEM based initiatives.

Applicants must complete a research or build project of their choice (examples of these projects are available on request) and submit a PowerPoint (or alternative) presentation, including information to help the panel better understand the project and the applicant's technical understanding of it. We are aware that projects may be unfinished because of limited access to workshops and labs;

this is not a problem and in this case, next steps for the project should be shown. The presentation must be no more than eight slides long and should include:

- details of what the STEM project and the candidate set out to achieve
- information in the form of pictures, graphics and text that helps to explain the project to the panel
- images of the project, showing its progression
- information in the form of pictures, graphics and text that demonstrate the candidate's wider interests in STEM.

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to attend an interview, where they will be required to deliver their presentation and answer questions covering:

- the aim of the project, the problem the candidate set out to solve and why they chose to solve it in this way
- the decisions taken regarding the project's construction and the materials used
- the successes and failures of the project
- if the candidate were to develop the project further, say for commercial production, what changes would they make to it
- if the candidate had their time again, would they approach the project differently.

Arts Scholarships

Arts Scholarships can be applied for in Art, Drama and Music.

ART SCHOLARSHIPS

Our Art Scholars are developed as independent learners and imaginative thinkers, who formulate their own responses to set topics and themes. Art Scholars will take a lead role in whole-school Art activities and sit on the Art Council, which influences the impact of the Art throughout the school. They will devise, source, run and take part in art competitions and help raise the profile of the visual arts in school through workshops and talks. Art Scholars will also be involved in activities such as preparing stage sets for productions. Art Scholarship candidates should demonstrate outstanding ability in art, particularly through creativity, imagination, confident observation skills, evidence of specialist language and appreciation of art. Candidates are expected to submit responses to the following Still Life set task titled - 'Fruit on a Plate':

- A sustained and focused observational drawing in pencil.
- A coloured piece of work created in a media of your choice.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a session in the art studio to produce an observational drawing and talk about their submission of artwork. They will also be asked to bring recent examples of their work.

DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Our busy Drama department presents Scholars with many opportunities to take the spotlight, developing their

dramatic techniques, confidence and performance skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. Drama Scholars have opportunities to participate in school productions and play an active part in other extra-curricular drama activities. They are inspired by workshops run by visiting professionals in school, as well as visits to stage performances. Candidates will need to submit evidence of participation in drama, for example programmes, certificates and photographs, to demonstrate evidence of involvement and interest in Drama outside of school. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an assessment, where they will give a short performance and discuss their portfolio, their particular skills and theatre they have enjoyed.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Music Scholars are provided with opportunities to develop their performance techniques and their musicianship, as well as their love of music at St Mary's. Music Scholars join the orchestra, choir and chamber choir as appropriate, and have regular opportunities to perform in assemblies and at concerts and events, including the Carol Service, Prize Giving and school productions. Music Scholar applicants are expected to have at least Grade 3 or equivalent standard in one instrument, and also have a second (one of which can be voice). Shortlisted candidates will have an interview, and will perform two pieces, one on each instrument, and a sight-reading test.

Sports Scholarships

Sports Scholars will be talented athletes who excel across multiple team sports, demonstrating strong transferable skills. They will show excellent teamwork, adaptability in various positions and roles, and a high level of self-motivation. In addition, they will inspire and motivate others and possess a genuine passion for sport.

Sports Scholars are expected to positively contribute to the whole school PE ethos, have an excellent approach in PE lessons and support their peers where appropriate, in lessons and clubs. They are expected to represent the school, help promote sport at the school to current and prospective students, take part in inter-house sport competitions and support the PE department where appropriate. Sports Scholars are also expected to attend at least two clubs per term.

Sports Scholars will be those who excel in team sports such as netball, basketball, football and rounders. They will be talented sports performers, demonstrate transferable skills between team sports, show strong teamwork, be adaptable to different positions and roles, be self-motivated and able to motivate those around them, and also have a passion for sport.

When applying for the Sports Scholarship, applicants may wish to include a reference from their school and/or club coaches. A form will be available to download from the Scholarships section of our website once applications are open. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a practical assessment, including activities such as a fitness circuit, general ball handling skills and drills, followed by a game of competitive sport.

Sports Scholars will represent the school in competitions and fixtures and will inspire our teams and individuals. They will often take on the role of team captains and will have opportunities to develop their coaching and leadership skills. They will attend at least two PE clubs, leading up to potentially running clubs in later years.

All-round Scholarships (Miss Comrie)

Our prestigious All-round Scholarship is named in honour of Miss Phyllis Comrie, St Mary's headmistress, 1935-1957, who had a desire for outstanding St Mary's Lower School pupils to progress to Senior School on a special designated Scholarship and kindly bequeathed a gift in her Will to enable this. They are awarded to St Mary's Lower School pupils to those with the potential to make a substantial contribution to the life of the school.

All-round Scholars are highly regarded as ambassadors for St Mary's and will be provided with ample opportunities to develop their character and self-belief in order to become more confident leaders. For example, they may attend co-curricular meetings and be involved in initiatives such as Round Square, a worldwide network of over 250 top schools, providing opportunities for pupils to learn, celebrate and discuss to improve their international understanding.

Suitable candidates are chosen on the basis of an interview with the Principal. At the interview, the girls will be asked about their interests inside and outside of school, their skills, talents and aspirations.

Principal's Award

St Mary's School in Colchester is proud to announce the launch of a new and prestigious scholarship – the Principal's Award – an honour designed to celebrate and support exceptional girls who have achieved outstanding success in any field, from sport and the arts to academic excellence and community impact.

The Principal's Award is the latest addition to St Mary's Scholarship programme and will be awarded to girls who not only excel in their chosen field, but who inspire others through their achievements and character. Whether a national sports champion, an award-winning writer or a passionate change-maker in the community, recipients of this accolade will exemplify the core values of St Mary's: ambitious, bold, compassionate, dynamic, and enquiring.

Following an online application, shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview with the Principal as part of the selection process. We look forward to welcoming remarkable young individuals who will shape the future of St Mary's with their talent, character and vision.

Applying and further information

Scholarship application process:

1. Complete the Registration Form and pay the Registration Fee – the Registration Form can be found online at www.stmaryscolchester.org.uk/admissions/register/
2. Complete the Scholarship Application form online by the deadline. Applications can only be made from 1 September when pupils are in Year 6. Please refer to our website for the timelines for individual admissions years.
3. Attend the Scholarship Assessment Day, if invited, bringing any requested information or evidence.

Successful candidates will receive notification alongside their school offer letter in December of Year 6.

We hold regular open days throughout the year. Our weekday open days provide an opportunity to see the school in action, while at our Saturday open days there will be an opportunity to tour the school and meet pupils, including St Mary's Scholars and staff. You will have the opportunity to meet the Senior Leadership team, and our Admissions team will also be available to answer any questions you may have. Alternatively, our Registrar is happy to conduct individual tours at a time to suit you.

To reserve a place at an open day, arrange a private tour or meeting with our Principal, simply visit our website, or contact our Registrar, Mrs Justine Tierney, on 01206 594256, or at registrar@stmaryscolchester.org.uk