



St Mary's
Colchester



ST MARY'S YEAR 7

scholarships

2027 ENTRY



Scholarships programme

Our Scholarship programme is designed to accelerate the development of pupils who 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 pupils a pivotal role within the school, with opportunities and responsibilities that help develop their leadership skills and talents.

Scholars will:

- help plan activities and events to enrich school life, including trips, competitions and initiatives.
- take part, and sometimes run, subject-based clubs or meetings.
- act as ambassadors for the school, attending open mornings, taster days and events such as occasional visits to feeder schools, to promote the school and Scholarships available.

OVERVIEW OF YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:

For all candidates:

- Academic
- STEM
- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Sport
- The Principal's Award

Scholarships only available to St Mary's Lower School pupils:

- Miss Comrie Scholarship

Academic Scholarships

Academic Scholarships are awarded for outstanding performance in our entrance assessment.

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 pupils 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.

How to apply

No action is needed. All applicants who sit our entrance assessment are automatically considered for an Academic Scholarship.

STEM Scholarships

STEM Scholarships recognise girls with exceptional talent and enthusiasm for STEM subjects. 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 pupils across the school in STEM based initiatives.

How to apply

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. 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. Art Scholars will take a lead role in whole-school Art activities and sit on the Art Council, which influences the impact of 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.

How to apply

Art Scholarship candidates should demonstrate outstanding ability in art, particularly through creativity, imagination, confident observation skills, evidence of specialist language and appreciation of art. As part of the application process, candidates are required to submit two responses to the still life task entitled 'Fruit on a Plate'; a sustained and carefully observed pencil drawing, and a coloured artwork produced in a medium of their choice. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an assessment session in the Art Studio, where they will complete an observational drawing task and discuss their submitted work. Candidates should also bring a selection of recent artwork to showcase the breadth of their artistic interests, skills, and development.

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.

How to apply

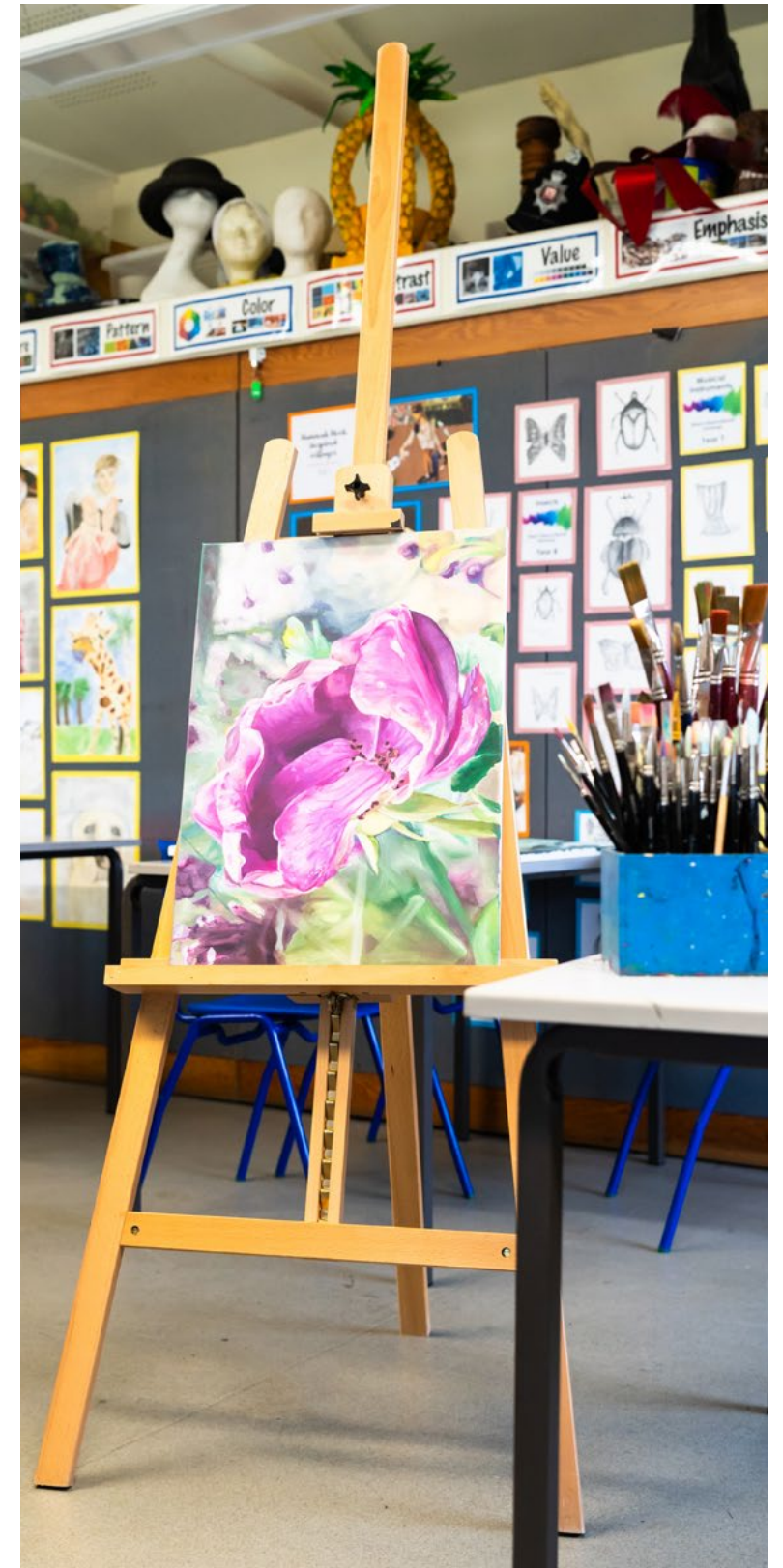
Applicants are invited to submit a physical or digital portfolio of evidence showcasing their interest, experience and achievements. This may include certificates and awards, photographs from productions or performances, programmes, reviews or references, and any other relevant supporting material. Applicants should also submit a 60-second video clip demonstrating their performance skills and may include a monologue, LAMDA piece, scene from a play or another short dramatic performance. We are looking for applicants who demonstrate enthusiasm, creativity, confidence and strong acting potential. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to attend an audition.

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.

How to apply

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). Candidates are required to submit a short video recording that best reflects their current level and musical ability. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an audition to 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 St Mary's to current and prospective pupils, take part in inter-house sport competitions and support the PE department where appropriate.

Sports Scholars will often take on the role of team captains and will have opportunities to develop their coaching and leadership skills. They will be expected to attend PE clubs, leading up to potentially running clubs in later years.

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 and be adaptable to different positions and roles. They will also be self-motivated, able to motivate those around them and have a passion for sport.

How to apply

When applying for the Sports Scholarship, applicants are required to include a reference from their school and/or club coaches. The 'Sports Scholars external reference' form is available on our website, or from our Registrar. 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.

Principal's Award

The Principal's Award is 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 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 also exemplify the core values of St Mary's: ambitious, bold, compassionate, dynamic, and enquiring.

How to apply

Pupils are required to submit a PowerPoint (or alternative) presentation demonstrating how they meet the criteria. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to attend an interview with the Principal, where they will be required to deliver their presentation and answer questions about their achievements, skills and aspirations.



Miss Comrie Scholarships

ONLY AVAILABLE TO OUR LOWER SCHOOL PUPILS



Our prestigious Miss Comrie 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 who have the potential to make a substantial contribution to the life of the Senior 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 260 top schools, providing opportunities for pupils to learn, celebrate and discuss to improve their international understanding.

Successful candidates are expected to demonstrate a committed approach to their academic work, broad engagement in co-curricular life and a meaningful and sustained contribution to the school community, consistently demonstrating the school's values. They should also serve as strong ambassadors for the school and positive role models for other pupils.

How to apply

Pupils are required to submit a PowerPoint (or alternative) presentation demonstrating how they meet the criteria. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to attend a panel interview including the Principal and School Governor, where they will be required to deliver their presentation and answer questions about their contributions, interests, talents and aspirations.



Applying and further information

APPLYING FOR A YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 2027

There are 5 steps to becoming a St Mary's Scholar:

- 1 All candidates must either be a current Year 6 St Mary's Lower School pupil, or have Registered for Year 7 entry at the Senior School for entry in September 2027. The Registration form can be found online at www.stmaryscolchester.org.uk/admissions/register/
- 2 Complete the Scholarship application form online: www.stmaryscolchester.org.uk/admissions/scholarships-bursaries/. The deadline to complete your application and to provide all supporting documents is Sunday 1 November 2026
- 3 Candidates successfully shortlisted will be contacted and invited to attend a Scholarship Assessment. These will take place in November 2026.
- 4 Successful candidates will receive notification alongside their school offer letter in December 2026.
- 5 Scholars are requested to accept their places and offers as soon as possible, with a final deadline of Tuesday 2 March.

SCHOLARSHIP REMUNERATION

- Scholarship remuneration is offered on a case-by-case basis. On average Scholarships are awarded to a value of between 5% to 20%. The amount offered to each Scholar varies depending on both the strength of the candidate's application and the strength of all candidates applying across all Scholarships in that given year of entry.
- Pupils may apply for as many Scholarships as they choose, should they think they are applicable to their aptitudes and talents.
- There is no financial assessment for St Mary's Scholarship applications. Bursaries are available in exceptional circumstances to provide short-term financial assistance to current parents experiencing unexpected financial difficulties.

ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

Sunday 1 November	Deadline for Registration Our online registration form can be completed here . Deadline for Scholarship Applications Our online Scholarship application form can be completed here .
November	For Lower School pupils only: Miss Comrie Scholarship Interviews
Saturday 14 November	Entrance Assessment for external pupils
From Monday 16 November onwards	Entrance Assessment for Lower School pupils Shortlisted scholars will be invited to attend their Scholarship interview or assessment . Dates and timings to be confirmed shortly.
December	Offers of places and scholarships Families will be notified about both offers of places and scholarships.
January 2027	Taster Days for pupils who have been offered places. More information to follow shortly.
Tuesday 2 March 2027	Deadline for acceptance of places and scholarships. Parents are requested to accept or decline the offer of a place and any Scholarship by this date. If no communication is received, it will be assumed that the place and any scholarship has been declined, and places may then be offered to any girls on our waiting lists.

If you have any further questions, please contact our Registrar by email: registrar@stmaryscolchester.org.uk, or by telephone: **01206 594178**.



stmaryscolchester.org.uk

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