



HOLMEWOOD HOUSE SCHOOL

'Kindness, aspiration & self-belief'

SCHOLARSHIP READINESS AWARDS AND BURSARIES

Policy Holder	Deputy Head
Date Approved	November 2025
Approval	Bursary Committee
Date for next review	September 2026

SCHOLARSHIP READINESS AWARDS

Holmewood House hosts an initiative to promote excellence and participation across a variety of disciplines. This programme is referred to as the Holmewood House 'Scholarship Readiness Award'. It is available to children entering Year 7 (11+) having been assessed in the Spring Term of Year 6. To support families who need it, where appropriate, this initiative is tied to access to our bursarial support. School welcomes enquiries from families about the Scholarship Readiness Programme and subsequent bursary opportunities available to them.

Our Scholarship Readiness Programme supports excellence across the following subjects:

- Academic
- Art
- Design Technology/Engineering
- Drama
- Music
- Sport

Pupils who successfully demonstrate outstanding ability, dedication and potential are invited to participate in one or more of the above areas. Invitations to apply to the Scholarship Readiness Programme are sent in the Spring Term of Year 6 to pupils at Holmewood. Prospective pupils are also invited to apply at this time via the registrar.

We have a Scholarship Readiness Brochure, which outlines the expectations of Scholarship Readiness Programme for families and interested parties. Further information is available in this brochure.

Each discipline has a variety of criteria which need to be observed in order to invite pupils to participate in the 'Scholarship Readiness' scheme. We intend to promote excellence, while

encouraging participation, and therefore all disciplines expect to see work which evidences a level of commitment, dedication and maturity in approach to learning. For each discipline, we expect to see evidence of high levels of consistent effort and motivation, as well as evidence of high standards of performance. The Scholarship Readiness Programmes are rigorous and, as such, they are intended for pupils who are passionate and enthused within their chosen discipline. Pupils are expected to dedicate time and effort into their course. As a result, we recommend pupils participate in only one creative/performance-based discipline. When appropriate we consider a maximum of two disciplines, one being Academic. Pupils might be invited to participate in more than two initially, with the expectation that we review where they are excelling, and consider their future schools options from there.

Our Heads of Department, in liaison with Senior Schools, create, manage and review the provision available to pupils who are on the programme. We pride ourselves on being forward thinking, while also responding to the entrance requirements of Senior Schools. Therefore, the programme is constantly evolving. A participant within any discipline can expect to participate in a weekly Scholarship club (such as 'Strength and Conditioning' for Sport, 'Drama Scholarship' for Drama, 'Intellectual Curiosity Club' for Academics etc.). We host enrichment opportunities which are available as a priority to those on the Scholarship Readiness Programme. These include trips off site as well as visiting speakers to Holmewood House. All pupils on the programme are expected to evidence their championing of their discipline and develop their leadership skills. There are a variety of subject-appropriate methods for this, such as mentoring younger pupils, showcasing talent to parents and the local community, performing in concerts and supporting lower year concerts, and taking assemblies for the school.

We are committed to supporting our pupils pastorally and recognise that there are inherent pressures which could be acutely felt by a pupil in any excellence scheme or programme. As such, the programme includes opportunities for check-ins with subject leads. These serve to provide space for pupils to talk through their development and how they are finding the programme. We are dedicated to promoting enjoyment through excellence, and these check-in points are an important element of our bespoke provision, in keeping with the high-quality pastoral provision available to all pupils at Holmewood House.

There is no remuneration for participation on the Scholarship Readiness Programme. Instead, pupils are invited to access and benefit from a variety of enriching opportunities at no extra cost.

Parents of children who have been awarded a place on the Scholarship Readiness programme, are eligible to apply for a Bursary (see Bursaries Policy below), Details on how to apply for a Bursary are included on the Scholarship Readiness offer letter which you will receive from Admissions.

BURSARIES

The Governors of Holmewood House are committed to broadening access to the school by offering means-tested financial support with school fees to eligible parents. This support is known as a Bursarial Award.

Bursaries are available from Year 3 onwards. They are means-tested, and the assessment of need is undertaken by an external company to ensure transparency and fairness. Following their assessment, the company will make a recommendation to the school, which is then reviewed by the Bursary Committee. The Bursary Committee consists of the Head, the Chair of Governors, the Bursar, and the Finance Manager.

Bursaries are usually offered for twelve months (occasionally twenty-four months) at a time, after which families are required to provide updated information about their financial circumstances.

CONCESSIONS

Pupils who are siblings of a child registered at Holmewood are eligible for a concession as outlined below:

Sibling	5% for a third child
	15% for a fourth child

These discounts are applied to the eldest child.

There is also an Old Holmewoodian concession which equates to 5%.

Parents should contact the Registrar, Mrs Caroline Mulley with any admissions queries or for further information about the Scholarship Readiness Programme. admissions@holmewoodhouse.co.uk

Parents should contact the Finance Manager, Mr Mike Catt with any Bursary queries. FinanceBursar@holmewoodhouse.co.uk