



NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL BURSARY SCHEME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The High School operates a Bursary Scheme to assist in widening access to the education provided by the School to those who cannot afford the full tuition fees.

This document attempts to cover some of the most frequently asked questions surrounding the scheme.

What is a Bursary?

A Bursary is a form of means-tested assistance whereby the School is able to effectively offer a reduction in the amount paid by the parents for the tuition of their son at the School. Sometimes it is referred to as an "Assisted Place", but the two phrases mean the same thing.

How many Bursary places are there?

The number of new Bursaries varies from year to year depending on funds available. At present, the School provides assistance to almost 100 boys across the Senior School.

When do I apply for a Bursary?

The bulk of bursary support is available when a boy starts in Year 7 at the School – therefore, when applying for a place at the Senior School parents are asked to indicate whether they wish to apply for financial assistance.

Applications for Bursary support must be received prior to the Entrance Exam.

In limited circumstances, an application may be made when your son enters the sixth form, but in general terms priority is given to new entrants to the sixth form rather than boys moving up from Year 11.

If I apply for a Bursary, am I guaranteed to get one?

No, but there are two points here:

1. The application process involves a full assessment of the financial and other circumstances of the family, so merely applying cannot guarantee assistance.
2. Unfortunately the funds available do not allow us to make all the awards we would like to in an ideal world. Therefore the available funds are allocated after assessing all the applicants.

How much support can I get?

The amount of funding available to the School for Bursary support is not infinite, but the scheme operates on the basis that, if circumstances dictate and funds available allow, a discount of up to 100% of the tuition fee can be given.

If funds are limited, how do you allocate the funds between applicants?

All applications for Bursary support are assessed.

Places are then offered to those boys who pass the Entrance Exam and Interview, in rank order of placement. Each successful candidate who has applied for and qualifies for a Bursary will be offered a Bursary place, in rank order of placement, until the available funds for Bursary support are exhausted. After those funds are exhausted, only fee paying places are available.

Is support available for items other than fees, such as travel costs and uniform?

The School has a small source of funds on which it can draw to provide support for uniform and similar costs. Priority will be given to supporting those on larger Bursary support.

What level of income do I need to be on to qualify for a Bursary?

This is a difficult question to provide a specific answer to, because the totality of your family's financial and other circumstances are taken into account in the assessment of a bursary offer. For example, the value of the family home or other assets may be taken into account. Broadly speaking, a family income in excess of around £50,000 per annum will put you outside the level at which support can be given.

Is the Bursary support "all or nothing" or is it on a sliding scale?

Bursaries are offered on a sliding scale basis, subject to the assessment of your financial and other circumstances. We use a policy of awarding bursaries between a minimum of £1,000 per annum and the value of the full tuition fee in the year.

What information will I have to provide if I apply for a Bursary?

The application form asks for full details of your circumstances, and also requires you to support these with documentary evidence. This will require you to provide your bank statements and other personal information. We also reserve the right to visit you at your home to discuss your application.

We assess the circumstances of the family unit in which the boy lives and all those who have financial responsibility for paying the fees, so the information required may cover a number of people.

We do appreciate that the process involves you sharing a significant amount of personal information with us, but we feel sure that you will support the fact that we must ensure that the School's charitable funds are used in the most appropriate way. All information you provide to us will be treated in strict confidence.

Do I have to apply every year?

In a way, yes, in the sense that your family's financial and other circumstances need to be re-assessed each year to make sure that, provided funds are available, we offer you the level of support appropriate to your up to date circumstances. However, once you have become a member of the Bursary Scheme in Year 7, we will send you a renewal form to complete the following May, so you do not have to re-apply to make an application.

What happens if my circumstances change?

If you are a member of the Bursary Scheme (i.e. you have been supported since Year 7), and your circumstances change significantly during the year, you should get in touch with the Finance & Administration Manager to discuss the situation. Funds are not infinite, but if we can provide additional, temporary support then we will consider it.

New Bursary awards to parents not in the Scheme at Year 7 are usually difficult to provide due to limited funding, but fee-paying parents whose circumstances change may write to the Headmaster explaining their position and a discussion may take place based on the facts of the case and available funding.

Will other boys (or their parents) know if my son is awarded a bursary?

As far as the School divulging this information is concerned, absolutely not – that information is entirely confidential. No boy in receipt of Bursary support is treated any differently in the School from those who pay the full fees.

Should you wish to let people know about the School's Bursary Scheme and how it has assisted you, the School has no objection to that, but at that point it would be for you to consider the impact on your son if the financial assistance is more widely known.

What is the difference between a Bursary and a Scholarship?

The key difference is that a Bursary is offered purely on the basis of an assessment of financial need, and can be up to the full value of the fees, whereas a Scholarship is a fixed sum per annum and is offered on the basis of academic merit.

Can my son get a Bursary and a Scholarship?

Yes. Where a boy qualifies for a Scholarship, that would normally be offered first in order to preserve the limited Bursary funds available. Whilst a boy can benefit from both a Scholarship and a Bursary, the total financial assistance offered will not exceed the value of a full year's fees.

Is there other support based on ability in Music, Sport, and so on?

At present four instrumental scholarships covering free tuition on one instrument can be awarded to boys entering Year 7 and may be applied for following a successful performance in the school's Entrance Examination. These scholarships are not means tested and, subject to certain conditions, remain with the boy for the duration of his time at the School.

As a guide, boys should be around Grade 4 standard or higher on their principal instrument, although they need not have taken the examination, and a letter from their music teacher indicating the current level of attainment will help in the selection process. Boys will be expected to participate fully in the musical life of the school, which would normally include membership of a choir. Preference will be given to players of orchestral instruments, but singers and pianists may also apply.

At present, available funds do not allow us to offer sports scholarships.

How do I get further information?

In the first instance, make contact with the Finance & Administration Manager, Barry Nicholls, on 0115 845 2209 or at Nicholls.b@nottinghamhigh.co.uk