Visual Arts at Sevenoaks

The Art department aims to foster independent, adventurous creativity. Specialist teachers share their practice and passions, enabling pupils to realise ambitious, personal and exciting work. Within the curriculum, pupils experience the widest range of disciplines. This includes painting, printmaking, ceramics, photography and digital imaging.

Art Scholarships

Art scholarships are offered annually at the age of 13+ or 16+. Those joining the school at 11+ may apply as internal candidates for the award at 13+. The awards are worth £1,000 per annum at 13+ or 10% of the day fee for pupils joining at 16+. Any scholarship may be augmented additionally by bursarial support, subject to means-testing.

Enhanced Scholarships (means-tested)

Scholarships are not means-tested. Families with children of scholarship potential, who are not eligible for a bursary award but who do not have sufficient resources to pay full fees, may apply for an enhanced scholarship of up to 50 per cent of the day fee, of which there are a maximum of two available each year. The level of any enhancement is subject to individual circumstances and available funds.

If you wish to be considered for an enhanced scholarship, please indicate this on the confirmation form that will be sent to you at the start of the admissions process. A home visit will then be made by a representative of the school who will carry out a means test before the scholarship assessment takes place. Applicants should have available documentation that supports all their income and outgoings, financial assets and liabilities. Enhanced scholarship offers are sent to successful applicants after the entrance assessments, together with the offer of a place at the school. Admissions staff can give you an indication of the likelihood of a scholarship being awarded following the entrance tests.

The Scholarship Selection Process

Candidates wishing to be considered for an Art scholarship will need to provide a testimonial and attend an assessment session in the Sevenoaks Art department. This is a user-friendly process in which candidates are given choices and open tasks and are helped to show themselves in the best possible light.
There are three parts to the assessment:

1. A drawing test: Candidates will be invited to spend time drawing from direct observation. A range of materials will be available and it is expected that candidates will be able to demonstrate how they record what they see. The best preparation for this is to practise observational drawing.

2. The portfolio (maximum 20 items): We have no preconceived ideas about what a portfolio might contain. It would be natural to expect work made at school, but we will be especially interested in other items, whether drawings, photographs, computer art, doodles, craft items or self-motivated art. The portfolio should show the candidate’s range and depth of interests, skills and knowledge.

3. An informal interview: During the drawing test, candidates will be invited individually for a short, informal interview with the Head of Art. They will be asked to select one piece from their portfolio and explain the ideas and motivation behind it. Candidates will be expected to be able to discuss their work with enthusiasm and make connections with artists’ work that they have studied.

Criteria

A satisfactory performance in the appropriate entrance examination is a condition of an Art scholarship.

Art scholarships are open to boys and girls from any school. Children who join the school at 11+ may apply as internal candidates for an Art scholarship at 13+.

We are looking for gifted and committed young people who meet the normal academic requirements of the school but who also demonstrate outstanding artistic ability, particularly through creativity, imagination, manipulative skills, strong powers of observation and evidence of some specialist language and concepts appropriate to the appreciation of art.

We expect holders of Art scholarships to make a significant extra-curricular commitment to their art work. It is expected that holders of Sixth Form awards will take Art at IB Higher or Standard Level.

Art scholarships will normally be awarded for the duration of a pupil’s school career, but may in the first instance be offered for a certain number of years. All scholarships are reviewed annually and their continuance is dependent upon satisfactory conduct, attitude, participation and progress. At such a review, holders of awards are expected to assess their own contribution and to set targets for themselves.
Further information and application details

For further information, details of the applications process and application forms, please visit www.sevenoaksschool.org/scholarships. Work by students in the Art department can be viewed at www.sevenoaksschoolart.org.

Applications for a 13+ Art scholarship should be made via the Director of Admissions no later than 1 February in Year 8. The Art scholarship application form will be signed by parents and countersigned by the candidate’s current Headteacher.

For Sixth Form, applicants will be asked to indicate their interest on the confirmation forms.

The Head of Art, Mr Charley Openshaw, is pleased to meet candidates informally at any stage and to answer any queries. Please contact him on 01732 467718 or email cwo@sevenoaksschool.org.