



SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

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# A SEVENOAKS BURSARY



“The community was a highly beneficial aspect of Sevenoaks. Learning with students from all over the world helped broaden my mind and I made some great friends during my time here. Teachers are arguably the strongest part of the school; their connection with the students is unrivalled.”

ABISHAIK  
BURSARY STUDENT YEAR 7 TO 13  
MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD



## Welcome to Sevenoaks School

Sevenoaks School is forward-thinking, fully co-educational, diverse and open-minded, despite being one of the oldest schools in the country. We have been educational pioneers and embraced change since we were founded in 1432, and we remain true to the school's founding aim to make an outstanding education freely accessible so young people from every background can benefit.

While we are known for our global outlook, we remain deeply connected with our local community. Day students make up two-thirds of our school; most join us from nearby schools in Kent, East Sussex and South London. Our community is exceptionally friendly and supportive with no typical Sevenoaks student – we comprise many cultures, religions and socio-economic backgrounds. What students share is a genuine enthusiasm for learning, in and out of the classroom, and a desire to make a positive difference in the world.

Our sixth formers study the IB Diploma and Sevenoaks offers a broad, holistic education within a culture of mutual respect. Students learn from one another and are well prepared for life and the world beyond school. They go on to excellent universities.

I was the recipient of a bursary myself and it opened doors for me in life that I didn't know existed. Partly based on this personal experience, I have been passionate about promoting bursaries throughout my career, and the opportunities they can offer to individuals and families. Our key priority is to ensure Sevenoaks is open to students who would thrive here, whatever their financial circumstances. Affordability should not stand in the way of a Sevenoaks education, and we know that a diverse and inclusive community enriches every student's experience and strengthens the education we offer. That is why my ambition, as part of the vision for Sevenoaks School's 600th anniversary in 2032, is for more students to be able to join the school because of financial support.

I hope this booklet gives you a helpful introduction to Sevenoaks and our approach to bursary support. If you think we would be a good fit for your family, I very much hope you and your child will visit us or join our Sevenoaks Enrichment Club; there's no substitute for experiencing the school in real life.

**Jesse Elzinga**  
Headmaster



## What is a bursary?



Bursaries are available to day students joining in Year 7 (11+), Year 9 (13+) or Year 12 (16+), with a few exceptions in the boarding community. Also known as financial assistance, a bursary could make a Sevenoaks education a realistic option for your child. In addition to a fee discount, we give an annual allowance towards other school-related costs such as trips and educational equipment, so your child can enjoy and make the most of the full Sevenoaks School experience.

A bursary is different from a scholarship, which is awarded for excellence in academic studies, music, art, drama and sport. At Sevenoaks, we do not give a fee discount for scholarships because – as a charity – we believe in the principle of offering only needs-based assistance. We are a highly selective school and any child who passes our entrance assessments, and whose family's finances and situation fall within our parameters, is eligible for financial assistance.

At present, about one in ten of our day students receive financial assistance. In line with the school's vision to increase bursary provision, my role is dedicated to assisting you with your application so that the process is as clear and easy to navigate

as possible, including helping you with financial questions after your child joins us. We hope you will find that continuity of care – from first enquiry to graduation – reassuring and helpful.

The information that follows will hopefully be a useful guide, but please check our website for the most up-to-date eligibility criteria, as these are reviewed regularly.

Please contact me with any questions, I will be delighted to help.

**Catherine Taylor**  
Assistant Director of Admissions  
(Financial Assistance)  
[financialassistance@sevenoaksschool.org](mailto:financialassistance@sevenoaksschool.org)



“Receiving this education has put my whole life into perspective. I remember crying when my mum first told me Sevenoaks had offered us a 95 per cent bursary. I’ve learnt empathy, humility and many other practical skills that will change my life, on top of the education I’ve received. I am eternally grateful...and whatever I do in the future I know that it wouldn’t have been possible without my time here.”

**ANASOFIA**  
BURSARY STUDENT YEAR 9 TO 13  
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND SPANISH,  
UNIVERSITY OF BATH



## Is my child eligible?

Financial assistance is offered after careful consideration of each family's circumstances. A Financial Assistance Panel reviews each case individually and may award a discount ranging from 5 per cent to 100 per cent of the fees.

Currently, we do not offer bursaries for boarders unless they are referred to us by the Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation or their family receives a Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) from the government. CEA families go through the same means-testing process as applicants for a day place bursary.

Sevenoaks School is a charity, with funds for financial assistance coming from the generosity of donors, so it is important that we allocate funds responsibly. The means-testing is, therefore, a thorough process and we encourage families to carefully consider both their financial situation and their child's academic level before undertaking it.

Further details of the assessment and application process are on page 18.



- Our 2025-2026 awards are based on a combined household income:  
Up to £68,000 would likely be considered for a free place.  
Up to £130,000 would likely be considered for assistance with fees, with the level dependent on other factors.  
Up to £190,000 could still be considered for a small amount of assistance with fees in certain circumstances.



- No more than one property with maximum equity of £580,000.



- Savings or investments should normally be no more than £12,000 for a one-child family, £18,000 for a two-child family, or £24,000 for three or more children.



- Prioritising of education in family finances.



- Reasonable commute time, usually no more than 45 minutes.



- In the case of separation or divorce, both parents would normally be expected to contribute financially to their child's education and participate in the application for financial assistance.



- Both parents working, unless incapacitated or providing full-time care.

Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information.

“I feel proud to have received a bursary and grateful for the opportunity given to me. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at school, something which I realise is a rare privilege. Students leave Sevenoaks with a self-assuredness, knowledge and maturity that sets them up for the rest of their lives.”

BILLY  
BURSARY STUDENT YEAR 7 TO 13  
CO-FOUNDER OF A DESIGN AGENCY



These figures are provided as a guideline; individual circumstances are taken into account and exceptions may occasionally be made at the Financial Assistance Panel's discretion.

## Support with extra costs

Most of the clubs and activities in our broad co-curricular programme, and daily lunch, are included in the school fees. A small number of activities have additional costs if extra transport, equipment or specialist coaching is required. We also organise a large range of national and international trips every year. Information about residential trips, clubs and societies is provided well in advance to help families with financial planning.

To ensure that students in receipt of financial assistance can access these additional opportunities, which are integral to a Sevenoaks education, we provide a set amount of school credit at the start of each academic year. The amount is adjusted according to the percentage of financial assistance your child receives.

In 2026, the school credit allocated to students who receive 100 per cent financial assistance is:

- Year 7 to 11 students £1,200 per year
- Sixth Form students £1,800 per year

Your child's credit can be used as you wish, either for small, regular costs such as music or drama lessons, or for larger one-off expenses such as a trip.

Families can monitor how much credit they have through our dedicated school app, and our Assistant Director of Admissions (Financial Assistance) is available to advise.



■ WHY SEVENOAKS?

## Opportunities on your doorstep

Throughout the school's history, bursary places have opened a world of opportunities for local students. Whatever your child's passions, or their favourite academic subjects, sports or activities, we support them – and encourage new pursuits – at Sevenoaks. Our small class sizes, consistent specialist teaching and subject choice mean students can immerse themselves and, as a result, they grow in confidence.

Our world-class resources and spaces are designed to provide teaching and learning environments to satisfy curious minds and help students thrive: science lessons take place in the multi award-winning Science and Technology Centre; The Space and The Sackville Theatre provide

incredible performance opportunities; and the indoor sports facilities of The Sennocke Centre, the extensive outdoor pitches and courts, and the 22 representative sports we offer encourage participation in sport at any level.

On top of that, over 100 clubs and societies from chess to Big Band cater for all age groups and are an integral part of the co-curriculum.

“The most beneficial aspect of my Sevenoaks experience was being in an environment that encouraged learning and curiosity.”

**NAQIB**  
BURSARY STUDENT YEAR 7 TO 13  
PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK



■ WHY SEVENOAKS?

## Dare to make a difference

Service education has been embedded in our curriculum since 1961. Our service and partnership work was recognised as a significant strength in our 2025 ISI inspection, linking it to other strengths including the development of leadership.

Over 500 students proudly volunteer for service activities each week, as well as fundraise for community-led projects. We also offer annual educational trips to countries where we have partnerships, including Morocco and South Africa.

As a result, students are empowered with a critical understanding of the social and environmental challenges of the modern world, learn to have empathy for others, to serve their school community and beyond, and to drive positive change. We prepare students to navigate the demands of a constantly changing world through the development of their entrepreneurial skills and mindset, and to build confidence for life.



“I have always been passionate about charity and Sevenoaks supported that. From Year 7, I set up charity events every year and raised over £5,000. Not only has Sevenoaks shaped my future, it has given me the opportunity to try many new things, to visit parts of the world I would never have imagined seeing and to give something back to the school too.”

**ISABELLA**  
BURSARY STUDENT YEAR 7 TO 13  
MARKETING MANAGER



## Student destinations

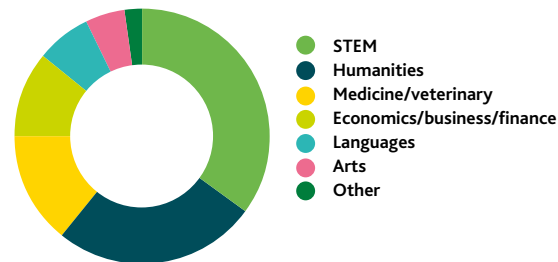
Our leavers' destinations are incredibly varied. While at Sevenoaks, students have access to a team of specialist staff in the Institute of Higher Education dedicated to giving individual, tailored advice on university destinations, apprenticeships and skills for the workplace. The HE team also organise professional guest speakers and admissions talks from UK and international universities.

An unusual feature of Sevenoaks is that a quarter of our students go to universities overseas, mostly in the US.

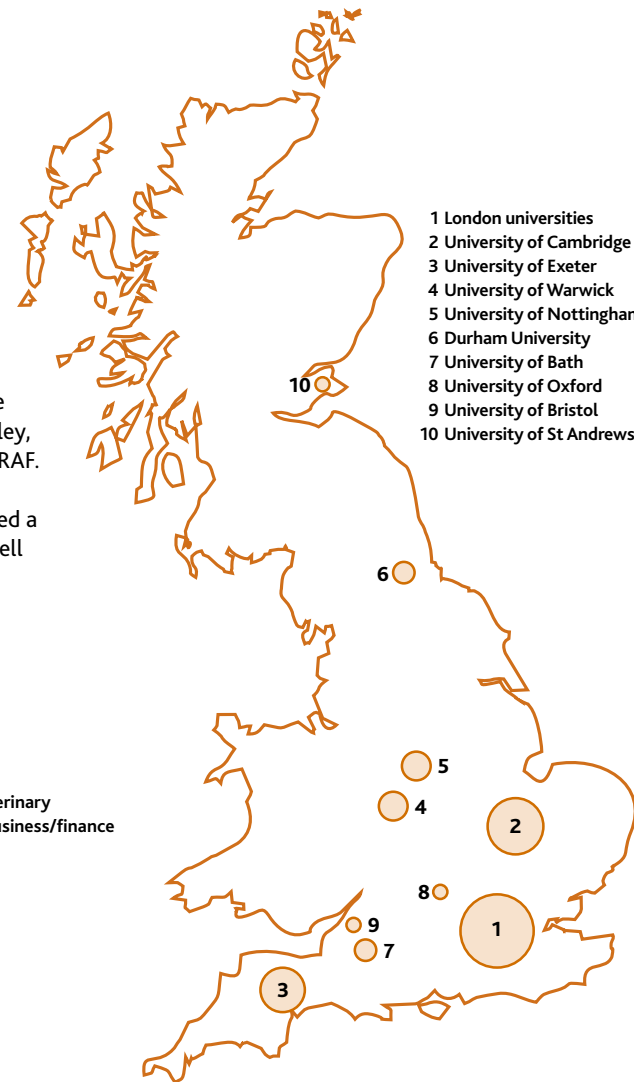
In the last two years our students, including one who received a full bursary, have secured prestigious and sought-after Degree Apprenticeships with Amazon, Morgan Stanley, Bank of America, and one sponsored by the RAF.

Three-quarters of our bursary students gained a place at Oxford, Cambridge or another Russell Group university.

### COURSE CHOICES FOR OUR BURSARY STUDENTS



### TOP 10 UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS OF OUR BURSARY STUDENTS



A SEVENOAKS BURSARY



### A COMMUNITY FOR LIFE

Students become Old Sennockians (OS) once they leave Sevenoaks and join a global network of alumni. We encourage former students to make the most of the Sevenoaks community throughout their lives, wherever they are in the world.

In today's challenging job market, we know that access to a diverse and engaged professional network is vital. Sevenoaks Connect, the online community platform, brings together peers working in the same industries or living in the same location. A rich programme of networking events, reunions, receptions and sport is also offered each year, and OS Ambassadors at key university and city locations around the world are available to support their fellow alumni.



## ■ GETTING TO KNOW US

### Introducing your child to our school

Most of our bursary applicants come from local primary or other state schools. Many of them are familiar with Sevenoaks School before they apply because our students visit their school as part of our Service and Partnership programme, or they have attended our primary school events such as the annual STEM Week, or have participated in sports activities in The Sennocke Centre. Families also come to events in The Space performing arts centre including school concerts, guest talks and theatre productions, many of which are free to attend.

#### SEVENOAKS ENRICHMENT CLUB

In addition, we run the Sevenoaks Enrichment Club for bright and motivated Year 5 pupils who may not otherwise have access to comparable opportunities. This is a free club that runs on nine Saturday mornings over the academic year. Each session explores a different area of enrichment, from engaging in scientific and historical investigation to developing confidence in debating.



We hope this opportunity to gain a taste of Sevenoaks will appeal to families considering applying for a bursary place.

For details about the Sevenoaks Enrichment Club, or to register your child in the spring of Year 4, scan the QR code:



## Your application

We hope this booklet has given you an insight into bursaries at Sevenoaks and you will consider visiting us and applying.

Your application and financial information are treated with care, sensitivity and confidentiality. Once a student joins the school, generally only their tutor, Divisional Head and those involved in the application process are aware of an individual's financial assistance. We are proud that so many of our students receive a bursary, but we believe it is a family's decision whether they wish this to be known or kept private. Occasionally, a student themselves is unaware they are in receipt of a bursary.

### FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

Once you have registered your child, we will ask you to supply evidence of your family finances. This is shared with an independent external assessor who will visit you or have an online interview to ask detailed questions. The assessor then submits a report to the school's Financial Assistance Panel who decide the level of support we can offer.

It is important that families are honest and open about their circumstances and fully disclose all relevant information. If the Financial Assistance Panel have reason to believe an applicant has withheld or provided misleading information, for whatever reason, financial assistance will not be awarded and any existing award may be withdrawn.

We aim to notify parents of the outcome of a financial assistance application before students take the admissions assessments so you can plan accordingly. It is important that you meet the deadlines for submitting the information and keep the appointment with the independent assessor to help achieve that aim.

If your application for a bursary is successful, your registration fee will be fully or partially refunded, in proportion to the level of financial assistance offered. For families who receive means-tested state benefits or whose child receives a 100 per cent bursary at their current school, we waive the registration fee entirely. Please email [financialassistance@sevenoaksschool.org](mailto:financialassistance@sevenoaksschool.org) if that is your situation.

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

Families who are awarded financial assistance are required to inform the school as soon as possible, and within a month, of any material change in their financial circumstances. Awards of financial assistance are subject to periodic review, usually no more than annually but at the discretion of the school, to ensure the amount of assistance remains appropriate for a family's financial circumstances. This review is based on means-testing and is not linked to a student's academic attainment.

For more information about financial assistance or to arrange a visit, scan the QR code:



## At a glance

