



# MERCHANT TAYLORS'

## School

### BURSARIES POLICY

#### General

The Governors of Merchant Taylors' School (MTS) are committed to broadening access to the School by offering to eligible parents/guardians means-tested financial support with the payment of Schools fees. Such support is known as a 'Bursary' and this may be awarded depending on the financial circumstances of applicants.

The School welcomes applications for boys whose parents cannot afford the fees in full or in part. All Bursaries are means-tested. A boy may hold both a Bursary and a Scholarship. Scholarships are awarded on merit irrespective of means.

#### Application Procedure

Applications for Bursaries usually fall into two categories:

- **New Admissions** to the School, where a place has been offered but parents/guardians are unable to fund the tuition fees. These are referred to as entrance bursaries.
- **Existing pupils** where a **significant change** in parents/guardians' circumstances has resulted in difficulty in meeting tuition fees and may result in the boy being withdrawn part way through a stage of education. These are referred to as hardship bursaries.

#### New Admissions to the School

A confidential means-testing application form will need to be completed. A request for a form should be submitted by email to the Admissions Office ([Admissions@mtsn.org.uk](mailto:Admissions@mtsn.org.uk)).

The following deadlines apply:

- For 11+ entry, the School must receive a completed Bursary Form before the 30<sup>th</sup> September prior to the January Entrance Examination (year 6).
- For 13+ entry, the School must receive a completed Bursary Form before the 30<sup>th</sup> September prior to the January Entrance Examination (year 6).
- For 16+ entry, the School must receive a completed Bursary Form before the 30<sup>th</sup> September alongside the registration form (year 11).

## **Criteria**

The award of a Bursary is subject to satisfactory performance in the Entrance Examination. If demand for Bursaries exceeds the number available, Bursaries will be awarded with reference to the extent of need as well as to performance in the entrance assessment; potential will be considered, as well as academic achievement. Each pupil to whom support is offered must, in the opinion of the Head Master, be likely to make sound academic progress following admission and possess the potential to develop the quality of his work, and benefit from participation in the wider, extra-curricular activities on offer at the School.

Due to the pressure on bursary funding, families who made unsuccessful bursary applications at the point of entrance are not eligible for hardship bursary support until two years after their son's admission to MTS. We recommend that all families ensure that they can meet the financial cost of independent education before they commit to send their son to MTS.

The continued tenure of a Bursary is subject to satisfactory academic performance, good conduct and adherence to the School's Terms and Conditions.

## **Bursary Administration Limited (BAL)**

BAL provides independent and professional scrutiny of MTS bursary applications and their services and are employed by many independent schools to support a fair and robust application process. Your application pack will be shared with BAL, who will arrange an interview with you to discuss your circumstances in more detail. Interviews may take place during home visits, online video conferencing or telephone calls.

## **Value of Bursaries**

The amount of the Bursary is assessed before an offer of a place is made. The value of a Bursary is related to an applicant's circumstances and may be up to 100% of tuition fees and reasonable school related expenditure.

## **Review**

All Bursary awards are subject to regular testing of parental means and may be varied upwards or downwards depending on parental circumstances. For those in receipt of Bursaries, the School reserves the right to reduce or withdraw an award not only where a pupil's progress, attitude or behaviour has been unsatisfactory but also in the event of the late payment of any contribution parents/guardians are making to the fees.

## **Confidentiality**

The School respects the confidentiality of Bursary awards made to families and recipients are expected to do likewise.

## **Note**

Home visits will normally be conducted by Bursary Administration Limited. A deposit of £99 will be paid in advance by parents for this service, which is refunded where there is evidence of genuine financial need.