



RENDCOMB  
COLLEGE  
NURSERY • JUNIOR • SENIOR

# Scholarships and Bursaries Policy

**Monitoring:**

Headmaster, Bursar & Head of Juniors

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**Next Review:**

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## **Introduction**

Rendcomb College offers a limited number of bursaries and scholarships (age 7-18) for candidates demonstrating potential, talent and who would flourish and benefit from the ethos and life at the school. Our Founder, Noel Wills, had a clear vision for Rendcomb College. Although the School has changed, evolved and grown over the years, it remains true to the Founder's vision for an inclusive and broad-ranging education for its pupils. The School has benefitted from the stewardship of the Wills family over the last century and from the two-tiered Governance of the Trustees and Governing Body.

This policy should be considered alongside the College's Admissions Policy.

## **Equality**

No applicant will be treated less favourably during the application process or during assessment on the grounds of their skin colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin, gender, religious faith, disability, orientation or socio-economic group. The School is keen to meet families from all backgrounds to discuss whether a child's needs and aspirations can be best supported through education at Rendcomb. Generous bursaries are offered in order to make it possible for pupils who meet the school's admission criteria to attend the school.

## **Special Education Needs and Disability**

Rendcomb does not discriminate in any way regarding entry; the School maintains and drives a positive culture towards inclusion of disabled people and those with special educational needs, and it will not treat an applicant less favourably on these grounds without justification. We welcome pupils with special educational needs, providing that our Learning Support Department can offer them the support that they require. We welcome pupils with physical disabilities provided that our site can cope with them. However, at present, the School's facilities, physical and otherwise, for the disabled are limited but it will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the *Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and the Equality Act 2010*) in order to accommodate the needs of applicants who have disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the School can cater adequately.

We advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with Rendcomb before he or she sits the entrance exam so that we can make adequate provision for him/her. Parents should provide a copy of an Educational Psychologist's report or a medical report to support their request, for example for extra time or other special arrangements. We will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the school.

## **Bursaries and Scholarships**

Scholarship candidates are assessed for their suitability for an award. This takes place during the scholarship days publicised by the college. Scholarships may or may not be means tested.

All scholars and bursary holders are expected, as a condition of their award, to show commitment and good behaviour in college. Scholarships are reviewed annually and students' academic and behavioural record is taken into account as well as their commitment to their field of excellence.

Bursaries are reviewed annually and the academic and behavioural record of a student will be taken into account when considering the continuation of awards. The award of a bursary at entry point should not be taken as an automatic continuation of that award throughout a pupil's time at school, especially at key transfer points such as entering Senior School or Sixth Form.

### **Bursaries**

The purpose of a bursary is to widen access to the college for children whose parents would otherwise not be able to afford a Rendcomb education. This is in keeping with the original charitable aims of the Founder who set up the college in 1920.

Bursaries are assessed and awarded according to financial need. Obviously, the ability to offer bursaries is limited and the number of applicants each year far outweighs the number of awards that can be made. As such, awards will be prioritised for those likely to contribute most to the educational attainment and extra-curricular activities of the school. On average, fewer than 20% of applicants are able to be offered awards in any year. Parents wishing to apply must complete a detailed financial circumstances form to allow the school to carry out home visits and in-depth analysis to assess the level of bursary against need. However parents should note that an identification of need is not a guarantee that bursary support will be available. If bursary support is a requirement for entry to the College this must be fully declared at the point of initial contact with the school: no applications will be able to be considered after that point. If there are any fees outstanding at any independent school, no consideration can be given to bursary support until such time as those are cleared. Support can only be provided for the purpose of educating at Rendcomb, not to enable other lifestyle choices to be made.

Bursaries are generally only available to pupils at Senior school stage; bursaries for Junior age pupils are only offered in exceptional circumstances and generally not awarded to pupils below Year 3 level.

Each pupil to whom support is offered must, in the opinion of the Head, be likely to make sound academic progress following admission and possess the potential to develop the quality of his or her work, and benefit from and make significant contributions to their participation in the wider, extra-curricular activities on offer at the School.

The school encourages all pupils to benefit from the extra-curricular activities which take place. However, it would not be considered appropriate for a pupil to go on an expensive optional school trip which is unrelated to the pupil's studies (for example ski trips, sport tours or non-curricular expeditions), if they are in receipt of a significant bursary.

It is recognised that judgments about what sacrifices a family should make to pay school fees will be personal. However, the School has a duty to ensure that all bursary grants are well allocated and so, as well as current earnings, other factors which will be considered in determining the necessary level of grant may include some or all of the following; these points are not exhaustive:

- The ability to improve the financial position or earning power of the family. For example, where there are two partners, both would be expected to be employed unless one is prevented from doing so through incapacity, the need to care for children under school age or other dependents, or the requirements of their partner's work.
- Lifestyle choices such as large properties or property refurbishment resulting in significant mortgage contributions, or investment properties.
- Opportunities to release any capital. Significant capital savings and investments would be expected to be used for the payment of school fees, as would significant equity values in houses.
- In cases of separation, the contribution made by the absent parent. Each parent will be required to complete and submit all financial information, or court orders to demonstrate why financial disclosure is not required.
- Contribution to household costs or school fees by other family members, any adults unrelated to the child or by outside sources.
- Where fees are being paid to other educational establishments we will take into account all these outgoings, however if fees are being paid to another independent school parents may be required to prove that support has been sought from the other school.
- The School considers that the following would be items of expenditure inconsistent with the receipt of a bursary: frequent or expensive holidays; new or luxury cars; second properties or land investments; expensive optional leisure activities. If such items are evidenced the School will take this into consideration when assessing applications or reviews.

### **Forces Bursaries**

Rendcomb College has always had extremely strong links with forces families and is able to offer specific support for families who are with HM Armed Forces or Diplomatic Services, where applicable under the rules of the scheme. Rendcomb is pleased to accept payments under the CEA scheme in respect of pupils from Forces families. This can be either the Boarding or the Day CEA, depending on personal circumstance. Should additional bursary support be requested this may be available following the assessment processes as outlined above.

## Scholarships

It is expected that candidates wishing to be assessed usually nominate *one* area at which they excel for consideration but at 11+ and 13+ multiple applications can be made but only one award will be given. Successful candidates will be sent a copy of the Scholarship Conditions of Award document which must be signed by the parent or guardian.

### *The Noel Wills' Scholarship*

Owing to the support of the Trustees, the Headmaster has the ability to give one 100% scholarship each year for entry at Year 7. This award is intended for a student from a Gloucestershire state school with particular promise, usually, though not exclusively, of an academic nature. This award is in keeping with the Founder's original educational vision. Both the Headmaster and the Chair of Trustees monitor the progress of Rendcomb's Noel Wills Scholars throughout their time in the School.

### *The Rendcomb Scholarship*

*Available only at Year 7 for pupils at Rendcomb College Junior School*

The Head of College will be looking for candidates to display a range of skills and abilities but also to demonstrate other skills such as leadership, teamwork, ability to work with younger children and a desire to be of service in the school. Candidates will have shown evidence of this type of service during their time at Rendcomb College Junior School. The award will usually carry a value of up to 15% of the school fees. We advise that discussions should take place with the Head of Juniors before an application is made for this Scholarship.

### *Academic Awards*

Candidates sit an examination assessment during a scholarship day. The examination may be based on Mathematics and English, sometimes with verbal and non-verbal reasoning elements to the assessments. Potential academic scholars will have an interview with the Head as part of the process.

### *Creative Awards*

Candidates are invited to present a portfolio of their artistic endeavours. This may include visual art, creative writing or poetry and may include testimonials from current schools or a club. Candidates may be invited to present a singing, musical, dance, dramatic or artistic performance. Certificates of musical/dramatic/dance grades already gained may be presented as evidence to support an application.

### *Sporting Awards*

Candidates are expected to demonstrate an aptitude in the College's mainstream sports, currently rugby, hockey, cricket (boys) and hockey, lacrosse, tennis (girls) and should present evidence of their achievements therein. This may be in the form of testimonials from current schools or a sports club. Candidates will be asked to demonstrate their sporting skill or potential during a scholarship day which will look at specific sports as well as general skill levels.

### *The Dutton Sixth Form Music Scholarship*

The Dutton Sixth Form Music Scholarship allows one student per year to take up a subsidised place at Rendcomb College in the Sixth Form, subject to suitable candidates applying. Applicants will be assessed on their performing skills, composition ability and theoretical knowledge. On the day of the Scholarship audition, candidates will be required to perform on either two instruments, or on one instrument and voice. Creative musicians with an interest in developing their ability in composition or improvisation are particularly encouraged to apply and applicants will be assessed as much on their creativity and musical potential as on their current grade level. It is expected that applicants will study A-level Music and will be expected fully to contribute to the extra-curricular musical life of the school.

From time to time the Governors may make additional scholarship awards, such as the *Centenary Scholarships*. As with all awards, there is no guarantee that these will be offered each year.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centenary Scholarships

#### **Available for entry into Year 12 in September 2020**

Up to 3 100% Scholarship places will be awarded to pupils who are anticipated to achieve at least 56 points from 8 GCSEs based on the following table:

	<b>POINTS</b>	<b>GRADE</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
9	9	A*	8.5
8	8	A	7
7	7	B	5.5
6	6	C	4
5	5	D	3
4	4	E	2
3	3		

Applicants must take part in our Year 12 Academic Scholarship process as detailed in the 'Academic Scholarship' section of this page. A minimum of 5 must be predicted for English Language and for Maths even if these do not form part of the top 8 predictions. Places offered will be on a day pupil basis; however, pupils looking for a boarding place could still

be awarded the Scholarship and choose to pay the boarding differential. The Scholarships are open to UK residents only.

Though not a prerequisite of application, preference will be given to candidates who fulfil the following:

- Pupils who offer an additional significant extracurricular contribution and will participate fully whilst at Rendcomb
- Pupils who take exams in one sitting at the end of Year 11
- Pupils who have always been educated in the state sector
- Pupils for whom independent education would be financially unachievable (means testing may be required).

#### **Year 4 Centenary Scholarships**

Up to 2 100% Scholarships will be available for pupils of exceptional academic ability who are looking to enter Year 4.

This award will only continue for the duration of a pupil's time in the Junior School. Scholars will be eligible to apply for any Senior School Scholarship and/or bursary support. In addition, having attended the Junior School from Year 4, Scholars would receive an automatic 10% discount on Senior School fees.

Pupils wishing to apply for a Centenary Scholarship will be required to sit an assessment for which no preparation is required. Places will be offered on the basis of the assessment and a meeting with the Head of Juniors.

Though not a prerequisite of application, preference will be given to candidates who fulfil the following:

- Pupils who also offer an additional significant extracurricular contribution
- Pupils who are either in the correct year group for their age or ahead by up to one year
- Pupils for whom independent education would be financially unachievable (means testing may be required)
- Pupils who have always been educated in the state sector.

## **International Awards**

### *International Exhibitions (Honorary Scholarships):*

Although having no financial value, Exhibitions (Honorary Awards) do not carry any less esteem within the school, or to wider communities such as universities and to future employers. Being awarded this exhibition is extremely important to any student and is a prestigious addition to their academic career.

The intended recipients for these awards are first-time international student applications although in certain circumstances, Exhibitions may be made to those who are already members of the school who have progressed to such a standard that their achievements merit wider recognition.

The Exhibition is awarded on merit, based on the all-round ability of a student and would best-suit a student who has the potential to be an integral part of the school body who shows a proven academic track-record as well as aptitude in sport, music, drama or art.

### *International Scholarships:*

A limited number of financial awards are given by the Head for excellence in one or more academic or extra-curricular areas.

## **Assessment Procedures**

### *7+ Candidates*

Assessment takes place normally in February/March in the year preceding entry to Year 3 in the Junior School.

### *11+ Candidates*

Assessment takes place normally in January in the year preceding entry to Year 7 in the Senior School.

### *13+ Candidates*

Assessment takes place with candidates being offered the opportunity to take an assessment in February in the year preceding entry to Year 9 in the Senior School.

### *16+ Candidates*

Assessment takes place by assessment in area of excellence and by interview with the Head. In the case of academic awards, reports and predicted examination results are taken into consideration; in some cases, an examination paper will be offered to assess suitability for an award.

## **Levels of support**

### *Bursaries*

All bursaries are means tested, allowing the school to assess the level of bursary against need. Bursarial support ranges from 10% to 100% of the standard tuition fees.

### *Scholarships*

These are set annually by the Head and may vary from year to year depending on funds available; the maximum award is currently 30%, with the exception of the Noel Wills' Scholarship.

### *The Friends of Rendcomb*

The Friends of Rendcomb is a charitable organisation which is sometimes able to offer some modest help to current Rendcomb parents who find themselves in times of crisis. Applications for support should be sent in writing to the Headmaster in the first instance.

## **How to Apply**

Please complete the Scholarships and Awards application form, making clear the type of award for which you wish to apply. Where means testing applies, the school will send you the Financial Circumstances Form, once the application form has been received. Therefore please contact the school to request a Financial Circumstances Form to complete along with the standard application/enrolment forms.

Once we have received the completed forms the college will contact you about the next step.

A confidential admissions record will be completed for each applicant.