

Academic Scholarships

Junior School, Pringle Entry to First, Second or Third forms: Age on entry: 10, 11 & 12.

One scholarship per year group

Candidates spend the day at Merchiston, and sit written Scholarship papers in English and Mathematics. They also sit a screening test, and/or a non-verbal reasoning test, and have short interviews with senior members of staff. We also take up a report from their current school, which must be available at the time of assessment.

Exam date: Saturday 19 January 2008

Closing date for entries: Friday 4 January 2008

NB: Scholarships are not available for entry at age 8 or 9, but suitably qualified candidates may be invited to sit as internal candidates at points during their school careers.

Senior School (Fourth Form and above)

Open Scholarship: Age 13+ (but must be under 14 on 1 September of entry year)

Up to two Scholarships.

Open to entrants from Preparatory schools and (by invitation) from Merchiston's Third Form.

Candidates are invited to stay at Merchiston throughout the examinations, and sit the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS) Common Scholarship papers in English, Maths, Science, Humanities and Languages (optional papers are also available including Classics). They also have a panel interview with senior staff. Sample papers are available from your son's prep school or from [IAPS](#).

Exam dates: Monday: 25 – Wednesday 27 February 2008

Closing dates for entry: Friday 15 November 2007

Main School Entrance Scholarship: Age 13+ (for entry to Fourth form) or 14+ (for entry to Shell Form)

One Scholarship for each year group

Open to entrants from all-through schools, non-prep schools, and State-maintained or independent schools. Candidates visit Merchiston for the day (overnight accommodation can also be provided), and sit Scholarship examinations in Mathematics and English and take a screening test and/or non-verbal reasoning test. They will also have a panel interview with senior staff. Entrants to the Shell form are asked to sit one further paper in a subject they wish to study at GCSE level.

Exam dates: Wednesday 27 February 2008

Closing dates for entry: Friday 4 January 2008

Sixth Form Entrance Scholarship

One scholarship may be awarded for entry into the Lower Sixth form for a two-year Sixth form programme leading to AS/A Levels. Candidates spend the day at Merchiston: (overnight accommodation can be provided), and assessment is by interview, written examination (in 3 subjects which the candidate wishes to follow at A-level) and report from a candidate's present Head Teacher, which should be available at the time of assessment.

Exam dates: Saturday 1 March 2008

Closing date for entries: Friday 1 February 2008

Sport Scholarships

Merchiston espouses a 'sport for all' philosophy and has an enviable reputation for sporting achievement. Pupils have a marvellous opportunity to experience excellent coaching at all levels of the school. In addition to the school's own facilities, Merchiston is fortunate in having access to specialist facilities in Edinburgh.

Rugby, cricket and athletics are the key sports offered to all pupils. In addition: tennis, swimming, shooting, hockey, football and cross-country may be considered (in conjunction with the three main sports). Candidates are expected to offer at least two sports for practical assessment, and to show potential to represent the school. Successful candidates will be expected to make an ongoing contribution to Merchiston's teams.

Candidates visit Merchiston during January, and sit written papers in English and Mathematics. They also sit a screening test, and/or a non-verbal reasoning test, and have practical sports assessments with coaching staff. We also take up a report from their current school, which must be available at the time of assessment. Successful candidates from Prep Schools would be expected to complete Common Entrance examinations in due course.

Junior School, Pringle - Entry to First, Second and Third forms. Age on entry: 10, 11 & 12

One scholarship per year group.

Exam date: Saturday 19 January 2008

Closing date for entries: Friday 4 January 2008

Senior School - Entry to Fourth, Shell and Lower Sixth Forms. Age on entry 13+, 14+ and 16+

One Scholarship per year group

Exam dates: Thursday/Friday 24/25 January 2008

Closing date for entries: Friday 4 January 2008

Music Scholarships / Music and Piping Bursaries – Age on entry 10-16

One scholarship per year group

Merchiston offers a breadth of instrumental and choral music, with the opportunity not only to learn, but also to perform to the school community and in the public arena, including on tours abroad. The school's orchestra, jazz band, Pipe bands, Choral Society, Chapel Choir, rock bands and other music groups play a major role in the life of the School. Music Scholarships may provide means-tested assistance with fees, plus free tuition on up to two instruments where appropriate. Bursaries offering free tuition on up to two instruments are also available. A Piping Bursary (covering piping tuition only) is available for a suitably qualified candidate. The standard of musical performance required is approximately equivalent to Grade 5 of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, but age and potential may also be taken into account. Candidates must be of good academic standard and will visit Merchiston during February for auditions, and to sit assessments. Those from Prep Schools will also be expected to achieve a sound standard at Common Entrance in due course. Candidates from non-Prep Schools sit written papers in English and Mathematics together with a screening test, and/or a non-verbal reasoning test. We also take up a report from their current school, which must be available at the time of assessment.

Audition date: Friday 1 February 2008

Closing date for entries: Friday 11 January 2008

Art & Design – Age on entry 10-16

Limited number of Scholarships

Merchiston's Art Department offers a stimulating environment for pupils wishing to follow their artistic interests and develop their skills and techniques. Candidates must be of sound academic ability and demonstrate a real talent in Art and/or Design. Assessment is by interview in conjunction with Entrance or Scholarship examination, together with screening test and/or non-verbal reasoning test. Candidates are asked to bring a portfolio of their work for discussion at interview, and to undertake a practical art assessment as well as papers in Maths and English and a screening or non-verbal reasoning test. Candidates from Prep Schools will also be expected to achieve a sound result at Common Entrance in due course. We also take up a report from their current school, which must be available at the time of assessment.

Date of assessment: Friday 1 February 2008

Closing date for entries: Friday 11 January 2008

Design & Technology Scholarships – Age on entry 13+ - 16

One scholarship

Merchiston has a custom-built Design Technology, ICT and Electronics centre, offering a wonderful opportunity to pupils interested in these subjects. Design Technology is offered at GCSE, AS/ A Level and as an SQA Higher subject. Electronics is offered at GCSE and AS/A Level, and ICT at AS/A Level. These subjects are popular choices at school and thereafter at University and as career choices. Candidates must demonstrate excellent academic ability and a real technological aptitude and interest in ICT, Electronics or Design Technology. Candidates are asked to bring examples of their previous work or projects for discussion at interview, and to undertake a practical assessment as well as papers in Maths and English and a screening or non-verbal reasoning test. Candidates from Prep Schools will also be expected to achieve a sound result at Common Entrance in due course. We also take up a report from their current school, which must be available at the time of assessment.

Date of assessment: Friday 1 February 2008

Closing date for entries: Friday 11 January 2008

All-Rounder Scholarships – Age on entry 10-16

Up to two Awards per year group.

Merchiston's pupils are very much encouraged to develop a wide range of skills and interests, and the School offers wonderful opportunities for academic and extra-curricular activities. A limited number of scholarships can be offered to all-round candidates. To qualify, pupils must be of above average academic ability and be able to offer a major contribution to the School in one or more of the following areas: Music, Drama, Art, Debating, Technology, Sport, Leadership. Candidates will take assessments in English and Mathematics, plus screening or Non-Verbal

Reasoning test, report from current school, and practical assessment in areas of specialism and/or presentation of work.

Junior School Assessment dates: (10 – 12 years) – Saturday 19 January 2008

Closing date for entries: Friday 4 January 2008

Senior School Assessment dates: (13, 14, 16 years) - Thursday/Friday 24/25 January 2008

Closing date for entry: Friday 4 January 2008

Laidlaw Scholarships (from September 2008) - Age on entry 13+, 14+ or 16+

Up to 2 scholarships per year

Open to candidates from State-maintained schools only in Scotland (or UK), aged 13+, 14+ or 16+ (entry as boarding pupils to Fourth or Shell Forms, or to Lower Sixth Form). Through the generosity of Lord Laidlaw of Rothimay (an educational philanthropist and former Merchiston pupil), the School is able offer Scholarships to 2 pupils throughout their school careers at Merchiston. Candidates must be of above average academic ability, and be able to show considerable potential to make an exceptional contribution to the school in one or more of the following areas: art, drama, music, technology, design. Awards are means-tested and are therefore available to pupils who would otherwise not be able to attend Merchiston. Where appropriate, funding may also be available for travel, uniform and other expenses.

Candidates will be invited to Merchiston to tour the school, and then to undertake entrance assessments, auditions and interviews appropriate to their year group of entry (Fourth and Shell Form – English and Maths; Sixth Form – 3 subjects to be followed at AS/A level). Where specialist areas of skill are offered, the entrance criteria for these will be as shown above for Art, Music, and Design & Technology Awards. Candidates offering Drama will be asked to audition a prepared piece, and also to undertake some *extempore* exercises. Portfolios of work or prior experience may also be requested.

Date of assessment: Friday 1 February 2008

Closing date for entries: Friday 11 January 2008

Scholarships for International Pupils

One per country per year (Entry to Fourth, Shell and Lower Sixth Form)

Merchiston will consider exceptional (non-UK national) candidates for the honour of a scholarship, depending upon their level of success in entrance examinations. In addition, the School will consider requests for support with fees from International families. As with UK applicants, parents are asked to make a disclosure of their current financial circumstances in support of their application. Previous and current scholarship holders have come from China, Hong Kong, Fiji, Japan, Barbados, Kenya, India and Germany. Candidates must remain with the school for a minimum of 3 terms to be eligible for the award of a scholarship.

The Dresden Scholars' Scheme. Merchiston offers one place per year at significantly reduced fees (50% concession) to a suitably qualified German candidate from Dresden, or from other areas of Saxony. For further details of the scheme, please contact the Director of Admissions at Merchiston (admissions@merchiston.co.uk) or The British-German Association/The Dresden Trust, 34 Belgrave Square, London SW1 XQB. Tel: +44 (0)20 72351922, Fax: +44 (0)20 72351902, email: bgaassistant2@btconnect.com

(HMC Projects) Scholarships in Central and Eastern Europe

Merchiston offers one scholarship per year to a suitably qualified candidate from countries in Central and Eastern Europe. For further details, please contact the Director of Admissions at Merchiston (admissions@merchiston.co.uk) or HMC Projects in Central and Eastern Europe, 12 The Point, Rockingham Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, England LE16 7QU. Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1983 883875, email: ptobin1@btinternet.com