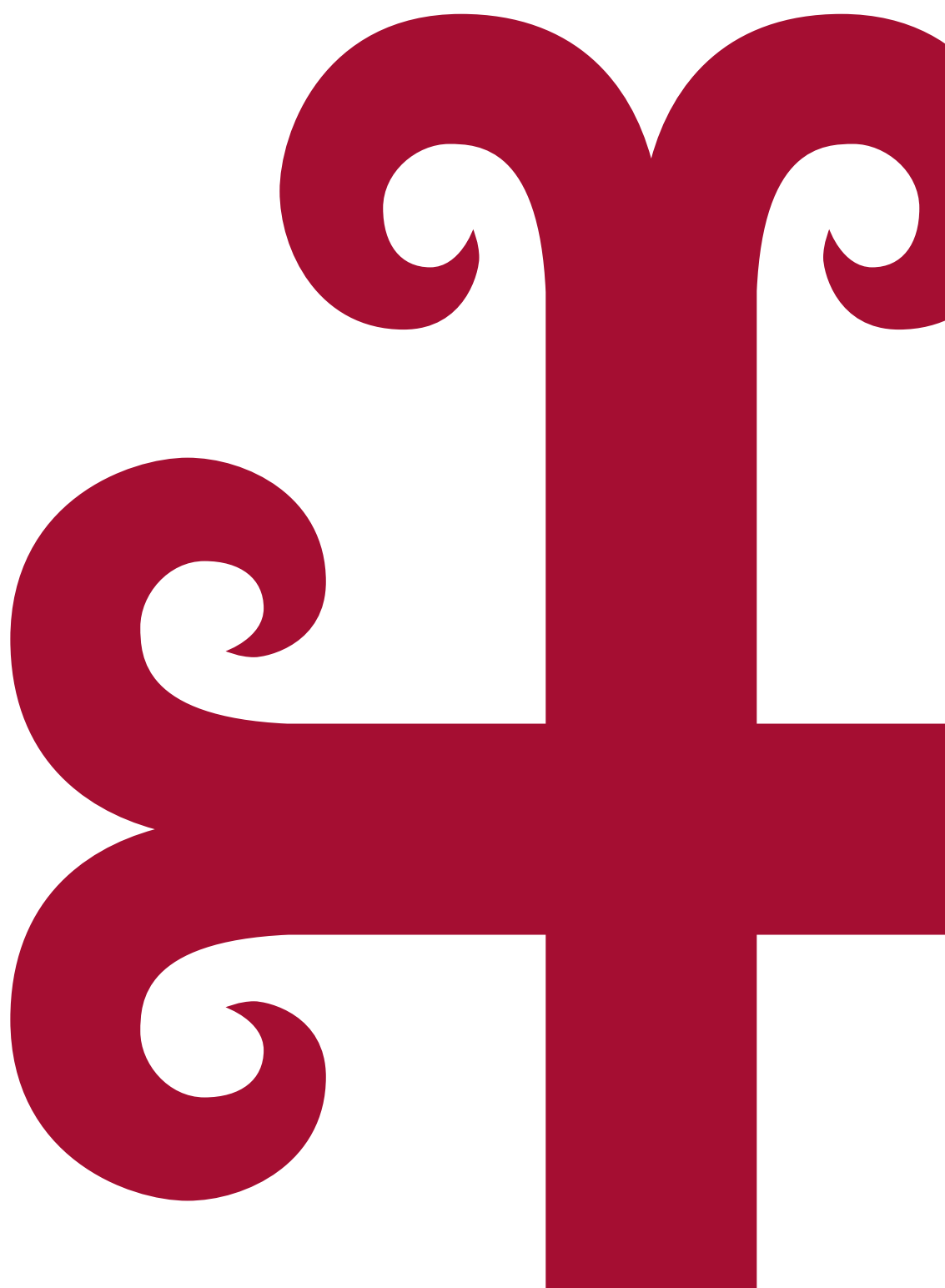


 DOWNSIDE SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIPS





OUR VISION

Downside's vision, as a Catholic and Benedictine school with Christ at its centre, is to be a bright light in education and to inspire service in our world.

“STAFF ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO TRY THEIR BEST AND THEY ACCOMPLISH MANY OUTSTANDING OUTCOMES. THIS UNDERPINS THE BELIEF THAT EACH STUDENT HAS GIFTS AND TALENTS WHICH ARE UNIQUE TO THEM.”

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE 2024

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GENERAL INFORMATION



Downside School offers scholarships for pupils at Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. The number and size of awards in any particular year are at the discretion of the Head. A scholarship is a recognition of exceptional ability and promise and may be accompanied by a financial reward.

The bestowal of any Award carries with it privilege and responsibility. Every scholar is expected to set an example to other pupils in their approach to academic study and participation in the fuller life of the School. The review will consider whether the holder's academic progress and general conduct remain satisfactory and if the holder continues enthusiastically to fulfill the obligations associated with the Award. The progress of Award holders is monitored annually.

Application forms and further details of the Awards available can be obtained from the Admissions Office. The Head of an applicant's current school will be asked to submit a reference. The Academic Leadership Team member, the Director of Sport, the Director of Performing Arts, the Head of Art and the Head of Design are very happy to speak informally to applicants and their parents at any stage.

AWARDS AT YEAR 7 & 8

There are a number of scholarships available to pupils hoping to enter Downside in Year 7 and 8 (i.e. for Y7 those must be under 12 on 1st September in the year of their admission to the School). Awards are based upon an assessment of potential as well as achievement. Parents will be expected to respond within two weeks of receiving a letter offering a scholarship, confirming whether they wish to accept the Award on behalf of their child, or else the School reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship.

The following scholarship categories are available for Year 7 & 8 entry:

- Academic
- All Rounder
- Art
- Bevan Choral Scholarship
- Choral
- Design Technology (DT)
- Drama
- Music
- Sport

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Awards are made on the basis of examinations and interviews. Applicants are invited to visit the School on the assessment date in January prior to entry to sit papers in English and Mathematics. Our Academic scholars enjoy a variety of enriching activities that include listening to talks by visiting speakers. There are regular Scholars Suppers, each hosted by an academic department where they take the opportunity to go beyond the curriculum.

ALL ROUNDER AWARDS

Candidates who apply for two or more Awards will be automatically considered for an All Rounder Award. There is no separate application process for an All Rounder Award.





ART AWARDS

Awards are made available to pupils showing exceptional artistic promise. The Award is offered following interviews and a set task which involves observational drawing held in January prior to entry. Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of work, which will demonstrate their natural ability and enthusiasm. It is expected that applicants are able to draw well and have a good understanding of three-dimensional form. Whilst there is no specific requirement for applicants to have worked in any particular medium, each portfolio must show evidence of creativity and imagination and include:

- drawing, painting or modelling from observation
- work using a variety of materials that might include charcoal, pencil, inks, watercolours, oils, acrylics, clay, plaster and papier-mâché
- computer art and film

Applicants are asked to submit a minimum of eight pieces of work, and to bring their recent sketch books to the interview. Photographic evidence of 3D work is acceptable in circumstances where it is impractical to submit artwork. Work produced digitally can be submitted as a digital file in advance or brought to the interview on a USB stick. Pupils must also have visited at least two exhibitions at museums or galleries, and be prepared to discuss their visit with the Head of Art at the interview. Art scholars will be enthusiastic about their work in the sphere of art and design and will naturally spend additional time, beyond their curricular commitment, in the art studios supporting the department. They will be expected to act as a champion for art in the School, including studying Art A level.

BEVAN CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Bevan Choral Scholarship is awarded annually at the discretion of the Director of Choral and Liturgical Music to an exceptional candidate applying for one of our Choral Scholarships. Bevan Choral Scholars will demonstrate a deep passion for liturgical and choral music. Their involvement in the Schola Cantorum and the Chamber Choir, including the opportunity to sing a full choral Mass each week, allows them to take a leading role in sustaining and enriching Downside's unique choral tradition.

CHORAL AWARDS

Choral scholarships are offered following auditions and interviews held in the January of the year of entry to the School. Auditions consist of aural tests, sight-reading and the performance of two prepared pieces to be chosen by the applicant. Successful applicants will receive free vocal tuition. Choral scholars have the same duties and obligations as music scholars and are expected to be committed members of our Schola Cantorum and Chamber Choirs; this includes singing at school mass on Sundays.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (DT) AWARDS

DT scholarships are available annually following interview and assessment in the January of the year of entry to the School. DT scholars will be required to study DT to GCSE level and typically will proceed to A level and, while no specific undertaking is required with regard to this, it is understood that work within the School's Design Department will be an important focus throughout their time in the School. Continued tenure of the award will be conditional upon the fulfillment of this requirement, as well as upon the maintenance of excellent general progress.

Applicants are asked to produce a digital portfolio which gives evidence of the development process behind the key pieces of project work they have developed in school or elsewhere in the recent past. Project work should be presented through photographs showing a clear and accurate indication of the work's quality and its various stages of development, including evidence of prototypes, if appropriate. The digital component could be a PowerPoint presentation, a PDF or a hosted web page. This will need to be sent to admissions@downside.co.uk a week prior to the interview date.

One piece of three-dimensional work may be brought to the interview and this piece should have been described during at least part of the digital portfolio. Work brought to Downside must be marked with the candidate's name and school. The 3D piece may be left at the School Reception in advance of the interview day or brought to School on the day of the interview. Candidates will be asked to undertake a product analysis exercise during their assessment.

They will also have an interview with the Head of Design Technology, providing each candidate with an opportunity to talk about the practical work that they have undertaken and to expand on the material included in their portfolio. Candidates will also be encouraged to discuss some of their favourite products or designers whose work interests them.

DRAMA AWARDS

Downside School invites talented performers to audition for a Drama Award. Drama scholars are expected to make a commitment to all aspects of theatre at Downside, both on and off the stage. The interview will assess a pupil's understanding of theatre practices, involvement in productions and performances, as well as an opportunity to talk about the live theatre. The audition will consist of a short extract which must be memorised, rehearsed and performed, together with an interview and participation in an improvisation either as part of a group or as an individual. Previous experience of and achievement in LAMDA would be an advantage.



MUSIC AWARDS

Music scholarships are offered following auditions and interviews held in the January of the year of entry to the School. Successful applicants will receive free tuition on their first instrument/voice.

Applicants are normally required to have achieved at least Grade 3 in the Associated Board or equivalent examinations on one instrument. It is an advantage if the applicant also has the ability to sing or can play more than one instrument. Composition is not required, but evidence of ability in composition will be viewed favourably. The audition lasts about twenty minutes and tests musical ability as well as assessing the applicant's potential as a musician. It includes prepared performance(s), scales, aural and sight-reading tests, and questions on general musical knowledge.

Music scholars are expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead with regard to Music at Downside, and to support all school ensembles and choirs, as required, throughout their school career as a scholar.

SPORT AWARDS

Downside School makes available awards to Year 6 pupils of exceptional sporting ability and promise, following interviews and assessments held in the January of the year of entry to the School.

Successful applicants, whilst also being academically ambitious, are expected to make a significant contribution to the sporting life of the School, in particular to the major games offered. The major sports for boys are rugby, hockey and cricket; the major sports for girls are hockey, netball and tennis. Applicants are invited to visit Downside to look around the School and its facilities and to meet and be interviewed by various members of the Sports staff. Applicants take part in an assessment of their sporting ability as part of the interview process. The opportunity to assess applicants playing for their current schools or clubs is particularly welcomed.

It is likely that successful applicants will already be playing a major sport at school and club level or above. They will have made a significant contribution to the life of the school in which they are currently studying, and will show the same commitment to Downside throughout their school career. Scholars are expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead with regard to all sports at Downside and to be pupils who demonstrate the core values of Downside Sport – Discipline, Humility and Stewardship.



AWARDS AT YEAR 9 & 10

A number of scholarships are available to pupils prior to entering Year 9 and 10 at Downside School (i.e. applicants for Y9 must be under 14 on 1st September in the year of their admission). Awards are based upon an assessment of potential as well as achievement. Parents will be expected to respond within two weeks of receiving a letter offering a scholarship, confirming whether they wish to accept the Award on behalf of their child, or else the School reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship.

The following scholarship categories are available for Year 9 and 10 entry:

- Academic
- All Rounder
- Art
- Bevan Choral Scholarship
- Choral
- Design Technology (DT)
- Drama
- Music
- Sill Organ Scholarship
- Sport

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Academic Awards are made on the basis of performance in the School's own scholarship examinations, which are held in January, in the year of entry to the School. Applicants sit the papers at Downside and may stay at the School for the period of the examination process, unless they live close to the School or have alternative accommodation.

All applicants are expected to sit papers in English, Maths & Science (90 minutes) plus two optional papers of their choice. All candidates will have an interview with the Head or a member of the Academic Leadership Team. Academic scholars are expected to take a lead in setting high standards with regard to academic achievement. They will have enquiring minds and be assiduous readers, and will actively seek opportunities to broaden their minds, increase their knowledge and hone their powers of reasoning.

Our Academic scholars enjoy a variety of enriching activities that include listening to talks by visiting speakers, and scholars are given opportunities to work on projects. Scholars are encouraged to explore and develop their academic passions, fully supported by a dedicated team.







ALL ROUNDER AWARDS

Candidates who apply for two or more Awards will be automatically considered for an All Rounder Award. There is no separate application process for an All Rounder Award. Pupils from All Hallows Prep School will be considered for the Francis Dix Award in Year 9, which will be assessed in the same way as other scholars for All Rounder Awards.

ART AWARDS

Art scholarships are available for applicants who show significant artistic promise. An award is offered following interviews and a set task, involving observational drawing, held in the Lent Term in the year of entry to the School.

Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of work, which will demonstrate their natural ability and enthusiasm. It is expected that applicants are able to draw well and have a good understanding of three-dimensional form. Whilst there is no specific requirement for applicants to have worked in any particular medium, each portfolio must show evidence of creativity and imagination and could include:

- drawing, painting or modelling from observation
- work using a variety of materials that might include charcoal, pencil, inks, watercolours, oils, acrylics, clay, plaster and papier-mâché
- computer art and film

Applicants are asked to submit a minimum of eight pieces of work and to bring their recent sketch books to the interview. Photographic or digital evidence of 3D work is acceptable in circumstances where it is impracticable to submit the actual artefact. Work produced digitally can be submitted as a digital file in advance or brought to the interview on a USB stick. Candidates must also have visited at least two exhibitions at museums or galleries and be prepared to discuss their visits with the Head of Art at the interview.

Art scholars will be enthusiastic about their work in the sphere of Art and Design and will naturally spend additional time, beyond their curricular commitment, in the art studios. They will be willing to experiment with a wide range of media, and be keen to familiarise themselves with the work of other artists through visits to galleries and workshops. Art scholars are expected to study Art as an academic subject to GCSE with a desire to go up to A level.

BEVAN CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Bevan Choral Scholarship is awarded annually at the discretion of the Director of Choral and Liturgical Music to an exceptional candidate applying for one of our Choral Scholarships. Bevan Choral Scholars will demonstrate a deep passion for liturgical and choral music. Their involvement in the Schola Cantorum and the Chamber Choir, including the opportunity to sing a full choral Mass each week, allows them to take a leading role in sustaining and enriching Downside's unique choral tradition.

CHORAL AWARDS

Choral scholarships are offered following auditions, consisting of aural tests, sight-reading and the performance of prepared piece to be chosen by the applicant, held in the January of the year of entry to the School. Special consideration will be given to cathedral choristers. Successful applicants receive free instrumental/vocal tuition, and may also receive a remission on fees. Choral scholars have the same duties and obligations as music scholars, and are expected to be committed members of our Schola Cantorum and Chamber Choirs; this includes singing at school mass on Sundays. Involvement with the Schola Cantorum and Chamber Choirs provides the opportunity to be a leader in Downside's unique tradition whilst expanding their skills and expertise.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (DT) AWARDS

DT scholarships are available annually following interview and assessment in the January of the year of entry to the School. DT scholars will be required to study DT to GCSE level and typically will proceed to A level and, while no specific undertaking is required with regard to this, it is understood that work within the School's Design Department will be an important focus throughout their time in the School. Continued tenure of the award will be conditional upon the fulfillment of this requirement, as well as upon the maintenance of excellent general progress.

Applicants are asked to produce a digital portfolio which gives evidence of the development process behind the key pieces of project work they have developed in school or elsewhere in the recent past. Project work should be presented through photographs showing a clear and accurate indication of the work's quality and its various stages of development, including evidence of prototypes, if appropriate. The digital component could be a PowerPoint presentation, a PDF or a hosted web page. This will need to be sent to admissions@downside.co.uk a week prior to the interview date.

One piece of three-dimensional work may be brought to the interview and this piece should have been described during at least part of the digital portfolio. Work brought to Downside must be marked with the candidate's name and school. The 3D piece may be left at the School Reception in advance of the interview day or brought to School on the day of the interview. Candidates will be asked to undertake a product analysis exercise during their assessment.



They will also have an interview with the Head of Design Technology, providing each candidate with an opportunity to talk about the practical work that they have undertaken and to expand on the material included in their portfolio. Candidates will also be encouraged to discuss some of their favourite products or designers whose work interests them.

DRAMA AWARDS

Downside School invites talented performers to audition for a Drama Award. Drama scholars are expected to make a commitment to all aspects of theatre at Downside, both on and off the stage. The interview will assess a pupil's understanding of theatre practices, involvement in productions and performances, as well as an opportunity to talk about the live theatre. The audition will consist of a short extract which must be memorised, rehearsed and performed, together with an interview and participation in an improvisation either as part of a group or as an individual. Previous experience of and achievement in LAMDA would be an advantage.

MUSIC AWARDS

Music scholarships are offered following auditions and interviews held in January in the year of entry to the School. Successful applicants receive free instrumental/vocal tuition, on their first study instrument/voice and may also receive funding for tuition on a second instrument/voice or a remission on fees.

Applicants are normally required to have achieved at least Grade 5 in the Associated Board or similar examinations on one instrument/voice.

It is an advantage if the applicant also has the ability to sing or can play more than one instrument.

A pass in Grade 5 Theory is a desirable qualification. Composition is not required, but evidence of ability in composition will be viewed favourably. Auditions consist of a performance on the pupil's first instrument of two prepared pieces chosen by the candidate, together with one piece on any subsequent instrument (and/or voice), aural tests and sight-reading. The audition typically lasts about 25 minutes and tests musical ability as well as potential.

Music scholars are expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead in Music at Downside, and to support all School ensembles and choirs, as required, throughout their school career. Music scholars are expected to study Music as an academic subject to GCSE level. Many of our music scholars go on to succeed at A level music and grade 8 and diploma qualifications in their chosen discipline.



SILL ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Successful holders of The Sill Organ Scholarship will be offered up to 100% remission on fees. Candidates should be confident, enthusiastic organists with demonstrable potential and a strong commitment to musical excellence. At the time of application, organists should be at Grade 4/5 standard and have an interest in pursuing further musical opportunities beyond Downside, such as University or conservatoire organ scholarships.

Organ Scholars are expected to contribute reliably and generously to the wider musical life of the School, alongside other Music Scholars. The ability to play an additional instrument is advantageous and may help distinguish candidates, though it is not essential. Scholars receive two free music lessons per week with specialist teachers in their chosen instrument and benefit from dedicated support to help balance academic studies with rehearsals, private practice, and co-curricular activities. Applicants are encouraged to visit Downside ahead of the January assessment date in the year prior to entry.

SPORT AWARDS

Each year Downside makes available Awards to pupils of exceptional sporting ability and promise, following interviews and assessments held in the January of the year of entry to the School. Successful applicants, whilst also being academically ambitious, are expected to make a significant contribution to the sporting life of the School, in particular to the major games offered. The major sports for boys are rugby, hockey and cricket; the major sports for girls are hockey, netball and tennis. Applicants are invited to visit Downside to look around the School and its facilities and to meet and be interviewed by various members of the Sports staff. Applicants take part in an assessment of their sporting ability as part of the interview process. The opportunity to assess applicants playing for their current schools or clubs is particularly welcomed.

It is likely that successful applicants will already be playing a major sport at county level or above, or can show demonstrable potential to do so in the near future. They will have made a significant contribution to the life of the School in which they are currently studying, and will show the same commitment to Downside throughout their school career. Scholars are expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead with regard to all sports at Downside, and to be pupils who demonstrate the core values of Downside Sport – Discipline, Humility and Stewardship.

ENTRANCE AWARDS AT YEAR 12

Downside makes available a number of scholarships to pupils applying to enter the Lower Sixth Form (Year 12). Applicants for all awards must be under 17 on 1st September in the year of their admission to the Sixth Form. Awards are based upon an assessment of potential as well as achievement. Parents will be expected to respond within two weeks of receiving a letter offering a scholarship, confirming whether they wish to accept the award on behalf of their child, or else the School reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship.

The following scholarship categories are available for Year 12 entry:

- Academic
- All Rounder
- Art
- Bevan Choral Scholarship
- Choral
- Drama & Theatre
- Music
- Product Design
- Sill Organ Scholarship
- Sport

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Awards are made to pupils of outstanding academic ability and promise, on the basis of examinations and interviews. Applicants will be asked to sit three examination papers, each lasting 60 minutes; two from the academic subjects which they propose to study for A level and a General Paper. Applicants are also interviewed by a member of the Academic Leadership Team. The standard of the papers is at least as demanding as GCSE, with elements aimed to stretch the more able, and the content is such as to enable applicants to demonstrate flair as well as academic potential. Account is taken of the fact that applicants may not have finished the relevant GCSE course and of the demands made by different specifications.

Academic scholars are expected to take a lead in setting the highest standards with regard to academic achievement and investigation. Successful applicants for academic awards would normally be expected to achieve grade levels 7 to 9 in all of their GCSE subjects prior to taking up their place in the Sixth Form at Downside. Academic scholars are expected to participate in the School's Academic Enrichment Programme which focusses on raising pupils' academic horizons and prepares them for undergraduate study at leading universities. The Academic scholars meet weekly, giving talks on a variety of different topics which previously have included; The Brazilian elections, misogyny in the music industry, Dyson spheres, the development of Mauritian creole, Holocaust deniers, dissecting a sentence and when is it medically unethical to save a life? There are regular Scholars Suppers, each hosted by an academic department where they take the opportunity to go beyond the curriculum.



ALL ROUNDER AWARDS

Candidates who apply for two or more Awards will be automatically considered for an All Rounder Award. There is no separate application process for an All Rounder Award.

ART AWARDS

Awards are made available to pupils showing exceptional artistic promise. The Award is offered following interviews and a set task which involves observational drawing held in November prior to entry. Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of work, which will demonstrate their natural ability and enthusiasm. It is expected that applicants are able to draw well and have a good understanding of three-dimensional form. Whilst there is no specific requirement for applicants to have worked in any particular medium, each portfolio must show evidence of creativity and imagination and include:

- drawing, painting or modelling from observation
- work using a variety of materials that might include charcoal, pencil, inks, watercolours, oils, acrylics, clay, plaster and papier-mâché
- computer art and film

Applicants are asked to submit a minimum of eight pieces of work, and to bring their recent sketch books to the interview. Photographic evidence of 3D work is acceptable in circumstances where it is impractical to submit artwork. Work produced digitally can be submitted as a digital file in advance or brought to the interview on a USB stick. Pupils must also have visited at least two exhibitions at museums or galleries, and be prepared to discuss their visit with the Head of Art at the interview. Art scholars will be enthusiastic about their work in the sphere of art and design and will naturally spend additional time, beyond their curricular commitment, in the art studios supporting the department. They will be expected to act as a champion for art in the School, including studying Art A level.

BEVAN CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Bevan Choral Scholarship is awarded annually at the discretion of the Director of Choral and Liturgical Music to an exceptional candidate applying for one of our Choral Scholarships. Bevan Choral Scholars will demonstrate a deep passion for liturgical and choral music. Their involvement in the Schola Cantorum and the Chamber Choir, including the opportunity to sing a full choral Mass each week, allows them to take a leading role in sustaining and enriching Downside's unique choral tradition.

CHORAL AWARDS

Choral scholarships are made following auditions and interviews to be held in November prior to entry. Successful applicants receive free vocal tuition and may also receive a remission in fees or funding for tuition on a second instrument. Choral scholars have the same duties and obligations as Sixth Form music scholars and are expected to be committed members of our Schola Cantorum and Chamber Choirs; this includes singing at school mass on Sundays.

DRAMA & THEATRE AWARDS

Downside School invites talented performers to audition for a Drama award. Drama & Theatre scholars are expected to make a commitment to all aspects of theatre at Downside, both on and off the stage. The interview will assess a pupil's understanding of theatre practices, involvement in productions and performances, and it is expected candidates will demonstrate significant contribution and commitment to theatre arts, as well be able to talk about live theatre. The audition will consist of a short extract which must be memorised, rehearsed and performed, and participation in an improvisation, either as part of a group or as an individual. Previous experience of, and achievement in, LAMDA could be an advantage. On-site assessment at the pupil's school may also be considered if they are involved in a current production.

MUSIC AWARDS

Music scholarships are offered following auditions and interviews held in the November prior to entry. Successful applicants receive free instrumental/vocal tuition. Applicants at Year 12 are normally required to have achieved Grade 8 in Associated Board or similar examinations in at least one instrument and a pass in the Grade 5 Theory Examination is a desirable qualification. It is an advantage if the applicant also has the ability to sing or can play more than one instrument. Applications from versatile, committed musicians of more modest attainment in terms of grades are also encouraged. Composition is not required, but evidence of ability in composition will be viewed favourably. The audition typically lasts about 30 minutes and tests musical ability and potential. It includes prepared performances, scales, aural and sight-reading tests, and questions on general musical knowledge.

Music scholars are expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead in Music at Downside and to support all School ensembles and choirs, as required, throughout their school career. They usually study Music as an academic subject at A level, but are not required to do so. Many of our music scholars go on to study music and/or performance at University or music conservatories and we are experienced in supporting pupils through the application process for these institutions.



PRODUCT DESIGN AWARDS

A Product Design Scholarship is applied for through interview and assessment in the November prior to entry. Design scholars will be required to study Product Design to A level and should be predicted at least a Grade 7 at GCSE. It is understood that work within the School's Design Department will be an important focus throughout the pupil's time at Downside. Continued tenure of the award will be conditional upon the fulfilment of this requirement, as well as continuation of excellent general progress.

Applicants are asked to produce a digital portfolio to give evidence of the development process behind the key pieces of project work they have developed in school or elsewhere in the recent past. Project work should be presented through photographs showing a clear and accurate indication of the work's quality and its various stages of development, including evidence of prototypes, if appropriate. The digital component could be a PowerPoint presentation, a PDF or a hosted web page. This will need to be sent to admissions@downside.co.uk a week prior to the interview date.

One piece of three-dimensional work may be brought to the interview (or photographic evidence of it if not readily portable) and this piece should have been described during at least part of the digital portfolio. Work brought to school must be marked with the candidate's name and school. The 3D piece may be left at Reception in advance of the interview day or brought to school on the day of the interview. Candidates will be asked to undertake a product analysis exercise during their assessment. They will also have an interview with the Head of Design Technology, providing each candidate with an opportunity to talk about the practical work they have undertaken and to expand on the material included in their portfolio. Candidates will also be encouraged to discuss some of their favourite products or designers whose work interests them.

SILL ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Successful holders of The Sill Organ Scholarship will be offered fully financed boarding places for the two years of Sixth Form. Applicants should be established, confident and enthusiastic organists, with demonstrable, excellent potential. At the time of application, organists should be at Grade 7 standard and have an interest in a University or conservatoire organ scholarship after Downside. Alongside Downside's Music Scholars in other disciplines, Downside's Organ Scholars are expected to contribute with reliability and generosity to the School's wider musical life. The ability to play another instrument would be an advantage and may be used to differentiate between candidates, but is not a pre-requisite. Organ scholars receive two free music lessons a week from the specialists in their chosen instrument and will receive dedicated support to ensure that they are able to balance their studies with rehearsals, private practice, and the wide range of co-curricular activities available. Applicants are invited to visit Downside ahead of the November assessment date, in the year prior to entry.

SPORT AWARDS

Awards are available to pupils who show exceptional sporting ability and potential, following interviews and assessments held in the November prior to entry. Successful applicants, whilst also being academically ambitious, are expected to make a significant contribution to the sporting life of the School, in particular to the major games offered. The major sports for boys are rugby, hockey and cricket; the major sports for girls are hockey, netball and tennis. Applicants are invited to visit Downside to look around the School and its facilities and to meet and be interviewed by various members of the Sports staff. Applicants take part in an assessment of their sporting ability as part of the interview process. The opportunity to assess applicants playing for their current schools or clubs is particularly welcomed. It is likely that successful applicants will already be playing a major sport at county level or above. They will have made a significant contribution to the life of the School in which they are currently studying, and will show the same commitment to Downside throughout their school career. They will be expected to take an active and enthusiastic lead with regard to all sports at Downside and to be pupils who have strong personal qualities of fairness, loyalty and leadership. Scholars are expected to demonstrate the core values of Downside Sport – Discipline, Humility and Stewardship.



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