

Performance Swimming - Scholarship Awards

Introduction

1.1 Pupils at St George's have the opportunity to compete in many different sports, however, the School has identified Swimming as a sport in which it wishes to focus on ensuring strong representation and notable competitive success. To achieve this, the School manages a performance swimming programme and allocates resources specifically to achieve this aim.

1.2 To ensure success, it is important that the School attracts pupils who not only benefit from a broad education, but are also able to excel in the pool. To achieve this, the School provides a limited number of enhanced swimming scholarships. As a reflection of this commitment, this policy is written to guide the selection and retention of talented swimmers while also complementing the wider Admissions, Scholarships and Bursary policies and processes.

1.3 The School retains the right to make judgements and alterations to the policy as required.

Scope

2.1 The scope of the Scholarship will apply to the costs of either day or boarding fees. The level of fee remission may be as high as 70% and if further financial support is required, then the parents are invited to apply for bursary support as provided under the Bursary policy. If flexible boarding can be justified, for example the night prior to a major swimming gala, then the School will agree to discounting the rate for this, in line with the level of the scholarship. If there is no connection to an event, then flexible boarding will be charged at the full rate. Parents should clarify this in advance and the Director of Sport is responsible for this decision, referring to the Bursar if needed. Other than lunch, meals taken at the School, which are not included within the boarding charge, will not be discounted.

2.2 In addition to providing a full education, the Scholarship will include the provision of pool usage and land training within the standard programme as outlined by the School. It does not include a remission of extra charges taken as part of the pupil's wider education. Performance swimming coaching is not currently charged but the School reserves the right to introduce this at a competitive rate, with one term's notice. Entry fees for events will be charged to parents. Due to the nature

of swimming events, it will often be necessary for parents to take their daughter to compete, or to cover the cost of their travel and accommodation. Certain team events may be covered by the School, who will notify parents accordingly.

2.3 It is a requirement that all pupils accepted on to the Performance Swimming Programme purchase the required Performance Swimming kit. This kit is to be worn at all events when competing for St George's Ascot Swimming Club.

The Case for Assistance and Selection

3.1 The School will make judgement on the size of the award and this is likely to reflect past achievements and potential of the pupil. In addition to all of the usual entry requirements, such as academic standards, factors to be considered will include such elements as the swimming squad requirements, potential and ambition. The award is not meant to supplant the bursary scheme which gives greater consideration to parents' financial circumstances. Performance Swimming scholarships are therefore not means tested.

3.2 Applications for Performance Swimming scholarships should usually follow the timeline outlined under the School's other scholarship awards. However, in the case of exceptional talent, or in the early years of the programme, the School will consider out of phase applications.

Requirements and Standards

3.3 The pupil is to meet all of the usual requirements for the offer of a place at St George's and this will be at the discretion of the Head. Any application for a performance swimming scholarship is to include the following additional elements:

- a. A proven track record in swimming, having qualified for 3 county championship events
- b. Swim England membership number (or equivalent overseas database number)
- c. Details of their current club
- d. Reference from their current club
- e. Current training hours per week
- f. Number of County Qualifying Times
- g. Number of Regional Qualifying Times
- h. Goal for this year

3.4 Please note that:

- Swimmers within the Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire area must have qualified for at least three events at the County Championships (in the current year of application).
- Swimmers from other counties must also have at least three qualifying times and these will be compared (using the national database) to the Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire qualifying times to confirm eligibility.
- Applicants living overseas will need to provide a list of PB times for all four strokes in 50 and 100m events, as well as 200m Freestyle and IM plus any other times that they have that might be comparable.

3.5 To be eligible for, and to maintain this scholarship, the pupil's parents must provide approval for the School to promote and market the individual's swimming progress and successes achieved.

3.6 The application is to be reviewed by the Director of Sport in consultation with the Head of Swimming and the Performance Swimming Coach. The recommendation is then to be forwarded to Admissions and the Bursar with the final decision being made by the Head.

3.7 A covering letter is to be submitted to the Head explaining the reasons for the application and any other pertinent points. In addition, the annex in this document is to be completed as a Google form (link placed on the Performance Swimming page of the scholarship section of the website) and the covering letter emailed to admissions@stgeorges-ascot.org.uk.

3.8 The School would usually expect the applicant to attend a swimming assessment day which would be organised by the Head of Swimming. Where this may not be practical, for example if the applicant is overseas, other arrangements may be made. The assessment day will usually be scheduled for early in February and swimmers will be notified shortly after this date as to whether they have been accepted onto the programme. If applicable, bursary results will also be announced at this point. Prior to this, parents will receive information about the process for obtaining a place at St George's, regardless of whether this is for Performance Swimming or not.

Maintaining the Award

4.1 Attendance at the School remains subject to all of the other policies and our contract with parents. The continuance of a specific Performance Swimming scholarship is dependent on the pupil continuing to fully engage with all aspects of the programme, including attendance at all training sessions and competitive events, and seeking to realise their potential. Motivation, attendance and achievement are some of the measures that will be assessed and recorded. Records, such as attendance levels, will be maintained by the Performance Swimming Coach.

4.2 If, in the opinion of the School, the pupil is not meeting the standards required to maintain the level of the award, the continuation of the award will be reviewed. The parents are to be informed of the School's intention to conduct a review and are to be told of the options to: continue the award, reduce the level of support, or to remove it in entirety. It is realised that injury may also impact on performance and this will be taken into account; however, all injuries that require a pupil not to swim for a prolonged period of greater than 7 days should be authorised with a doctor's note. It is the responsibility of the parent to regularly update the Performance Swimming Coach with their progress of injury recovery and to ensure that the athlete is doing all they can to return to full training swiftly.

4.3 In reviewing any adjustments to the scholarship, the School will consider the requirement to provide one full term's notice and/or the stage of education that the pupil is at. The principle adopted is to ensure that a pupil's education is not adversely affected by a factor that may be out of their control, for example an enduring injury.

4.4 It is probable that poor performance will be first identified by the Swimming Coach. If it becomes necessary, the Coach or Head of Swimming will notify the Director of Sport who will consider how to best progress this; actions may include early engagement with the swimmer or their parents and the provision of a performance improvement plan may be considered. The usual timescale for this is one week but this is to be a guide.

Conclusion

5.1 The enhanced swimming scholarship scheme offers considerable opportunity to talented swimmers. It is a mark of the School's commitment to the sport and the high value of the award requires that recipients also make a significant commitment.

We view this as a partnership that not only seeks to bring out a pupil's fullest potential but also one that will benefit the wider School community.

Bursar
January 2026