

# | Scholarships



Queen Margaret's  
School for Girls

Escrick Park, York





**Our girls are inspired to be incredible. We nurture them to fulfil their ambitions, to realise their potential and to become the best women they can be.**

**Our Scholarship Programme is designed to recognise excellence, develop commitment and resilience, provide excitement and challenge, and to celebrate success. We offer Academic, Art, Choral, Dance, Drama, Music and Sport Scholarships, and they are awarded to girls entering Year I, Year III and Lower Sixth.**

**QM opens up opportunities and possibilities; it's somewhere each and every girl can thrive.**



# Academic Scholarships

In awarding Academic Scholarships we are looking for girls who perform at a standard well above their peers. Girls may have a preference for, or particular skill in, one area of the curriculum such as the humanities but they should demonstrate the same thirst for knowledge and attitude to learning across all subject areas.

## Assessment

- Academic Test:
  - Year I - Via standard assessment papers
  - Year III - Via standard assessment papers
  - LVI - Based on GCSE results
- Interview with a senior member of the academic staff
- Reference from current school.

With their application, candidates should submit a piece of writing, no more than one side of A4, on a subject of their choice. Possible subjects could include:

- A topic studied at school
- A book the candidate has read
- A place the candidate has visited
- The history of a particular place of interest
- A famous historical person
- Something the candidate feels passionate about

There is no particular format which the school is looking for in this piece of writing: it is simply intended to give an idea of a candidate's particular areas of interest and how she engages with it. Candidates will be asked about what they have written in the interview.

## Benefits

- Membership of the Queen's Society. This involves fortnightly meetings to provide intellectual challenges through debate, lateral thinking, critical thinking, problem solving and research
- Personal mentorship from an academic member of staff with a similar field of interest, providing the opportunity to set specific academic targets and goals
- Access to internal and external events that cater for gifted students such as lectures and conferences that seek to broaden knowledge beyond the confinements of examinations
- Regular trips to national centres of excellence such as the Science Museum
- Academic Scholarships can carry a fee remission in exceptional circumstances at the Head's discretion.

## Expectations

- Act as a role model to other girls in the school through excellent effort and achievement
- Take the lead in participating in academic events and competitions, such as the Curiosity Challenge
- Attend and support the activities of the Queen's Society
- Prepare and deliver a Scholar's Talk annually
- Gain consistently high 'Attitude to Learning' grades across all areas of the curriculum
- Engage in ambitious personal target setting in discussion with mentors
- Act as an ambassador for the school by demonstrating that academic success for each individual can be achieved through hard work, dedication and focus
- Contribute to the wider life of the school community.

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# Art Scholarships

The Art Department at QM is recognised for the outstanding quality of work produced. We regularly mount external exhibitions and girls have worked with professional artists and designers. Each year a number of girls join Art Foundation courses at the most prestigious Art Schools.

## Assessment

- 1.5 hour drawing test to review observational skills and use of the formal elements - line, tone, shape and form
- 1.5 hour workshop to review skills in a new media, and ability to develop ideas by experimenting. To prepare for the workshop, prospective Art Scholar students are asked to email a portrait photograph (that they have taken) to our Art Technician before the assessment
- A discussion about the applicant's portfolio. The portfolio should include six to eight pieces of their artwork from the last 12 months; work in a range of media; some writing about an artist or artwork the applicant likes; and information from any exhibitions they have seen (including online exhibitions).

## Benefits

- Workshop with a visiting artist
- Opportunities to act as the lead designer for school initiatives
- Mentoring from members of the Art Department
- Trip to an art gallery
- Exhibition space to display work around the school
- Chances to publish work in school publications
- Art Scholarships can carry a fee remission in exceptional circumstances at the Head's discretion.

## Expectations

- Have an enthusiastic and sustained interest in art and design, and a desire to develop skills
- Join or assist with an art enrichment activity, depending on age and interests
- Enter art competitions organised by the school and nationally
- Visit art galleries and exhibitions, providing feedback to other artists in school
- Keep sketchbooks of ideas to be developed and always seek opportunities to discuss work
- Show commitment to the subject, promoting it within the school and assisting the Art Department with Open Days, Taster Events and other initiatives
- Exhibit original work at the annual QM Art Exhibition.

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Scan to find out more about Art at QM.





# Choral Scholarships

Queen Margaret's has a strong tradition of choral singing. The Chamber Choir leads the worship in Chapel and the choir also performs at concerts inside and outside school. There are regular tours and opportunities to sing in prestigious venues, including an annual Evensong at York Minster and Durham Cathedral.

## Assessment

- Performance of two contrasting songs, the total programme to last no more than 15 minutes (copies of accompaniments should be sent to the Director of Music at least ten days prior to the audition)
- Sight-singing
- Aural tests
- Interview with the Director of Music
- A reference from current teacher and singing examination reports if appropriate.

## Benefits

- Placement in the QM Chamber Choir, benefitting from the friendship, experience and commitment to excellence the ensemble provides
- Sixty-minute weekly singing lesson free of charge during term time with one of QM's specialist vocal teachers
- Opportunities for solo performances both in school and at other venues
- Encouragement to work with professional singers and ensembles and to gain a broad base of experience
- Mentoring from a member of the Music Department who will review progress and help to identify suitable opportunities for performance and improvement
- Choral Scholars will be supported to audition for external workshops, courses, national ensembles and competitions, where appropriate, to widen their experience and nurture their development as a musician
- Specialist coaching for all ABRSM/Trinity qualifications with access to rehearsal time with an accompanist during examination preparations
- Choral Scholarships can carry a fee remission in exceptional circumstances at the Head's discretion.

## Expectations

- Sing at all Chapel Services on weekdays, Sundays and special occasions, and attend the relevant rehearsals, prioritising this commitment
- Participate in school concerts or attend as a member of the audience
- Prioritise and attend regular and special rehearsals before concerts and performances
- Develop a regular practice schedule
- Take a lead in House singing events and support vocal ensembles throughout the school
- Perform in the annual QM Musician of the Year competition
- Sing at external services, when the opportunity arises, including Evensong at York Minster and Durham Cathedral.

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Scan to find out more about Music at QM.

# Dance Scholarships

Dance is very popular at QM and we offer individual and group lessons in Ballet, Tap and Modern dance; all these disciplines can be studied to examination level. Ballet follows the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) and/or the Cecchetti Society examination boards; Tap and Modern dance follow the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) board; Hip-Hop and Contemporary dance are non-examination classes. We have introduced Dance Scholarships because we are uniquely placed to provide specialist tuition to girls who want to pursue Dance at the highest level whilst also receiving a superb general education. We have strong links with the trainers of Dance teachers and regularly attend conferences and training events.

## Assessment

- A non-syllabus Dance class in the candidate's choice of Dance style
- Performance of two prepared, contrasting pieces
- Interview with the Head of Dance
- Candidates will also be required to provide Dance examination reports if appropriate and references from their current Dance school or teacher.

## Benefits

- One free 45-60 minute Dance lesson per week in the chosen dance style
- Mentoring from the Dance Department to enable growth as a performer and to seek suitable opportunities to facilitate development
- Opportunities to organise, direct and take part in extra-curricular activities, ranging from film to staged performances
- Chances to be involved with the production work of another age group; for example, assisting with the younger girls in rehearsal or backstage
- Inclusion on appropriate trips to dance shows at various venues, whether local or further afield, to see live performances which Dance Scholars will be encouraged (and sometimes required) to review in writing
- Encouragement to join appropriate courses and activities outside term time which will contribute to further development
- Dance Scholarships can carry a fee remission in exceptional circumstances at the Head's discretion.

## Expectations

- Practise regularly and be committed to taking examinations in the chosen Dance disciplines
- Join or assist with extracurricular Dance clubs and productions, depending on the age and interests of the Scholar
- Be expected to perform in the annual Dance Showcase
- Seek to direct and choreograph small scale productions for younger girls and House events
- Have an enthusiastic and sustainable interest in Dance, as well as a clear and genuine commitment to the discipline, thus promoting Dance within the school
- Assist the Dance Department with Open Day and Taster Day events and support other Dance initiatives organised by the school.

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# Drama Scholarships

The Drama Department at QM enjoys the excellent facilities of The Chapman Theatre and stages productions of an exceptional standard. Recently these have included *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Little Women* and *Oliver*. QM girls are regularly accepted into the National Youth Theatre and a number of Old Margaretians have followed theatrical careers.

## Assessment

- Audition: There will be an individual audition where candidates perform a prepared speech (maximum three minutes) to members of the Drama Department
- The prepared speech should be a single character from a scene in a play. Candidates should not perform a song, poem or novel extract, nor multiple characters in one scene.
- The audition will be followed by an interview with the Director of Drama where candidates will be assessed on their motivation and asked to discuss aspirations for the future.

## Benefits

- Weekly LAMDA lessons free of charge during term time with one of QM's specialist LAMDA teachers
- Mentoring from the Drama Department to enable candidates to grow as performers and seek suitable roles to encourage development
- Opportunities to be involved with the production work of another age group, eg assisting with the younger girls in some capacity, in rehearsal or backstage
- Work together with other Drama Scholars for workshops and trips
- Encouragement and support to join a recognised organisation such as The National Youth Theatre, or take part in suitable Drama workshops and projects in school holidays
- Drama Scholarships can carry a fee remission in exceptional circumstances at the Head's discretion.

## Expectations

- Show commitment to dramatic performance and study, promoting it within school and supporting the Drama Department when required
- To take part in QM's theatre productions as part of either the cast or backstage crew
- Demonstrate an excellent attitude towards learning and performance and be role models for other girls in the school
- Rehearse regularly and be committed to taking LAMDA examinations.

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Scan to find out more about Drama at QM.







# Music Scholarships

The Music Scholarship programme at QM is designed to inspire and support progress for our ambitious instrumentalists. Music Scholars play a key role in the life of the school and, in return, the school guides their musical development in a variety of ways. The ambitious musician needs to establish a rigorous and focused routine if potential is to be realised. Our aim is to encourage Music Scholars to view their musical commitments seriously but also as a source of recreation, fun, enjoyment and personal fulfilment. Being a Music Scholar is time consuming, but we wish to attract girls who will relish hard work and show ambition.

## Assessment

- Perform two contrasting pieces on principal instrument, the total length no more than 10 minutes (copies of accompaniments should be sent to the Director of Music at least ten days prior to the audition)
- Sight-reading on principal instrument at a level reflecting the candidate's current stage of musical development
- Candidates may also offer one piece, no more than four minutes in length, on a second instrument or voice; however, this is optional
- Aural tests
- Interview with the Director of Music
- A reference from current teacher and Music examination reports if appropriate.

## Benefits

- 40 minutes of weekly instrumental tuition on principal study during term time with a specialist teacher
- Opportunities to play solos and concertos in concerts and at special events
- Opportunities to have performances recorded
- Mentoring by a member of the Music Department who will review progress and help to identify suitable opportunities for performance and improvement
- A bespoke development programme is available for vocational Music Scholars who wish to continue their studies at undergraduate and conservatoire level including audition coaching, interview coaching, professional masterclasses and work experience support
- Music Scholarships can carry a fee remission in exceptional circumstances at the Head's discretion.

## Expectations

- Demonstrate enthusiasm and desire to improve in all areas
- Give priority to musical activities
- Prioritise and attend all regular and special rehearsals before concerts and performances
- Develop a regular practice schedule
- Participate in at least two ensembles within the Music Department, one to be Orchestra
- Work on general musicianship, especially composing and listening, alongside instrumental studies
- Help maintain and raise the profile of Music at QM by playing in school concerts and participating in other musical events and performances
- Perform in the annual QM Musician of the Year competition.

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Scan to find out more about Music at QM.



# Sports Scholarships

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate the potential to reach the level of performance necessary to achieve county or regional recognition in one or more chosen disciplines.

## Assessment

- A trial in the chosen discipline
- Interview with the Director of Sport
- Reports and references from current school and relevant coaches/teachers
- Assessment of cardiovascular endurance, tactical/technical awareness, speed/agility and techniques specific to one of the following disciplines: Hockey, Netball, Lacrosse, Swimming, Tennis, Athletics or Triathlon. Additional sports may, on occasion, be considered.

## Benefits

- Specialist mentoring to set targets, monitor progress and evaluate performance
- Specific tuition in the chosen discipline, given by highly dedicated and qualified staff
- Free fitness and conditioning programme from a professional coach
- Membership of a strong sporting community and access to excellent facilities
- Competitive fixtures or opportunities to perform alongside other dedicated and talented sportswomen
- Additional support in preparing for trials at county, regional and potentially national level
- Sport Scholarships can carry a fee remission in exceptional circumstances at the Head's discretion.

## Expectations

- Aim for excellence, promoting Sport at QM
- Attend weekend fixtures, tournaments and tours; demonstrate commitment to represent QM as a priority and play competitively; support the Sport Department when required
- Prepare for and take additional qualifications in fitness, life-saving or first aid
- Demonstrate an excellent attitude towards learning and performance and be role models for other girls in the school
- Support the House Sport programme and take a leading role at the annual QM Sports Day.

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