



**TAUNTON
SCHOOL**

PREPARATORY

11+ SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

**APPLICATION PACK FOR
SEPTEMBER 2018 ENTRY**

An Introduction to Taunton Preparatory School

Taunton Preparatory School is a co-educational day and boarding preparatory school for pupils aged from 7 to 13 years. Mr Andrew Edwards, the Headmaster, has been in position since September 2017. The preparatory school is an integral part of Taunton School with children moving on to the senior school in Year 9. Pupils remain in the Preparatory School for year 7 and 8, a very special time in the school, where children can take on leadership opportunities and more demanding sports and academic programmes, while giving them space to enjoy their childhood within the supportive and caring atmosphere of the prep school.

The school has excellent facilities: notably the excellent teaching areas for science (three laboratories), design technology, information technology, music and drama. There is a welcoming and spacious library; a specialist music school, the Centenary Hall for school assemblies, theatre productions and musical performances, a superb sports hall and indoor swimming pool as well as extensive sports fields for rugby, cricket, football and athletics, a new sports pavilion, plus netball and tennis courts. In addition, the school makes full use of the senior school's facilities including the beautiful school chapel, astro pitches for hockey, additional grass pitches and another indoor pool. There is also an Arts Theatre on the campus where the Year 8 annual musical production takes place.

In sport, in addition to specialist sports teachers, Taunton Prep School pupils benefit from professional coaches in specific sports including Somerset County Cricketer and ex-England international, Marcus Trescothick, as Head of Cricket Development; Pete Sanderson as Director of Cricket; Director of Rugby and ex-Exeter Chiefs and French professional, Nicolas Sestaret who also coaches for the Bath Rugby Academy and Elliott Foweraker, who was previously at Cheltenham Ladies as Director of Hockey.

The Performing Arts department boasts 2 full time Music specialists, 2 Speech and Drama teachers and 2 Dance teachers as well as 19 visiting music teachers. Many of our visiting music teacher's play in professional orchestras such as the Welsh National Opera Orchestra and the BBC Wales Orchestra.

Currently the Prep School has 260 students on roll with over 210 within the Pre-Prep and Nursery. Provision exists for the accommodation of up to 45 boarders (aged 7 – 13) under the care of qualified and experienced staff in the caring, family environment of Thone House. Class sizes are small enabling teachers to focus on the individual child to ensure they fulfil their potential academically, on the sports field, or musically and in the performing arts.

The Curriculum of the Preparatory School is overseen by the Assistant Head, Mrs Hannah Seymour, who works closely with her counterparts in the Senior School and Pre-Prep to ensure continuity. In years 3, 4 & 5 pupils are taught primarily by class teachers and thereafter increasingly by subject specialists. The usual range of subjects is taught with French from year 4 and Latin, Spanish and German in the final two years. The Learning Success Department is able to provide help for pupils who are bright but who have learning difficulties and provision is also made to challenge the most able who are prepared for the Taunton School scholarship exams.

The pastoral care of the pupils is seen as a high priority throughout the school and their wellbeing and happiness is paramount. The Deputy Head, Mr Chris Coleman, works with form teachers to ensure that all the children are known as individuals; that they have access to caring and sympathetic staff and that they are encouraged to set themselves targets and to play an active role in the wider life of the school. The school is a Christian foundation and weekly Chapel plays an important part in the moral and spiritual guidance the children receive. Parents are most welcome to discuss any concerns with staff and the Headmaster is always willing to be approached on more sensitive matters. The school values its partnership with parents and actively seeks to build on this relationship.



Taunton Preparatory School 11+ Awards

What are 11+ awards?

Scholarships and Awards recognise *outstanding* academic, musical/performing arts and sporting ability and potential.

They are awarded to pupils in Year 6 (under 11 at the 1st September) for entry into Year 7 at Taunton Preparatory School. Scholars are expected to move on to Taunton School in Year 9 and to stay at school until the end of the 6th form (Year 13). Scholarships are awarded for the whole of the child's school career from Year 7, subject to suitable progress, through to the end of Year 13 at Taunton School.

As well as the prestige attached to winning an award, scholars have the opportunity to participate in a wide programme of activities designed to ensure they are supported and encouraged to continue to achieve their full potential. In the senior school, scholars participate in a more formal, weekly scholars programme.

Scholarships also carry a fee discount. Typically fee discounts of 20% will be awarded to major scholarships and 10% to minor scholarships although in exceptional circumstances and for exceptional ability higher awards may be offered at the Headmaster's discretion. Means-tested bursaries are also available for pupils whose parents would not be able to afford school fees even with a scholarship fee discount. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to apply for a bursary and an application form and further information can be provided. Pupils in receipt of other fee concessions (e.g. sibling discount) or who apply for and attain more than one scholarship only receive the higher of the discounts, they do not aggregate.

A Music Scholar will also be eligible for free instrumental lessons on an instrument chosen by the candidate and agreed by the Head of Department. In some instances Performing Arts Scholars may also be eligible, if music is their strongest discipline.

Scholarships are offered each year following assessment in the January of Year 6. In the region of 10-20 awards of differing values are announced shortly after the various assessments.

External candidates and pupils already at TPS are assessed in the same way.

Procedures and Key Dates

The Scholarships are open to applicants from within or outside the School, either as day or boarding pupils, and are awarded on merit and potential in their chosen area.

The Head Teacher of the candidate's present school should be advised of the application. When the application has been received, the candidate's present Head Teacher will be approached for a confidential report. For internal candidates, the relevant staff will be advised of the application and approached for a confidential report.

In all areas, reports are sought from a pupil's current school and other testimonials and existence of ability are welcomed.

The criteria and procedures for each Award are set out overleaf. It is possible for candidates to enter for more than one kind of award, but maximum of two.

Closing date for entries will be **Monday 4th December 2017**.

The 11+ Scholarships and Awards assessments will take place on **Friday 12th January** and **Saturday 13th January 2018**.

Academic Scholarships and Awards



At Taunton School, we want your children to excel in all they do. We seek the highest academic standards for our pupils and academic achievements are strong. We regularly send students to Oxbridge and leading Universities in the UK, USA and Europe. We are educating our students to have the qualifications and confidence to do whatever they want anywhere in the world.

We offer the broadest possible curriculum within the Preparatory School and into the Senior School. Our GCSE results are regularly among the best in the region, our 2017 results were outstanding, with 49% of all grades at GCSE at A-A.*

In our Sixth Form we offer twenty-four subjects at A level and the School also offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, a challenging and stimulating alternative to A levels, recognised by Universities globally, where pupils study six subjects, three at a high level. Its emphasis on independent learning and an appreciation of international affairs is a distinct advantage in the modern world. We also offer a vocational programme – BTEC Sports Science –which is a pathway to future study and employment in the sports sector. In 2017, 68% of our students achieved grades of A-B when A-Level, International Baccalaureate and BTEC results were combined.*

Academic Scholarships

Candidates will be required to sit the examinations at Taunton School on **Friday 12th January 2018**.

Scholarships are awarded to pupils who show *outstanding* ability, performance and/or potential. It is likely, therefore, that successful candidates will have achieved predominantly A or A/B grades or be exceeding age related expectations in their most recent assessments/reports.

The assessments for academic awards consist of papers in English, Mathematics and Non-Verbal Reasoning plus an additional general paper containing broad questions on Science, Geography and History.

Practice papers in English & Maths are available, please contact Natalie Flay, Admissions Manager, for copies.

The Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning) at Taunton Preparatory School, Mrs Hannah Seymour (Hannah.seymour@tauntonschool.co.uk), would be pleased to answer any questions from potential scholars prior to the assessment day.

Sports Scholarships and Awards



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At Taunton Preparatory School, we have a distinguished record in team and individual sports, led by our Director of Sport, Mr Shaun Winsor, and a strong team of sporting teachers and coaches. We currently have many boys and girls in the school who regularly compete at county, national or international level. A broad range of sports is offered with teams competing in rugby, hockey, cricket (both boys and girls), tennis, rounders, swimming, athletics and cross country. Additionally, sporting clubs include football, biathle, rowing, squash and basketball. Older year groups have the opportunity to participate in sports tours within the UK and abroad and additional coaching is offered to our elite and development teams, for example winter cricket nets, fitness and speed training & pre-season coaching sessions. Taunton School strives to provide a full and demanding set of fixtures for pupils of all abilities, as we see this as a way of developing team spirit, leadership, resourcefulness and diligence.

Scholarship Information

Scholarships are made to candidates of outstanding ability or potential in the field of Sport. They presuppose a high degree of motivation and commitment on the part of the candidate.

The Sports assessments will take place on **Saturday 13th January 2018**.

The assessment will include the following:

<i>Athletics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endurance run – 5 minutes
<i>SAQ Testing</i> <i>(Speed, Agility, Quickness)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand eye co-ordination test Agility Run Speed Run Speed/Coordination Test (speed bounce) Power (standing long jump)
<i>Specific Game Skills</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Netball, Rounders, Football and Tennis Pupils will be asked to show basic skills in the above sports. It is understood that some pupils will have had little, if any, experience of some of these sports
<i>Swimming</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessed if pupil opts for swimming
<i>Interview</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates have a short interview to discuss their sporting interests

For applicants who excel in swimming, we will include swimming in the assessment. If this is the case, please tick the relevant swimming option box on the application form.

He or she should submit with their application any appropriate records of success and/or references from school, club or county coaches, if applicable.

A kit list will be provided closer to the time.

The Director of Sport, Mr Shaun Winsor (shaun.winsor@tauntonschool.co.uk), would be pleased to answer any questions from potential scholars prior to the assessment day.

Music and Performing Arts Scholarships and Awards

Music plays a central part in the life of the School, and we deservedly have an excellent reputation for the quality and range of our music-making, led by our Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Jayne Hornsby. Approximately half of our pupils learn a musical instrument; many learn two or more. We have six choirs, including the prestigious Cantabile Choir for Years 7 and 8, as well as a string orchestra, wind band and numerous other ensembles. Music scholars are expected to contribute to and participate in all of the appropriate choirs and ensembles available. All perform regularly both in School and at public events in the region. We are the only preparatory school in the region to take our choral students on annual European Choir Tour. In recent years, the choir has toured Barcelona, Madrid, Florence, Rome, Prague and Venice. In 2016, we visited Switzerland and pupils had the privilege of singing in the Chateau de Chillon on the shore of Lake Geneva. This year we will be visiting Paris and Northern France.

Drama and Dance are also extremely active in the School. During the course of a year, there are productions by Years 4, 6 and 8 with all pupils having an opportunity to perform, together with an annual Dance Show. We have fortnightly Performing Arts cafes where children have the opportunity to perform and entertain the audience. We wholeheartedly encourage students to get involved with the Arts outside school. Presently we have pupils attending the National Children's Choir of Great Britain, being members of the Somerset County Band and the South West Orchestra.

Scholarship Information

Applicants should have a demonstrated ability and an active interest in Music and/or Performing Arts. Candidates will be required to attend the assessments at Taunton School on **Friday 12th January 2018**.

Please provide us with a written summary of your child's music and theatrical achievements.

Music candidates should be working towards Grade 3 level in their first instrument and have some reasonable confidence and experience in any second instrument. They will be asked to play one piece on their first instrument and one piece on their second and be prepared to sing a favourite song.

Performing Arts candidates should perform 2 from the 3 following disciplines:

Dance: choice of style and, to last no longer than 2.5 minutes (please bring own music)

Music: to sing their favourite song. Additionally, pupils are invited to play an instrumental piece.

Drama: perform a monologue from any published play. Candidates will also be asked to perform an improvised piece.

Auditions will be followed by a short interview.

The Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Jayne Hornsby (Jayne.hornsby@tauntonschool.co.uk), would be pleased to answer any questions from potential scholars prior to the assessment day.

Next Steps

Parents interested in applying for an 11+ award for their son/daughter are invited to complete the attached Application Form and return it to Natalie Flay, Admissions Manager. Please include a copy of your child's music, theatrical or sporting achievements in the form of a CV and a handwritten letter from your child addressed to our Headmaster, Mr Edwards, explaining why they feel they are a suitable scholarship candidate and detailing any relevant skills and experience.

Current TPS pupils

Please return your application pack to Natalie Flay, Admissions Manager, via the Preparatory School Office, by the closing date of **Monday 4th December 2017**.

External candidates

Please return your application pack plus a Registration Form (attached herewith) which should be sent together with the appropriate registration fee of £100 (*cheques payable to Taunton School*) and a copy of the candidates most recent school report to Natalie Flay, Admissions Manager (contact details below) by the closing date of **Monday 4th December 2017**.

We recommend that families considering Taunton Prep School visit us prior to the scholarship assessments. If you can't attend one of our Open Mornings (the next open morning is 3rd February 2018), please contact Natalie Flay, Admissions Manager, who would be delighted to arrange an alternative date. The visit will include a meeting with the Headmaster and a tour of the School. You will have the opportunity to see the children at work and play and to meet other staff.

If you are considering boarding, we would, of course, arrange for you to meet our boarding house parents, Mrs Michelle Coleman and Mr Chris Coleman and to look around Thone House, our preparatory boarding house.

We would also recommend that your son or daughter spends a 'Taster Day' with us prior to taking part in the assessments. This can be booked anytime via the Admissions Manager.

Following the assessments, individual letters will be written to all families.

Contact details

Mrs Natalie Flay
Admissions Manager
Taunton Preparatory School
Staplegrove Road
Taunton
Somerset
TA2 6AE

Tel: 01823 703303

E-mail: tpsadmissions@tauntonschool.co.uk

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARDS

All Awards are made at the Headmaster's discretion and are valid for the whole of the pupil's school career, subject to the following conditions:

Academic: The awards are valid for the whole of the pupil's school career and including Sixth Form studies, assuming the pupil's good behaviour, including the demonstration of scholarly endeavour.

Music and Performing Arts: Music and drama scholars are required to enter fully into the musical and performing arts life of the school, joining choirs and ensembles and demonstrating keen commitment to enter fully into events organised by the school. The award itself does not guarantee a role in productions.

Sport: Award holders will contribute wholeheartedly to the sporting life of the school through participation in representative sports, although the award itself will not guarantee the holder a place in a team. Once an award has been made, the crucial factor for its continuance will be commitment rather than performance.

It is the School Governors' Policy that scholarships and family discounts do not aggregate. Only the largest will apply at any one time.

Any scholar who does not meet our expectations may have the Award decreased or terminated. Please see Expectations of Scholars.

EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOLARS

Every year Taunton School provides financial support for pupils with special artistic, intellectual or sporting gifts. This support recognises their outstanding ability, but also confers certain responsibilities to the School community on the individual.

For Academic Scholars:

- We expect a fine work ethic, which implies the capacity to produce their work on time and to a standard of presentation and content commensurate with their status as a scholar.
- Scholars should set an example of academic excellence to those around them with regard to meeting deadlines, demeanour and participation in class and integrity in all matters related to coursework and homework.
- Scholars should have an appetite for stretching their minds beyond what is available in class, through reading, research, visits and presentations.
- We expect scholars to participate in the wider academic activities that the School arranges, including societies and one off events.
- Scholars should display academic ambition beyond the norm, being ready to take the initiative in cooperation with members of staff.

For Music and Performing Arts Scholars:

- Scholarship holders are required to enter fully into the musical and performing arts life of the School.
- It is expected that scholars take part in a large number of ensembles and they must take as many opportunities as possible to play / sing as a solo performer, namely at Open Concerts, in Chapel and eventually possibly perform a concerto with the School's orchestra.
- They must be good ambassadors for the Music and Performing Arts Departments and encourage fellow pupils to be involved in different groups and represent the Department positively within the wider community.
- The holder must practise regularly.
- Scholars must be available for occasions which fall at evenings and weekends.

For Sports Scholars:

- We expect a clean bill of health. Any chronic illness or injury must be notified to the School in writing in advance of any offer being made.
- Scholars must represent the school in any sports for which they are selected.
- Scholars must set the highest standards of dress, behaviour and sportsmanship whenever representing any team, whether at School or elsewhere.
- Scholars must accept this position as role models within the wider School context.
- Scholars should display exemplary commitment to the School, both as an athlete and as a member of the School body.

Communication and Monitoring:

- A meeting will be held at the beginning of each academic year for scholars so these expectations can be explained and reinforced. Termly review meetings will be held to discuss the scholars progress.
- Pupils who consistently do not perform to the standards laid down here will have their scholarship reduced or, in extremis, terminated.