



TAUNTON
SCHOOL



11+ Scholarships

Information for September 2023 entry





An Introduction to Taunton Preparatory School

Taunton Preparatory School ('TPS') 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 Prep is an integral part of Taunton School with children moving on to Taunton Senior School in Year 9. (The Senior School is on the same site). Pupils remain in the Prep School for Years 7 and 8, a very special time in the school where children can take on leadership opportunities and more demanding academic and co-curricular programmes.

The school has excellent facilities: notably the excellent teaching areas for science (three laboratories), design technology, computing, music, dance 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 and sports centre.

Currently the Prep School (Years 3 to 8), has over 300 students on roll with around 200 in the Pre-Prep and Nursery (babies up to Year 2). We currently have nearly 55 boarders (aged 7 to 13) under the care of qualified and experienced staff in the caring, family environment of Thone House. Our average Form size in the Prep School is 18 pupils enabling teachers to focus on each individual child to ensure they fulfil their potential academically, on the sports field, or in the performing arts.

The Curriculum of the Prep School is overseen by the Deputy Head Academic, Mrs Emma Pike, who works closely with her counterparts in the Senior School and Pre-Prep to ensure continuity and progression. In years 3 and 4, pupils are taught primarily by class teachers but with specialist teachers in some areas (e.g. Music, Sport, DT, Science and Maths). In Years 6 to 8, all subjects are taught by subject specialist teachers, with year 5 having a very effective bridging arrangement creating a smooth educational pathway for our pupils. The usual

There is also an Arts Theatre on the campus where the Year 8 annual musical production takes place. We also have a brand new £3.5million dining hall and kitchen as well as a newly converted modern library and 6th form centre.

In sport, in addition to specialist sports teachers, TPS 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 and Welsh ladies national coach. Shaun Carroll is Head of Tennis (also Somerset Captain).

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 teachers play in professional orchestras such as the Welsh National Opera Orchestra and the BBC Wales Orchestra.

range of subjects is taught with French from year 3, and Latin and Spanish or German added in Year 8. The Educational Progress Department provides support for pupils who have learning difficulties and provision is also made to challenge the most able.

The pastoral care of the pupils is seen as a high priority throughout the school and their wellbeing and happiness is paramount. The Assistant Head, Mrs Joanna Hall-Tomkin, works with the Pastoral Heads of Years and Form Tutors 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 available. The school values its partnership with parents and actively seeks to build on this relationship.

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 attainment and / or potential in their chosen area.

The Head Teacher of the candidate's present school should be advised by parents of the application. When the application has been received by us, the candidate's present Head Teacher will be approached by the Head of Taunton Prep School for a confidential report. For internal candidates, applications will automatically be discussed by relevant staff.

We strongly advise parents of pupils not currently at Taunton Prep School to book in for a tour of the school with Mr Edwards, our Headmaster, during the Autumn term 2022 (if they have not already had a tour).

Parents may, if they wish to, provide us with other testimonials and evidence of ability (e.g. written reference from a dance teacher or a sports county coach etc.)

The criteria and procedures for each Scholarship are set out overleaf. It is possible for us to assess candidates in a maximum of two areas. Parents who feel that their child has more than two outstanding areas should indicate this on the Application Form. Pupils who are outstanding in more than one area will be awarded a Scholarship incorporating both areas (e.g. an Academic and Sports Scholarship).

Closing date for entries will be 25th November 2022.

The 11+ Scholarships and Awards assessments will take place on Friday 13th January and Saturday 14th January 2023.

We aim to have informed parents of the result of their child's application by **Saturday 28th January 2023.**



Academic Scholarships

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 Prep School and into the Senior School. Our GCSE results are regularly among the best in the region, and in 2021 52% of all grades at GCSE were A*-A (Grades 7,8 and 9). These results are outstanding when measured against other non-selective schools.

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 BTEC Extended Diplomas in Business and in Sports and Exercise Science, which are pathways to future study and employment in these sectors. In 2021 60% of our students achieved grades of A*-A when A-Level, IB and BTEC results were combined. This is, once again, outstanding for a non-selective school.



Academic Scholarships Information

Candidates will be required to sit the examinations at Taunton School on Friday 13th January 2023.

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 grades and be exceeding age related expectations in their most recent assessments/reports.

The assessments for academic awards consist of papers in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Non-Verbal Reasoning
- An additional general paper containing broad questions on Science, Geography, History & Philosophy, Religion and Ethics.

Practice papers in English and Maths are available, please contact Fiona Harvey, Admissions Manager, for copies.

The Deputy Head Academic at Taunton Preparatory School, Mrs Emma Pike (Hannah.seymour@tauntonschool.co.uk), would be pleased to answer any questions from potential scholars prior to the assessment day.

Sports Scholarships

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, both boys and girls cricket, tennis, rounders, swimming, athletics and cross country. Additionally, sporting clubs include football, biathle, rowing, squash, basketball, golf, table tennis and climbing. 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 an appropriate number of fixtures for pupils of all abilities, thereby developing team spirit, leadership, resourcefulness and diligence.



Sports Scholarship Information

Sports Scholarships are awarded to candidates of outstanding ability who have the potential to become county or national standard performer in at least one sport. They presuppose a high degree of motivation and commitment on the part of the candidate. Sports scholars are assigned a member of the sports department as a mentor with whom they meet regularly.

The Sports assessments will take place on Saturday 14th January 2023.

The assessment will include the following:

Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endurance run – 5 minutes
SAQ Testing (Speed, Agility, Quickness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand eye co-ordination test Agility Run Speed Run Speed/Coordination Test (speed bounce) Power (standing long jump)
Specific Game Skills	<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
Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessed if pupil opts for swimming
Interview	<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 indicate this 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, Dance and Drama Scholarships

It is possible to apply for a scholarship in just one of these three disciplines (e.g., just dance).

Drama

Studying drama improves self-confidence, imagination, empathy, co-operation, communication and provides an emotional outlet. A range of games and activities promote self-awareness, physical co-ordination, and chorus work. Specific stagecraft skills, styles and genres are explored through our curriculum, as well as vocal performance, diction, projection and range. We use improvisation to encourage creativity and the ability for pupils to think on their feet.

During the course of the year, there are three full scale productions in Years 4, 6 and 8. In 2021-22, Year 4 staged *The Wind in the Willows*, Year 6 staged *The Robin Hood Files* and Year 8 staged a musical adaptation of *The Railway Children*. Pupils experience an intensive production week ahead of each performance. Year 6 and 8 pupils participate in a number of after-school rehearsals, working on aspects of the production, supported by specialist staff. Within the department there is one full time Drama teacher and two Speech and Drama teachers. Pupils who wish to extend their drama skills are encouraged to have speech and drama lessons. The lessons aim to offer the children a safe environment in which to explore all manner of performance and presentation skills. Lessons are tailored to the needs of the individuals in the groups and the students can select their own material for exams and performance. There are three after-school Drama activities offered to the children and performances take place termly. Pupils are encouraged to participate in the Taunton Festival of the Arts and are entered for Vanguard and LAMDA examinations.

Dance

Dance also has a high profile within the school. There are many opportunities to perform, including the annual dance evening where dancers perform a wide selection of pieces in a variety of styles. This is a truly excellent, creative and energetic evening. This year, we will be presenting our own version of 'The Greatest Showman'. Pupils are able to take the Royal Academy of Dance exams from Pre-Primary level all the way to Grade 8 and beyond. Miss Diane Turner works with pupils in ballet from Nursery through to Senior School, and Miss Lucy Hartland-Mann also works with pupils of all ages in all aspects of contemporary dance. Many different weekly after school clubs covering ballet, tap, character, jazz, contemporary, street dance and musical theatre are on offer for the pupils. We are very proud that our dancers have, on a number of occasions, successfully gained a place at Wembley Stadium, where they have had the opportunity to perform with a major pop star in front of 85,000 people.

Music

The department boasts a vibrant and creative atmosphere, and we are proud to be able to offer lessons on a full range of instruments. Learning an instrument at school has a direct correlation with success in other academic subjects and helps children with concentration, creativity, self-esteem and self-discipline. We have an open-door policy and regularly invite parents and children to meet the visiting music teachers.

There are two major music concerts during the year. The Michaelmas Concert and the Summer Jubilation Concert sees over 150 children from the Prep School performing in over 18 various ensembles. Music ensembles run before school, during lunchtimes and after school. Children of all ages and abilities are encouraged to join these activities. In addition to the Junior Choir (compulsory for all pupils in Y3 – 5) and Senior Choir (compulsory for all pupils in Y6-8), there are a range of instrumental ensemble opportunities including:

- School Orchestra
- Wind Band
- Brass Ensemble
- Woodwind Ensemble
- Guitar Ensemble
- String Ensemble
- Horn Ensemble
- Gifted & Talented Woodwind Ensemble
- New Kids on the Glock
- Chime Bars Ensemble
- Rock Band
- Recorder Ensemble

As a long-standing annual tradition, a choir travels overseas. Previous tours include Belgium, Prague, Barcelona, Salzburg, Lake Garda, Florence, Madrid and Switzerland, Venice, Paris & Malta.

Performing for the local community is very important and we are often invited to attend special occasions. We sing annually at Dunster Castle for the candlelight festivities amongst other community performances. Pupils are encouraged to audition at both a regional and national level and presently there are children who attend the National Children's Choir of Great Britain, the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain, the Somerset Youth Orchestra and County Bands.



Music, Dance and Drama Scholarship Information

Applicants should have a demonstrated ability and an active interest in Music, Dance or Drama.

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

Music: candidates should be working towards Grade 3 level in their first instrument and ideally 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 (if they have one). Candidates will be given one or two tasks so that we can assess their aural ability. If they wish to, they may sing a song of their choice.

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

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 Phillipa Simmonds, phillipa.simmonds@tauntonschool.co.uk would be pleased to answer any questions from potential scholars prior to the assessment day.

Art Scholarships

Taunton School is looking for bright, enthusiastic candidates who show dedication, enthusiasm and a high level of artistic skill and who will act as ambassadors for the Art Department.

Art Scholarship Information

The scholarship interview process will consist of a 45-minute pencil sketching task, a 45-minute practical task in another medium and a talk/interview with the Head of Art. Applicants should bring along a portfolio consisting of a maximum of five pieces of art work, showing a variety of skills and techniques. These can be pieces they have completed either at home or in school. This portfolio will be looked at and discussed in the interview.

If you have any questions relating to Art Scholarships, please contact our Head of Art, Mrs Poppy Phillips, by emailing (poppy.phillips@tauntonschool.co.uk)

The examination and interview will take place on Saturday 14th January 2023.



DT Scholarships

Being a Design & Technology scholar is an exciting, challenging and rewarding experience with numerous opportunities to work in a very well-resourced department. A successful scholar would be expected to participate in some of the co-curricular activities and initiatives that the department facilitates. High standards of work and commitment are expected from such a scholar and they should be an ambassador for both the subject and the School.

DT Scholarship Information

The scholarship interview process will consist of a 30 min 3D drawing task and a 60 min practical task. There will follow an interview with the head of DT to which applicants should bring a portfolio of work for discussion. These could be designs and/or photographs/videos of models they have made at home or in school.

The portfolio will be held by the school after the interview process for a while, therefore we request that you do not submit originals that you may wish to retain. The design and manufacture based portfolio could include projects completed inside and out of school.

If you have any questions relating to DT Scholarships, please contact Mr Simon Ashmore, Head of DT by emailing simon.ashmore@tauntonschool.co.uk.

The examination and interview will take place on Saturday 14th January 2023.



Case Studies: Freya's story

Freya is a music scholar who joined Taunton Prep School in Year 5. She has since become a grade 7 pianist and grade 8 violinist, and often performs in various orchestras and choirs. With continuous support from the school, Freya has become an extraordinary musician, and she aspires to play in some of the best renowned orchestras in the world. Freya would also eventually like to become a teacher, in hopes of helping the younger generation to achieve their goals. 'Since being at Taunton School I have become so much more confident in myself and what I am capable of.'





Next Steps

Checklist for External Candidates (internal candidates, please see below)

Please send all documents, preferably in electronic form, to Mrs Fiona Harvey, the Admissions Manager, at tpsadmissions@tauntonschool.co.uk by the closing date of **Friday 25th November 2022**.

1. Completed [Application Form](#).
2. A written summary of your child's achievements in relevant areas.
3. Any references, or other evidence which parents would like us to read.
4. 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.
5. A copy of your child's most recent end of year school report.
6. Completed Registration form.
7. A copy of your child's passport or birth certificate

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 please contact Fiona Harvey, Admissions Manager, who would be delighted to arrange an alternative date. The visit will include a tour of the School and meeting with the Headmaster. You will have the opportunity to see our children at work and play and to meet other staff. Email tpsadmissions@tauntonschool.co.uk or call 01823 703303 to arrange.

If you are considering boarding, we would, of course, arrange for you to meet our Head of Boarding, Mrs Katherine Wells, and organise a tour of our 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.

Checklist for Internal Candidates (Current TPS Pupils only)

Please send all documents, preferably in electronic form, to Mrs Fiona Harvey, the Admissions Manager, at tpsadmissions@tauntonschool.co.uk by the closing date of **Friday 25th November 2022**.

1. Completed [Application Form](#)
2. A written summary of your child's achievements in relevant areas.
3. Any references or other evidence which parents would like us to read.
4. 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.



Conditions of the Awards

All Scholarships are made at the Headmaster's discretion and are valid for the whole of the pupil's school career, including sixth form studies, as long as scholars continue to meet the School's expectations (please see below).

It is the School Governors' Policy that scholarships and other types of fee remission do not aggregate. Only the largest will apply at any one time.

Expectations of Scholars

All pupils at the School are expected to give 100% effort, throw themselves into the life of the School and contribute to the school community. However, the expectations of Scholars are particularly high and Scholars are expected to live up to those expectations and to set the highest standards.

All Scholars are expected to:

1. Meet the level of effort reasonably expected of a scholar. Obtain very high grades in the half-termly Attitudes to Learning assessments across the whole curriculum. Show great determination and strive to be the best they can be.
2. Make the level of commitment reasonably expected of Scholars to the area of school life in which they have been given an award (e.g. plays, ensembles, concerts, practice, fixtures, shows, exhibitions & clubs).
3. Act as a role model within the wider School context and set an aspirational and outstanding example for other pupils to follow. This may well include coaching or mentoring younger pupils.
4. Act at all times as an ambassador for the School (e.g. at fixtures, concerts, Open Mornings, plays)
5. Successfully manage their time and school commitments (with guidance and support from their Form Tutor).
6. Seek wider experiences from involvement with relevant clubs, teams, societies and groups beyond school. Read around the subject area, undertake further research and demonstrate a continual appetite to develop knowledge, skills and understanding.
7. Communicate proactively on a regular basis with the relevant head of department.

For Academic Scholars:

- A fine work ethic, produce work on time, high standards of presentation and content, excellent behaviour and participation in class.
- Take a lead and help others to aspire to academic excellence.
- Be avid readers of both fiction and non-fiction literature in their areas of interest.
- Take full advantage of the breadth and depth of academic experience on offer at TPS
- Take up intellectual challenges beyond the norm e.g. teaching themselves additional skills and knowledge, extra research, visits and presentations.

For Sports Scholars:

- Set the highest standards of dress, behaviour and sportsmanship whenever representing a School team.
- Scholars must represent the School in any fixture for which they are selected, giving the School priority over non-school commitments.
- Become a Sports Leader in Year 8



For Music Scholars:

- Take part in all relevant ensembles and seek willingly opportunities to perform (e.g. at Performing Arts cafes, in Chapel, in assemblies etc). Scholars must represent the School in any fixture for which they are selected, giving the School priority over non-school commitments.
- Practise regularly and have dance lessons.
- Scholars must be available for occasions which fall at evenings and weekends.
- Become a Performing Arts Leader in Year 8

For Drama Scholars:

- Attendance at our weekly after School clubs in Drama for Years 7 and 8.
- Seek to make as large a commitment as possible to School drama productions.
- Demonstrate excellent attitudes and leadership in drama lessons.

For Art Scholars:

- Demonstrate excellent attitudes and leadership in Art lessons.
- Play a leading role in artistic activities, events (e.g. The Big Draw)
- Demonstrate excellent attitudes and leadership in Art lessons.
- Commit extra time during breaks or after School in order to produce work of the highest standard.
- Show the level of interest reasonably expected of Scholars in the work of artists, Art Galleries and Museums.
- Become an Art Leader in Year 8.

For Design and Technology Scholars:

- Demonstrate excellent attitudes and leadership in DT lessons
- Commit extra time during breaks or after School in order to produce work of the highest standard.
- Show the level of interest reasonably expected of Scholars in the work of designers, in Museums etc.
- Become a DT Leader in Year 8.

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 scholar's progress.
- Pupils who consistently do not perform to the standards laid down here will have their scholarship reduced or, in extremis, terminated.

Contact Details

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