

13+ Art Scholarship Information

September 2026 entry

We are looking for individuals who engage passionately with the subject across a diverse Fine Art curriculum and who are not afraid of a challenge or to take risks with their creative work. Successful candidates will demonstrate a strong ambition and interest within the subject, along with recognised achievement. Our Art Scholars seek to engage with the wide range of creative opportunities that are offered here at Oundle and are both resilient and reflective.

We are looking for enquiring minds, for pupils who enjoy academic study and who are keen to stretch themselves whilst being confident in their ability to keep on improving. We are looking for pupils with the personality and strength of character to lead and enthuse their peers. Successful candidates will show a certain flair and independence of mind; they will be engaged, curious, self-reliant, and willing to take the initiative.

Our approach to assessment evaluates both holistic capabilities and potential. Candidates are asked to complete a timed, practical assessment, such as drawing from observation, or a creative task enabling them to demonstrate their skills in observation, creativity and problem solving. This will be followed by a short interview with the Head of Art, where candidates will present a portfolio of their work, consisting of no more than five A2 sheets. Portfolios will be carefully assessed across four strands: skill and aptitude, creativity, breadth of media and artistic potential. The final task of the day will be an analytical discussion, focusing on a particular piece of (unseen) artwork. Enthusiasm for the subject, as well as quality of skilful and artistic endeavour presented during the interview, are also considered.

Scholarship Assessment: what to expect

Three assessment components:

- On the day of the interview, candidates will be required to undertake a timed practical assessment. This maybe a drawing from observation or a creative task, where they will have the opportunity to demonstrate their observational, creative, and problem-solving skills.
- Each candidate will then have an opportunity to discuss their portfolio with the Head of Art and/or a member of the Art Department team. Candidates must show an ability to discuss their work from their portfolio and to articulate the ways in which they have developed their ideas. At the interview, Promise, as well as achievement, will be assessed. **Portfolios will be carefully assessed in four strands: skill and aptitude, creativity, breath of media and artistic potential.**
- The final task of the day will be an analytical discussion focusing on a particular piece of (unseen) artwork. Candidates will be required to contribute to this discussion, demonstrating their ability to analyse a piece of artwork.

Scholarship Assessment: what to prepare

- Portfolio preparation: Select and present 5 A2 portfolio sheets. Within the body of work, we are looking for a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.
- When selecting your work to present consider the following selection criteria. We look for:
 - Visualisation skills - e.g., drawing, photography, 3D work
 - Research and investigate skills
 - Creative thinking and problem-solving abilities
 - The use of a range of materials and processes
 - An interest in art, design, or related subjects.

Portfolio Advice

- Your portfolio should show a clear and organised presentation of your work. Your most interesting work should be first. Please mount on white or black sheets A2 sheets.
- Include self-directed work
- Please include photographs of any large work. Add the title, media, and dimensions of each piece. You should put this in the bottom left corner of the image
- New Digital Media – please include any digital illustration work, film, or animation. This could be via a shared link or memory stick. You can also present the work in the form of storyboards and stills.
- You do not need to put your work in plastic sleeve
- Label your portfolio with your name

Caroline Dent

Head of Art

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