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School

13+ Sport Scholarship Information

September 2026 entry

We place great value on our Sport Scholarship scheme, which sits within our Dedicated Athlete Programme. Both help develop and motivate all those who show the necessary potential, ambition and dedication. Oundle enjoys an impressive record of sporting achievement, with teams and individuals regularly competing to a high level including numerous sports specific performance player pathways. Sport Scholars are supported to represent their sport at county, regional and national level.

We expect our Sport Scholars to be role models and leaders both on and off the field of play. They in turn can expect first-class coaching and access to outstanding facilities, coupled with individual support and mentoring to help balance sporting and academic challenges. We believe these details will make all the difference to Scholars performing at the top level within their chosen sport.

The majority of our Scholars are talented players across one or more of the four core team sports played at Oundle: rugby, hockey, netball or cricket.

We are looking for young people with the potential to excel in at least one of these sports and we anticipate that most will have played their strongest sport at a representative age group level.

We also welcome applications from dedicated athletes with sporting ability across a range of sports, including athletics, golf, tennis and swimming. The Director of Sport is always willing to guide individuals on their potential suitability ahead of submitting an application.

Scholarship Assessment: what to expect

Sporting potential, a desire to learn and develop, as well as a strong sense of teamwork are key personal attributes for a 13+ Sport Scholar.

Held over the course of one day at Oundle in November, the assessment will involve skills tests and physical assessments, training sessions in at least two pre-selected sports and a lunchtime discussion forum. Reports from Schools, including Heads of Sport and coaches are required in support of all applicants.

Where schedules allow, we will endeavour to organise a member of our sports staff to visit and watch a candidate train or play under match conditions prior to the assessment day. The earlier applications are made, the more time we have to come and watch pupils.

Scholarship Awards: what we offer

Full details are available in our Sports Scholarships brochure. We are committed to creating coaching and training programmes to ensure we can deliver a high level of individual support, whilst helping our Scholars balance their time between academic endeavour and sporting commitments. Sports Scholars are member of our comprehensive Dedicated Athlete Programme. In summary, scholars can expect the following levels of support:

- One-to-one and small group sport-specific technical coaching sessions and analysis sessions
- Bespoke strength and conditioning programmes developed by our in-house coaching staff. We work with pupils in group sessions during the Third and Fourth Form to develop an all-round physical development. This progresses to individual training programmes, tailored for each pupil's needs, and delivered during specific weekly sessions
- Flexible approach and training pathways
- Where appropriate, all Scholars attend regular group or one-to-one meetings with an allocated Sport Scholar mentor selected from within the Sports department
- Education sessions on nutrition and injury prevention and rehabilitation
- Access to group and 1-1 sports psychology support sessions
- Regular seminars on key topics such as lifestyle management, building resilience and target setting
- Sports scholar trips and on site workshops from a range of visiting guest ambassadors

We also offer Sports Exhibitions at 13+ which are focused on the applicants who excel more specifically in one our core sports above all others.

It is possible to be selected for an award on an annual basis as we review the progress of pupils to assess their ongoing development and suitability to join the scheme.

Nick Beasant
Director of Sport

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