

13+ Sport Scholarship Information

September 2027 entry

At Oundle, we place great value on our Sport Scholarship scheme, which sits within our umbrella 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 within numerous sports specific performance player pathways. Sport Scholars are supported in representing their sport at county, regional and national level.

The majority of our Scholars are talented players across one or more of the four core team sports played at school: rugby, hockey, netball or cricket. However, we also welcome scholarship applications from across a range of sports, and in particular athletics, golf, tennis and swimming. We offer the following awards:

- **Sport Scholarships** are awarded to pupils who showed exceptional talent, potential and ability across two or more sports.
- **Individual Sport Scholarships**, e.g. a Hockey Scholarship, can be awarded to pupils who show exceptional talent, potential and ability in that specific sport.
- **Sport Exhibitions** are awarded to pupils who display distinct sporting promise and ability but who aren't quite at Scholarship standard just yet.

Pupils holding an individual Sport Scholarship will have the opportunity to be upgraded to a Sport Scholarship once at Oundle: equally they may remain an individual Sport Scholar. Exhibition holders will have the opportunity each year to be upgraded to either should they develop and display the level and ability required. We review the progress of pupils to assess their ongoing development and suitability to join the scheme on an annual basis.

Scholarship holders are expected to be role models both on and off the field of play, taking the lead in terms of their commitment, enthusiasm and high standards, as well as representing Oundle in their chosen sports across all three academic terms. They in turn can expect to receive expert coaching and twice-weekly individualised strength and conditioning sessions. These are coupled with individual or small group technical coaching sessions, a series of sports focused workshops, along with mentoring and guidance to help balance sporting and academic challenges. Exhibition holders will have access to weekly athletic development training and technical skills coaching sessions as part of the broader Scholarship programme.

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.

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. However, this is not a prerequisite for submitting an application or being offered an award. The earlier applications are made, the more time we have to come and watch pupils.

Scholarship Awards: what we offer

Full details are available on our Sports Scholarships webpage. 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. 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 to supporting access to sports specific training and performance pathways
- Where appropriate, all Scholars attend regular group or one-to-one meetings with a nominated Sport Scholar mentor selected from within the Sports department
- Access to group or 1-1 sports psychology support sessions
- Seminars on key topics such as lifestyle management, building resilience, nutrition and injury prevention
- Sports scholar trips and on site workshops from a range of visiting guest ambassadors and speakers

The Director of Sport is always willing to guide individuals on their potential suitability ahead of submitting an application.

Nick Beasant
Director of Sport

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