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SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE 2026 AT SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL



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Scholarship Assessment Dates 2025-26

Scholarship	Closing date for applications	Assessment date
Academic Scholarship (11+)	N/A	Fri 5 or Sat 6 December 2025 (Successful candidates will be invited to interview following the ISEB Common Pre-Test)
Academic Scholarship (13+)	Fri 2 January 2026	Tues 27 January 2026 (All Day)
Academic Scholarship (16+)	N/A	N/A (Successful candidates will be notified following GCSE or equivalent examination results)
Art (11+)	Weds 22 October 2025	Mon 10 November 2025 (AM)
Art (13+ and 16+)	Fri 2 January 2026	Mon 26 January 2026 (AM)
Design and Technology (11+)	Weds 22 October 2025	Weds 12 November 2025 (PM)
Design and Technology (13+ and 16+)	Fri 2 January 2026	Weds 28 January 2026 (PM)
Drama (11+)	Weds 22 October 2025	Sat 15 November 2025 (AM)
Drama (13+ and 16+)	Fri 2 January 2026	Sat 31 January 2026 (AM)
Music (11+)	Weds 22 October 2025	Sat 15 November 2025 (AM)
Music (13+ and 16+)	Fri 2 January 2026	Sat 31 January 2026 (AM)
Sport (11+)	Weds 22 October 2025	Fri 14 November 2025 (All Day)
Sport (13+ and 16+)	Fri 2 January 2026	Fri 30 January 2026 (All Day)
Sport (16+)	Fri 2 January 2026	Assessments arranged during Lent Term 2026

Candidates may enter a maximum of two non-academic assessments.



Sutton Valence Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded to those pupils who show outstanding ability and potential in one or more of the following areas – Academic, Art, Design and Technology, Drama, Music or Sport. Further details of expectations and assessments are shown on the following pages.

The closing date for scholarship applications is generally three weeks before the assessment date. This will allow us time to assess the references provided and communicate arrangements for the day with families. All applications for scholarship assessments should be completed online through the relevant form on the School's website. For more information, please contact Heidi Skinner (Admissions Officer) on +44 (0)1622 845206 or by emailing admissions@svs.org.uk

Academic Scholarships

During their time at Sutton Valence School, Academic Scholars are guided to meet their full potential in terms of examination results at GCSE and A Level. With the expert assistance of their Tutor, Housemaster or Housemistress and individual Heads of Department, they will be challenged and encouraged to excel.

Academically their progress is also monitored by the Head of Academic Enrichment to ensure that appropriate levels of effort and achievement are being maintained.

In the cultural and social sphere of School life, their experience and knowledge are extended through the Kingdon Society, a society of academic scholars which benefit from lectures for all age groups throughout the academic year. Our excellent pupil to staff ratio aims to guarantee our Scholars the personal and professional attention their talents deserve.

The Head of Academic Enrichment provides leadership and support for all Academic Scholars. Consequently, the School builds a strong sense of community amongst its Scholars; developing pride in their academic achievements and enhancing and promoting their profile within the whole School community, where all delight in their achievement. In addition, the Head of Academic Enrichment acts as the 'champion' of these students and of all high-achieving students within the School by creating and sustaining positive attitudes towards them and ensuring good provision for them.

The School has the following expectations of Academic Scholars:

- To achieve the highest possible academic standards across the range of disciplines which will be demonstrated through consistently high effort and attainment grades over monitoring periods;
- To set a positive example to their peers regarding dress, punctuality and demeanour. Scholars will be respectful and helpful to all students, staff and visitors to the School;
- To arrive to every lesson promptly with all of the appropriate equipment and be ready to take a leading role within the classroom environment and in the year group generally;
- To be able to undertake independent work to support their studies in the classroom;
- To participate in 'in-house' and national academic competitions at appropriate times of the year.

In return for their efforts, Academic Scholars will be:

- Invited to attend the Kingdon Society to hear guest speakers on various topics once per term;
- Invited to our weekly programme of 'Fairley Talks'.
- Provided with a programme that stretches and monitors their academic progress whilst also nurturing their broader development;
- Encouraged to put themselves forward for the Subject Ambassadors programme;
- Invited to compete in school and inter-school academic competitions.

In addition, individual subject Scholars are expected to:

- Embody the Scholars' Charter with its focus on being curious, critical and committed;
- Achieve the highest possible academic standards and maintain high effort grades;
- To plan and be available for all scholarship subject commitments;
- To put School before outside activities.

Academic Scholarships (11+) may be offered to those pupils who perform well in the ISEB Common Pre-Test. These pupils will not have to sit another examination, but they may be required to attend an Academic Scholarship interview.

Successful Academic Scholarship applicants (13+) joining the School do not have to sit the Common Entrance Examination (CEE).

Academic Scholarships (16+) aim to support well-motivated and academically able pupils who are looking to transfer to Sutton Valence School at Sixth Form level. Applicants are expected to achieve outstanding GCSE results. The Headmaster determines the value of the scholarship, which is generous and may be applied to day or boarding fees (any further financial assistance may be available through means-tested bursary).

The Head of Academic Enrichment will be happy to discuss any of the above information or to meet prospective scholarship candidates and their parents.

Email Mark Shuttleworth (Head of Academic Enrichment):
shuttleworthm@svs.org.uk

Art Scholarships

Sutton Valence School continues to provide exciting opportunities for Art Scholars and the consistently high results they achieve at GCSE and A Level provide excellent foundations for future progression. There are permanent displays of pupils' work throughout the School and regular visits to exhibitions and galleries, as well as subject-based workshops and competitions which provide interest and inspiration. There is an Art Scholarship forum on Teams where students can upload examples of work, share ideas and access opportunities and initiatives. Art Scholars and Exhibitioners are expected to be actively engaged in all aspects of the subject and to provide a positive example for those around them.

All awards will be dependent upon:

- A demonstration of considerable natural ability in drawing, painting and/or other artistic disciplines, including an aptitude for working directly from observation.
- A broad and diverse portfolio that demonstrates conviction, resilience, and a genuine passion for the subject.
- A strong sense of 'self' (being aware of one's own strengths, weaknesses, and areas of particular interest).
- An above average academic performance in the ISEB Common Pre-Test.

Candidates will be asked to come to the School for a short practical session and interview with the Head of Art. They will be expected to bring with them a portfolio of their own work as well as any larger or sculptural pieces. This session will last about an hour.

As part of the assessment, all candidates will have a short meeting with the Headmaster or the Senior Management Team.

The Head of Art, Martin Thompson, will be happy to discuss any of the above information or to meet prospective scholarship candidates and their parents.

Email Martin Thompson (Head of Art):
thompsonm@svs.org.uk

Design and Technology Scholarships

Candidates will be expected to have had an introduction to the following topics at a level appropriate to the National Curriculum requirements:

- Materials and components;
- Mechanisms;
- Structures;
- Simple electronics;
- Energy.

It is expected that candidates will have acquired their capability through a series of related tasks which will include:

- Product analysis and evaluation (Disassembly);
- Focussed tasks in which designing and making skills are developed (Resource tasks);
- Practical projects in which pupils design and make quality products (Capability tasks).

Candidates should have exceptional ability in the following areas:

- Creativity, imagination and innovation;
- Graphical presentation and communication;
- Problem solving;
- Care and attention to detail when working with a range of materials.

Mathematic knowledge is used to support decisions in the process of designing and making, therefore students must also demonstrate mathematical knowledge and understanding, in relation to Design and Technology. Maths skills and knowledge can be applied to arithmetic and numerical computation, handling data, graphs and geometry. The aforementioned topics are respective of the age at which the pupil is applying for the scholarship and is not intended to be exhaustive.

In addition, candidates will be expected to compile a body of work, prior to interview, which will form part of the discussion with the Head of Design and Technology. This work should be made up from coursework undertaken at school, as well as any work compiled as part of a hobby or interest. It may cover any topic or topics and be presented in any appropriate format.

As part of the assessment, all candidates will have a short meeting with the Headmaster or the Senior Management Team.

The Head of Design and Technology, Simon Kirk, will be happy to discuss any of the above information or to meet prospective scholarship candidates and their parents.

Simon Kirk (Head of Design and Technology):
kirks@svs.org.uk

Drama Scholarships

All applicants are required to prepare two pieces from the list below, one of which must be a play:

- Two contrasting pieces (not Shakespeare);
- Post-1900 plays;
- Musical excerpt or extract (whichever is preferred);
- Dance.

Candidates must provide their own music where appropriate.

Pieces must be performed from memory and should give the opportunity for dramatic interpretation. Each entire performance must last no longer than five minutes.

All applicants will be required to:

- Participate in a group workshop;
- Perform their pieces before the group;
- Participate in a viva voce on their chosen extracts;
- Sight-read a short piece.

The chosen pieces should be contrasting, in order to allow applicants to show a wide range of performance skills. If a musical excerpt or dance is presented, it must show a sense of character. Poetry is not recommended as this often leads to a static presentation.

Please bring with you comfortable clothing which is suitable for the workshop (for example jeans and soft shoes). In addition, please bring simple costume for your piece, if you wish, together with a copy of your play extract(s).

As part of the assessment, all candidates will have a short meeting with the Headmaster or the Senior Management Team.

The Director of Drama, Ben Fewson, will be happy to discuss any of the above information or to meet prospective scholarship candidates and their parents.

Email Ben Fewson (Director of Drama):
fewsonb@svs.org.uk

Music Scholarships

All Music Scholars will be expected to actively participate in the School's wide range of musical activities. These will include Chapel Choir for both instrumental and choral award holders and Orchestra for instrumental award holders. Involvement in Chamber Ensembles, where appropriate, will be encouraged.

Instrumental Awards

Candidates are expected to be of Grade 4 standard.

Orchestral players will be particularly welcome. Ideally candidates will offer either two instruments or one instrument and voice.

The audition will comprise:

- Performance of one piece on principal instrument;
- Sight reading and aural tests;
- Performance of one piece on second instrument or voice;
- General music interview including discussion of past musical activities and future ambitions.

Choral Awards

Candidates are expected to be of Grade 3 standard.

Please note that we are aware that many children do not take formal singing lessons. It is suggested that the Associated Board syllabus for the appropriate grade is consulted when selecting audition pieces. Successful candidates must show clear potential.

The audition will comprise:

- Performance of one accompanied piece (accompanist will be provided);
- Performance of one unaccompanied folksong;
- Sight reading and aural tests;
- General musical interview, including discussion of past musical activities and future ambitions.

As part of the assessment, all candidates will have a short meeting with the Headmaster or the Senior Management Team.

The Director of Music, Philip Horley, will be happy to discuss any of the above information or to meet prospective scholarship candidates and their parents.

Email Philip Horley (Director of Music):
horleyp@svs.org.uk



Sports Scholarships

Candidates who wish to be considered for a Sports Scholarship or Exhibition will be invited to attend an assessment day where they will be expected to undergo a variety of tests in several sports – the aim being to examine both skill and fitness. Additionally, they will meet members of the Games Department from all our major sports.

Sports Scholarships are competitive and are likely to be awarded to applicants with strong performances in more than one sport and who are currently performing at county standard in one major sport. Sports Exhibitions may be awarded to candidates who have demonstrated the potential to reach county standard in one major sport.

Recommendations from current headmasters, school PE staff and/or club coaches will be requested.

On the day of the assessment, all candidates will be addressed by the Headmaster or a member of the Senior Management Team.

The Director of Sport, Vince Wells, will be happy to discuss any of the above information or to meet prospective scholarship candidates and their parents.

Email Vince Wells (Director of Sport):
wellsv@svs.org.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

Scholarships and Exhibitions are available to candidates entering at 11+, 13+ and 16+. Applicants will need to be available to come to the School on specific dates for assessment during the academic year prior to entry. Internal candidates cannot apply but can be recommended by the respective Head of Department.

How do I apply?

All candidates must be registered with the School via the School website before applying for a Scholarship. To formally register your child, please complete the online registration form found on the School's website. Once completed the Scholarship Application Form can be submitted via the website here. Please note that the closing date for applications is two weeks before the assessment date.

Do I need to speak with my child's current Headteacher?

We recommend that applications have the support of your child's Headteacher or Head of Department. Just before the assessment date, we will write to your child's school for a reference.

Can my child apply for more than one scholarship?

Candidates may apply for up to two individual subject assessments at 11+: Sport, Music, Drama, Art or Design and Technology. Candidates joining the School at 13+ may also apply for an Academic Scholarship. Assessments will include a brief interview or meeting with the Headmaster. Any candidate applying for more than one scholarship may need to return to the School on more than one occasion. Academic Scholarships (11+) may be offered to those pupils who perform well in the ISEB Common Pre-Test and Academic Scholarships (16+) may be offered to pupils who perform exceptionally well in their GCSE examinations. These pupils will not have to sit another exam but they will be required to attend for interview.

Is there a fee?

No. You only need to pay the non-refundable Registration Fee at the point of initial application to the School.

How much funding will I receive?

Individual subject awards are generous. The value of each scholarship is at the discretion of the Headmaster with the percentage offered being applicable to either day, full or part boarding fees. Usually scholarship awards carry a 20 per cent fee remission and exhibition awards offer a 10 per cent fee remission.

Holders of an Academic Scholarship who also gain an individual subject award may have their total percentage increased to up to twice the value of the individual subject award. Holders of non-Academic Scholarships (maximum two) may be awarded a maximum of 20 per cent in total.

Any further financial assistance may be available via a means-tested bursary.

How long will the awards last?

The scholarship awards will last for the duration of the pupil's time at the School, provided they fulfil the criteria of the award.

How long will the scholarship assessments be?

Applicants should allow half a day to attend the assessment day unless they are attending the 13+ academic scholarship assessment, the 11+ sport scholarship assessment or the 13+ sport scholarship assessment, which will require a full day at Sutton Valence.

Admissions Team



MR WILL RADFORD

**Director of Admissions
and Development**
radfordw@svs.org.uk

Mr Radford manages our team, which includes all international admissions. Working with colleagues driving recruitment, his role oversees the conversion of applicants to students.



MRS HEIDI SKINNER

**Admissions
Officer**
skinnerh@svs.org.uk

Mrs Skinner is the first point of contact for agents enquiring about places at Sutton Valence School and for all queries regarding the Admissions process.



MRS DONNA CHILD

**Admissions
Assistant**
childd@svs.org.uk

Mrs Child is also able to answer any queries you have along the admissions process, as well as send any documentation you will need to complete for each child.

Main Contact Details
admissions@svs.org.uk
+44 (0)1622 845200





SUTTON VALENCE
SCHOOL

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Founded in 1576 by William Lambe