



CHEL TENHAM
COLLEGE

Becoming an Award Holder



Becoming an Award Holder

Excellence is encouraged in both academic and co-curricular aspects of College life. One of the main vehicles for such encouragement is the offer of College Awards in the form of Scholarships and Exhibitions, awarded at 13+ or 16+. College Awards include Academic, Art, Drama, Music and Sport.

Scholarships are awarded for outstanding performance and ability in a chosen field and Exhibitions for excellent talent and potential. All awards are entirely merit-based and given on the basis of an exam, audition or other appropriate assessment. Pupils can apply for more than one award if they wish.

Scholars are presented with a cerise tie and Exhibitioners are presented with a black and cerise tie, making them visible throughout College.

College has high expectations of Award holders. They are expected to have an encouraging attitude towards learning and collaboration in their chosen field and throughout all of their classes at College.

In addition to exhibiting excellence and flair in their field of expertise, they are expected to utilise opportunities to develop and take on leadership positions.

Academic Awards

College has high expectations of Award holders and they are expected to demonstrate a positive attitude across all subjects and extra-curricular involvement. In addition to exhibiting intellectual curiosity, high attainment in all exams and a high level of interest and application, they are expected to utilise opportunities to develop and take on leadership positions. Academic Award holders must be role models of exemplary conduct and work ethic in lessons and prep.

13+ Academic Awards

Academic Awards are presented at 13+ for exceptional performance, or potential, demonstrated in the 13+ Academic Scholarship papers; the quality of an Award holder might emerge across a paper, or in the way a candidate has handled particular problems. Awards will be presented either for exceptional performance in at least two subjects, or on the basis of a very strong performance overall in all subjects. To be eligible for a 13+ Academic Award, candidates must sit and pass all the papers. These papers include English, Mathematics, Science, Latin, Humanities and French or Spanish. The assessment also includes an interview.

Each year, College awards two honorary 13+ Academic Awards to the strongest candidates. These are the Lord James of Hereford Scholarship and the Prain Scholarship.

The Lord James of Hereford Scholarship rewards an individual who exhibits all-round academic excellence and is awarded to the candidate who performs the best overall in the scholarship papers.

The Prain Scholarship rewards a particular ability in both Science and Mathematics.

16+ Academic Awards

16+ Academic Awards are presented to those who excel in papers taken in their three chosen subjects to be studied at A Level. Papers are designed to assess potential and do not test knowledge of a particular syllabus. The assessment also includes an interview.

For more information about the process of applying for an Academic Award, please contact: admissions@cheltenhamcollege.org

“ Being an Academic Award holder is more than achieving good grades, it is about working hard, getting involved and having a passion for your subjects that goes beyond the classroom. ”



James

I started College in Third Form and several years later was awarded an Academic Award for 16+. This was recognition for my work in class and my utilisation of all of the opportunities that College provides. I am heavily involved with Societies that I am passionate about, including Business and Economics, Modern Languages and Mathematics, and I assist in running the Upper College Society.

I felt very proud when I was awarded an Academic Award as I felt that the dedication, leadership and enthusiasm that I had been demonstrating throughout my time at College had been recognised.

I think that it is important when considering becoming an Award holder that you understand the work and commitment that is expected of you. If you see this as a daunting task and something that you wouldn't want to naturally get involved in, then I would recommend that you take time to carefully consider your choice.

Being an Academic Award holder is more than achieving good grades, it is about working hard, getting involved and having a passion for your subjects that goes beyond the classroom.

Chloe

Before starting College, I had always enjoyed Art and I took every opportunity that I had to take part in Art competitions or to draw and paint at home. I was desperate for any excuse to create in whatever form that might be.

When the opportunity arose for me to apply for an Art Award, it was the perfect fit for me. My previous Prep School had a board in the assembly hall where those who had gone on to be awarded Scholarships were listed. When my name was added to the list, it was such a proud moment for myself and my family to see.

Starting College in Third Form, I had a full and lively schedule of extra-curricular activities; I had to be mindful planning my creative time. This taught me how to be intentionally committed to something and developed my passion for Art even more.

Being an Award holder takes a lot of self-discipline, dedication and work but has also developed and challenged me to be even better than I was. This will definitely help me at University, where I hope to read Architecture and take my creativity to a new level.



Art Award

Art Awards are awarded for the demonstration of enthusiasm, flair and above all, a keen thirst for knowledge and pursuit of an individual's best. Award holders are expected to be active members of the Art department and will have the opportunity to present at Art events, such as private viewings and exhibitions. They will seek active involvement in Art and drive their own progress. College welcomes candidates with leadership qualities and the ability and willingness to share skills and techniques; these are highly valued characteristics of Award holders. As with all Award holders, those holding Art awards are expected to show a positive attitude towards learning in all subjects and exemplary conduct.

Those who apply for Art Awards are required to submit a portfolio that clearly demonstrates their artistic ability. 13+ applicants attend an assessment event comprising a creative task, observation task and interview with the Head of Art. At 16+, candidates successful in the selection process are invited to complete a creative task and an interview with the Head of Art.

For more information about the process of applying for an Art Award, please contact: admissions@cheltenhamcollege.org

“ Being an Award holder takes a lot of self-discipline, dedication and work but has also developed and challenged me to be a better artist. ”



Drama Awards

13+ Drama Awards

In 13+ candidates, College looks for an acting flair borne of considerable performance experience and a genuine love for theatre and the performing arts as well as an understanding of the role that they play within our society. Award holders should also have an ability to demonstrate insight and understanding of text through their performance whilst having leadership ability, independence of thought and commitment to extra-curricular Drama activities.

Candidates must prepare one monologue from any published play (lasting between 1 and 2 minutes), which they will perform as part of their assessment. The assessment will also consist of a group workshop in which the candidate's ability to work collaboratively with others to explore dramatic conventions and devise performance will be assessed. The assessment also includes an interview.

16+ Drama Awards

At 16+, candidates should clearly demonstrate their enthusiasm for performing and seize all opportunities provided to perform in a wide range of productions, showing an outstanding amount of talent and confidence in their performances. High levels of innovation and creativity during rehearsals, workshops and performances are also expected. A genuine passion for watching live performances, both as a part of College's trip programme and independently, is beneficial. Drama Award holders will have excellent leadership skills and outstanding commitment, acting as role models for their peers during their involvement with productions, in their conduct and in all aspects of College life.

Candidates will be expected to perform two monologues each lasting 1 to 2 minutes, one of these monologues should be pre-20th century. Candidates will also participate in group interviews and group workshops. There will also be an interview with the Director of Drama.

All Drama Award holders are to audition for all available plays and perform in three productions a year, direct or lead in the House Play, perform in two or three lunchtime performances per Half Term and attend weekly LAMDA lessons. Free tuition in LAMDA (one lesson per week) is provided through College's LAMDA teaching staff.

For more information about the process of applying for a Drama Award, please contact: admissions@cheltenhamcollege.org

“ Being a Drama Award holder has given me the opportunity to perform with a group of Scholars from different years, allowing me to learn from their experience and develop my knowledge. ”



Arabella

Having joined College in Third form, I already had a real passion for Drama. We had lots of opportunities to perform and I was encouraged by my Drama teacher at The Prep to perform as much as possible. When the opportunity arose for me to apply for a Drama Award, it seemed like the perfect opportunity for me to be heavily involved in Drama at College.

Since becoming an Award holder, I have had the opportunity to have LAMDA lessons, which include solo acting, duologue, speech and drama, verse and prose or musical theatre. This has helped me develop my acting abilities and I have recently taken my Grade Seven LAMDA exam.

My teacher also encouraged me to audition for the National Youth Theatre and I have since become an official Ambassador for them. This is a great opportunity to go to workshops and perform.

Being an Award holder does not guarantee you the lead roles in a play; everyone auditions and parts are awarded on merit. This has given me the opportunity to perform with a group of Award holders from different years, allowing me to learn from their experience and develop my knowledge.

In my year I was the only person to be awarded a Drama Scholarship, which was a massive accomplishment for me and my parents were so proud when they received the letter. Even though over the past few years Drama has consumed a lot of my time, I wouldn't have had it any other way. I love performing and learning about how I can improve. There isn't an expected number of hours that you need to put in to be an Award holder, only that you have the love and passion to be the best that you can be.

Matthew

Having joined College in the Fourth Form after relocating to England with my family, I enjoyed getting involved with the Music Society. When I started at College, I could already play the Piano and Saxophone. Even though I hadn't been playing for long before starting at College, I was quick to progress through the grades. My music teacher suggested that I applied for a 16+ Award to recognise my hard work, improvement and active participation in different aspects of the Music department.

Being an Award holder means that there is an expectancy from your peers and teachers to be actively involved in not only your chosen subject, but throughout College life. It has provided me with the opportunity to lead other students and aid their development too, which in turn helped me to progress further.

We have great opportunities to perform on a regular basis. We are also encouraged to learn different instruments. Since being at College I have begun learning the Oboe, which has enabled me to transfer the skills I have on the Saxophone to another woodwind instrument. I am part of the orchestra, JIG (Jazz Improvisation Group) and also participate in many symphonies. After College, I hope to use my experience in music to become a Composer for television and film. I believe this experience of participating in numerous symphonies, bands and orchestras will help me to compose in the future.



Music Awards

College offers a broad range of Music Awards to candidates who show musical potential and, above all, a genuine enthusiasm for music. Awards are possible for those who may not yet be so advanced, but who show a high level of promise and commitment. These are often suitable for a musical pupil who perhaps started rather later than others, but who will be able to contribute a great deal throughout their time at College. All Music Awards include free tuition in two or three instruments/voice. Lessons are offered on the basis that they are taken with College's Music teaching staff.

In a Music Award holder, College looks for a genuine love and enthusiasm for music with a performance level in their first study of at least Grade Five or equivalent at 13+ and Grade Seven at 16+. A keenness to take a part in all musical opportunities at College is a must and a second study is an advantage

Candidates should prepare two contrasting pieces on their main instrument/voice and expect to be given some sight-reading and aural tests. There will also be a brief interview that will explore candidates' thoughts on what they wish to achieve musically.

All Music Award holders are expected to sing in one of the Chapel Choirs, play in a chamber ensemble and participate in one of College's flagship instrumental ensembles - normally either the Symphony Orchestra or Senior Jazz Band. Music Award holders are expected to develop and improve on the instruments with which they auditioned and commit to regular practice sessions. Any change in instrumental or vocal lessons, or the giving up of lessons, is at the discretion of the Director of Music. All Music Award holders are strongly encouraged to study Music to at least GCSE level, though many will also go on to A Level. They must also show dedication to learning in other subjects and act as role models of good conduct.

For more information about the process of applying for a Music Award, please contact: admissions@cheltenhamcollege.org

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Organ Awards

College offers an Organ Award for a talented organist of at least Grade Six standard to take a major role in the musical life of the Chapel. In addition to specialist teaching for repertoire and technique, there is plenty of opportunity to develop accompanying skills through working with the Chapel Choirs.

The Chapel has a magnificent Organ, first built in 1906 by the Norwich firm Norman and Beard. The case was designed by Henry Prothero, the architect of the Chapel.

The Organ was rebuilt and extended by Harrison and Harrison in 1930 and again in 1976. It is an instrument capable of achieving a wide range of colour and dynamics, its three manuals and pedals encompass a well-balanced traditionally-voiced instrument which is very well suited to the liturgical and choral needs of an independent school with a renowned and highly regarded musical tradition. In 2013, it was further enhanced by the addition of a 32-foot 'Double Ophicleide', the type of stop only found in the largest organs, making College one of the finest non-cathedral locations in the country.

The Organ Award holder will play for the daily Chapel services, recitals and other occasions. The Organ Award holder will be guided in preparation for all aspects of the Oxbridge Organ Scholarships, RCO diplomas and auditions for music colleges.

For more information about the process of applying for an Organ Award, please contact: admissions@cheltenhamcollege.org

“ It has been great to be able to learn and develop my skills on the Organ as I know that I would not get the opportunity to play the Organ at many other places, let alone an Organ of this magnitude. ”



Henry

When I joined College, I was awarded a Music Award for my abilities to play the Piano and the Double Bass. Originally, joining College mainly as a pianist, I was encouraged to pick up an orchestral instrument in order to play in the College Symphony Orchestra. I was also encouraged to join one of College's Choirs, which has thoroughly helped me expand my overall musicianship.

I am in a variety of other music ensembles such as Wind Band, a Jazz Band called JIG, a string quartet alongside the Choir and Symphony Orchestra.

Shortly after joining College, I had the opportunity to play the Chapel Organ. In just six months, I progressed to Grade Six and have been provided with many opportunities to perform and play in Chapel. It has been great to be able to learn and develop my skills on the Organ as I know that I would not get the opportunity to play the Organ at many other places, let alone one of this magnitude.

Currently, I have Piano, Organ and Bassoon lessons at College which are all equally enjoyable and are taught at a really high standard.

As an Award Holder there are many opportunities to perform either formally or informally. Last year, I was able to perform Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto with the College Orchestra, a phenomenal experience. I also have access to Steinway Grand Pianos to practice on, which is incredible.

Florence

When I joined College at 13, I was playing the Cello at Grade Six, Piano at Grade Five and had been a part of a choir since Year Three at Prep School. I have a huge passion for performing music and singing as part of a group and was presented with a Music and Choral Award.

Being a part of the choir is hugely rewarding and I have been able to build a lot of friendships during my time in the group. We have numerous practices every week and we perform every Thursday at Evensong and on a Sunday in the Chapel. The choir is a great opportunity to be at the heart of the central place Chapel holds in College life and I spend a lot of time practising to develop my singing abilities.

Being an Award holder means that you have the expectation that you will have the right attitude in every aspect of College life and will encourage your peers and younger students to follow in your footsteps. Even though Choral Award winners sing in the choir, our teachers very much encourage those of all abilities to take part. This has benefited me as I have been able to both support and learn from other vocalists in the choir.

Going on to University, I know that the leadership qualities and the extra responsibilities that I have taken on during my time as an Award holder will benefit me a great deal.



Choral Awards

Choral Awards are available at 13+ and 16+ for candidates who are confident and enthusiastic singers with excellent musicianship and sight-reading skills, but who may not be as advanced instrumentally. The College Chapel is widely regarded as one of the finest in the country and the school enjoys a long choral tradition.

Candidates should prepare two solo items in addition to either an anthem or canticle from the Choral Evensong tradition. Sight-reading and aural tests will be given in line with other music awards.

The Chapel Choirs, with many former Cathedral choristers, share the singing of the weekly Sunday services and the Schola Cantorum sing weekly services of Choral Evensong as well as performing concerts and services in Cathedrals in the UK and abroad. A Choral Award offers full preparation to exceptional pupils who wish to apply for Oxbridge and Cathedral Choral Awards.

For more information about the process of applying for a Choral Award, please contact: admissions@cheltenhamcollege.org

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Sport Awards

As a leading co-educational school synonymous with sporting excellence, sport has a long and well-respected tradition at Cheltenham College. Numerous pupils have achieved national recognition while still attending College and many have gone on to represent their countries across a variety of sports including: Rugby, Hockey, Motorsport, Polo and Equestrian.

Sport Awards will reward candidates who show outstanding sporting ability and/or potential. Successful candidates will have regional and/or national potential at their current level.

13+ Sport Awards

Successful 13+ candidates will demonstrate proven ability and potential in at least two of College's main games. College's main games include: Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Tennis and Cricket.. In certain cases, exceptional talent in an individual sport, or one main game, will be considered.

Candidates will take part in an assessment day, monitored by the Cheltenham College Sports Department. The assessment also includes an interview.

16+ Sport Awards

At 16+, candidates are expected to want to specialise in a chosen sport and are rewarded for excellence in at least one of the main games. Candidates will take part in an assessment day, monitored by the Cheltenham College Sports Department. The assessment also includes an interview.

Award holders are expected to commit and aspire to the selection for A teams of their major sport and to participate within pre-season, or out of season, programmes as appropriate.

Award holders are expected to respond to the termly tracking and monitoring of progress, attitude and performance, setting an example of excellence to others. As with all other types of awards, holders of Sport Awards are expected to act as excellent role models for their peers, not just on the sports field but also in their attitude to learning in class and prep, and in their conduct.

For more information about the process of applying for a Sport Award, please contact: admissions@cheltenhamcollege.org

“ We are very fortunate to be surrounded by excellent coaches who help us to manage our own time and fuel our bodies in the best possible way. ”



Lily

Award holders are easily identified around College by our unique pink ties. This sets an expectation about the sort of standards we are expected to achieve.

Being a Sport Award holder is more than just being talented in sports, it is about having a great attitude to all aspects of College, as others look up to you and you have to set a standard..

I was awarded a Sport Scholarship at 13+ for Hockey, Netball and Tennis, as well as commitments to some other sports. It is extremely rewarding to receive recognition for your sporting ability and the hard work and dedication that you have put into it.

The huge variety of sports on offer at College has developed me as an athlete. I think it is important that you continue to play as many sports as possible, especially when you have the amount on offer that you do here. For example, when I joined College I was given the opportunity to play Rackets, something I had never heard of before and I haven't looked back since!

Being a Sport Award holder is a huge commitment and comes with the expectation to always uphold the highest standards. I tend to train six days a week with matches on Thursdays and Saturdays, as well as my Eventing competitions on weekends. I am currently playing 1st team Hockey, Netball, Tennis and Rackets and am a keen long-distance runner. I continue to compete in Eventing outside of school up to International 2* Level.

We are very fortunate to be surrounded by excellent coaches who help us to manage our training days and plan out our sessions effectively in order to get the most out of our bodies.

Next Steps

Award holders have considerable scope for leadership, enrichment and engagement in College life, and as such, holding an Award requires significant responsibility and involvement from the student. In light of the commitment, we would recommend that you carefully consider the nature and number of Awards that are applied for beforehand.

For more information about the process of applying for an Award, please contact admissions@cheltenhamcollege.org

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DISCOVER YOUR
CHELTENHAM POTENTIAL



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