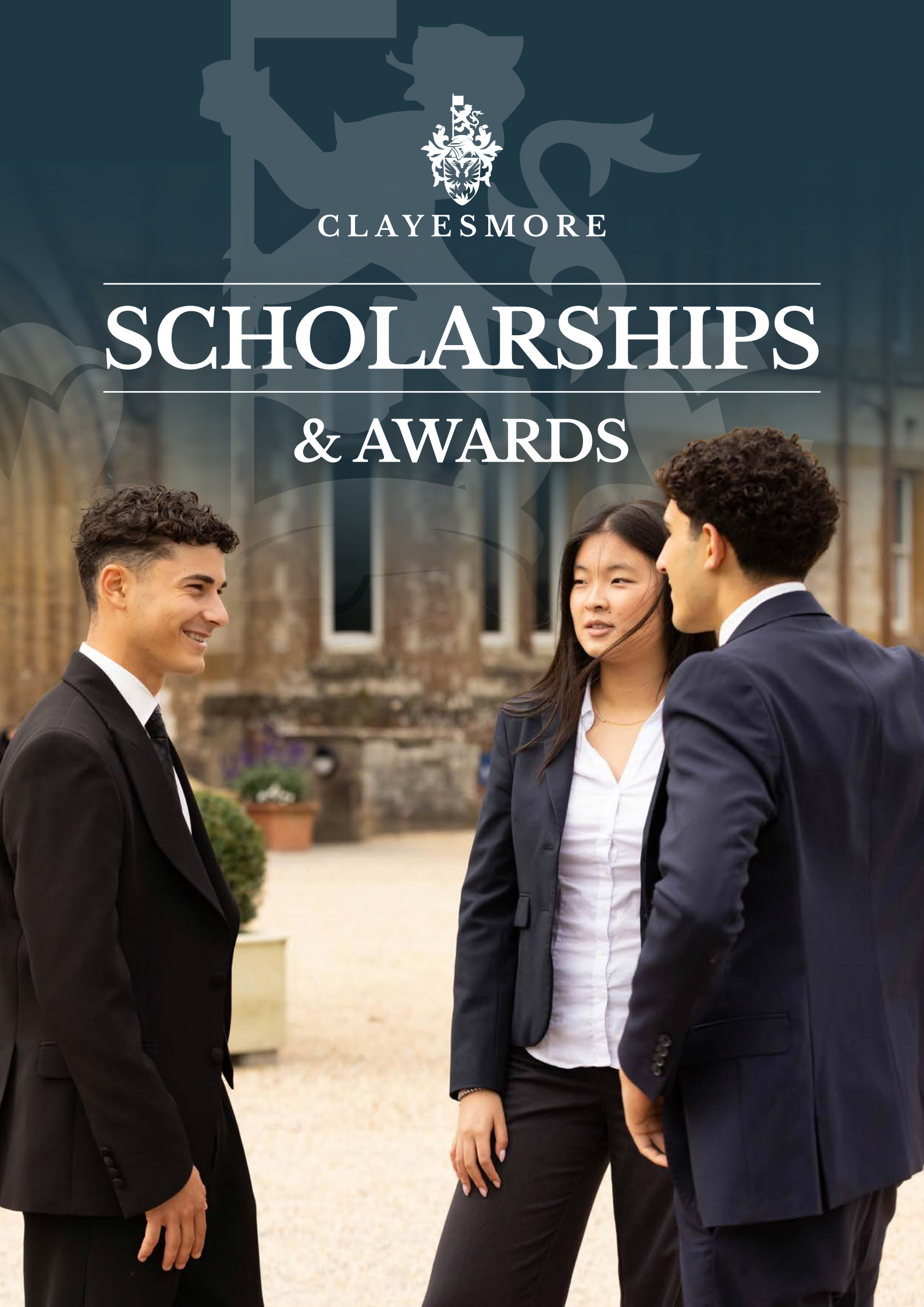
CLAYESMORE

SCHOLARSHIPS

& AWARDS



INTRODUCTION

Every year we offer a variety of Scholarships. The criteria for these different awards are laid out in this booklet and they all involve different types of assessment and interviews that are undertaken at the School early in the spring term.

In all Scholarship areas, we are looking for pupils who are already strong achievers but we are particularly keen to meet young people with the potential to develop further and more fully in their Scholarship area. Parents are welcome to discuss Scholarship opportunities with academic staff and we also very much welcome visits to the School.



EXPECTATIONS

Scholarships are available for entry into Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12. Current pupils who meet the required criteria are welcome to apply for Scholarships for the next stage of their education and will participate in the process in the same way as external applicants.

Scholarships will continue for the duration of a scholar's education at Clayesmore, providing they continue to be a positive contributor to the School and show commitment to their scholarship area.

Pupils may be entered for more than one Scholarship or for an All-Rounder or Combined Award Scholarship, though only one Scholarship will be awarded.





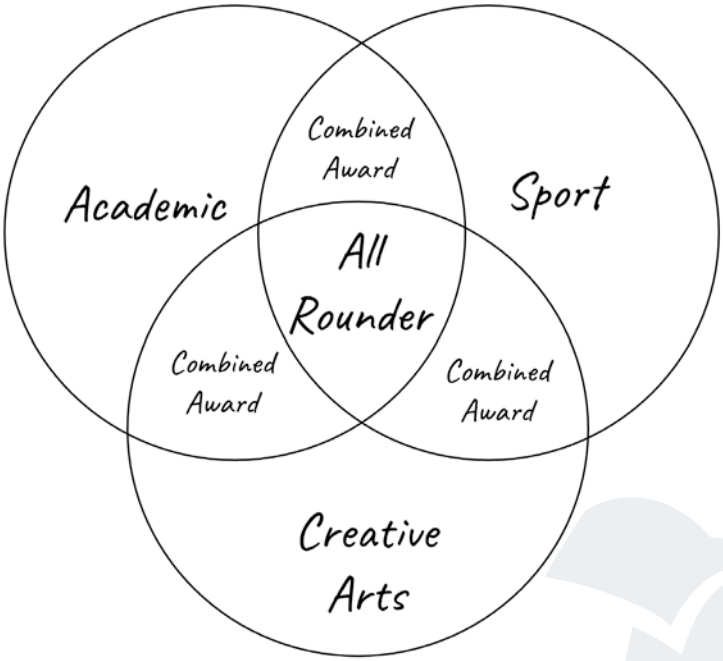
ALL-ROUNDER SCHOLARSHIPS AND COMBINED AWARDS

These Scholarships and awards are for pupils who are likely to make a strong contribution to Clayesmore life in a broad way, but who are not necessarily outstanding in one discipline.

All-Rounder candidates are expected to display a good standard of academic attainment, as well as ability and promise in Sport and one of the Creative Arts.

Combined Award candidates are expected to display promise in two of the three areas.

Candidates will take part in the Scholarship process for each of their chosen areas.



Scholarships for

YEAR 7

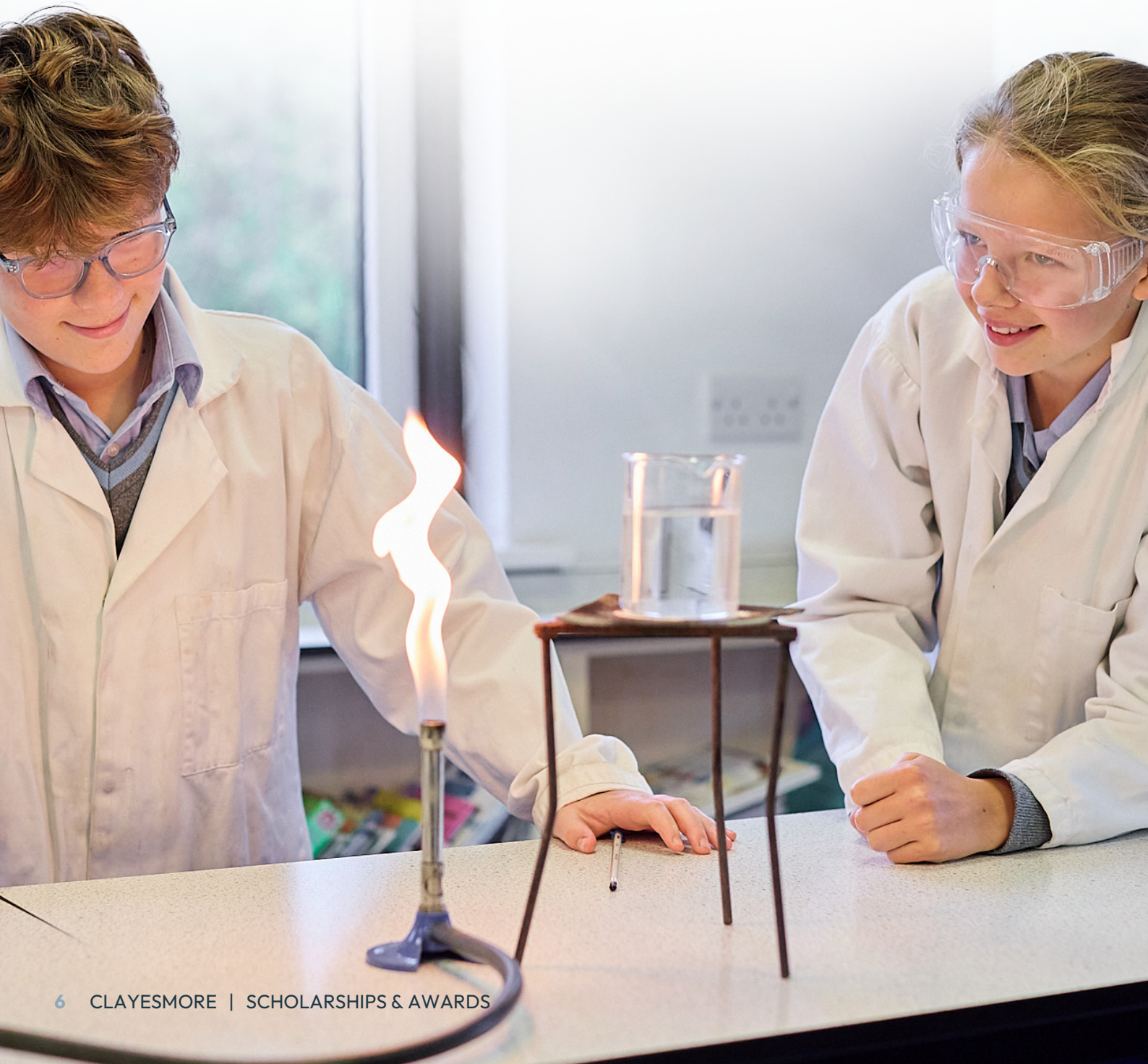
Entry



ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Candidates will be assessed in English and Maths. Questions will include topics which children are likely to have already learnt and will help us to gauge their knowledge, skills and aptitude. They will also be required to sit an academic baseline assessment. Their three most recent school reports will have to be provided. Potential Academic Scholars should have an above average ability across a range of subject areas.

Candidates will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and should come prepared to talk briefly about current affairs.



CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS: MUSIC

Candidates are assessed by an audition at Clayesmore and they will also be asked to take an academic baseline assessment.

Candidates should preferably play at least two instruments (one should be an orchestral instrument; pupils may also include voice). For the audition, two pieces should be prepared on the main instrument and one on their second instrument.

However, we will consider applications from candidates who only play one. We will provide an accompanist, if required, but candidates are permitted to bring their own accompanist if they wish.

Total performance time should not exceed 15 minutes. Aural tests appropriate to the grade level of the candidate's first Instrument will be given. The standard of performance on the first instrument should be around Grade 1, though we welcome applications from candidates who may not have taken any formal music exams if their proficiency is high. Candidates will also sit a cognitive ability test.

Candidates will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and the Director of Music.



SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Candidates are assessed by interview and practical activities, including a functional movement test. They will also sit an academic baseline assessment.

Sports Scholarships will be awarded to candidates who will contribute strongly to the major games played at Clayesmore. These are hockey, netball, swimming, cricket, athletics, rugby, tennis and football. Candidates must be 'A' team standard in at least two of these major games, and preferably play outside school in a club or team as well.

We also offer some Scholarships for candidates who offer just one sport at a high level, who play for a club and who have the potential to take this to a much higher level.

Candidates from schools who do not play our major games should not be discouraged from applying, though they should excel or show potential in their chosen sports. They will be assessed on their athletic potential.

Candidates who play for a club outside school are encouraged to submit a reference from their club.

Candidates will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and the Director of Sport.



Scholarships for

YEAR 9

Entry



ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Assessment is by examination and interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Candidates will sit two 60 minute examination papers in English and Mathematics. The exams are based on the national curriculum for students in Year 7 or Year 8. Papers are designed to be accessible and to allow students to show their knowledge.

Students who have access arrangements can be accommodated: an Educational Psychologist's report or specialist teacher assessment should be sent to us with the application form.

Academic Scholars will be expected to join in and lead in departmental specialist interest groups, maintain a reading list, and to participate in enrichment activities such as the Model United Nations. They will also sit an academic baseline assessment.



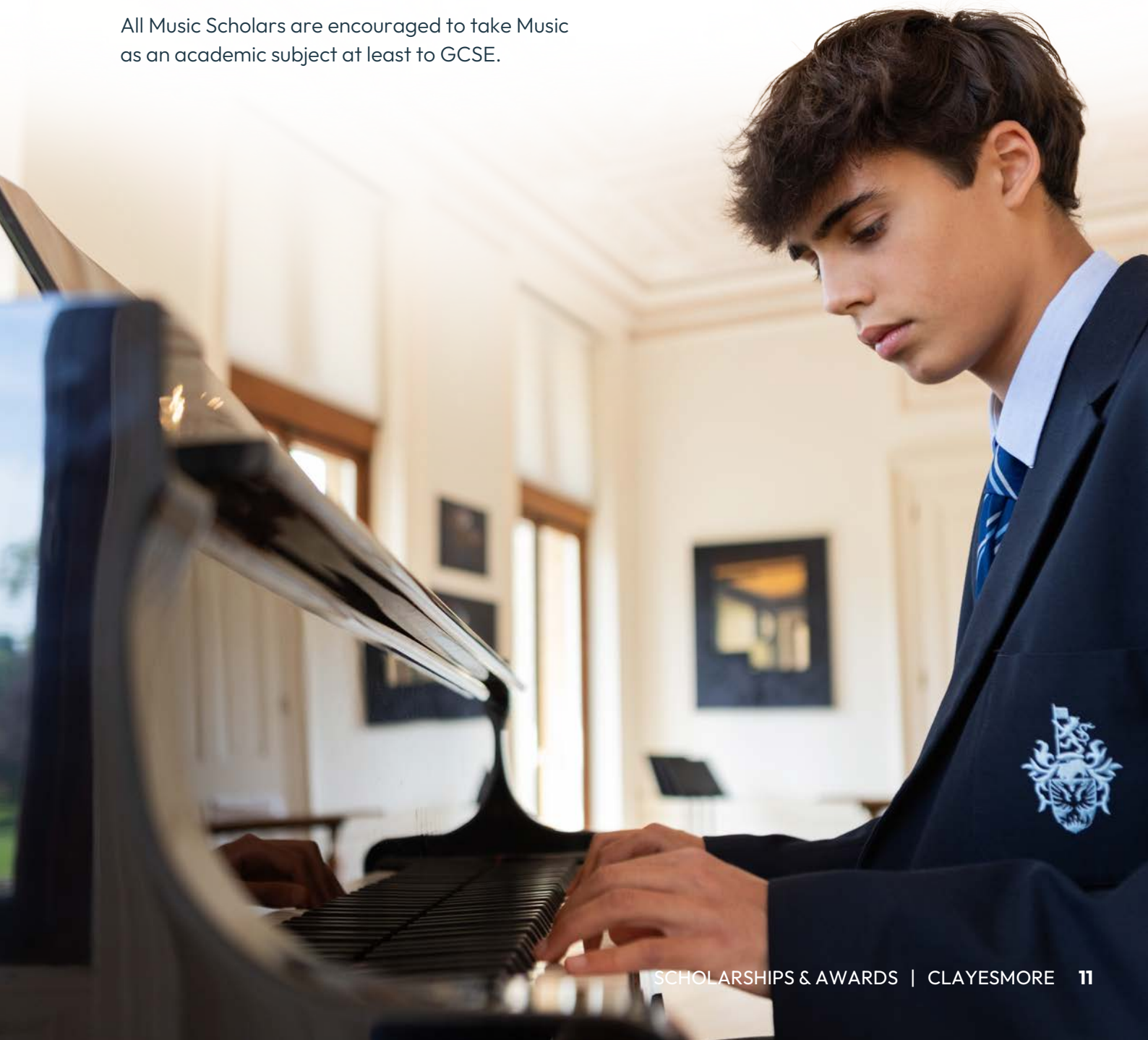
CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS: MUSIC

Candidates are assessed by an audition at Clayesmore. They will also be asked to take an academic baseline assessment.

Students should offer at least two instruments (which may include voice). For the audition, two pieces should be prepared on the first instrument and one on their second instrument. We will provide an accompanist, if required, but candidates are permitted to bring their own accompanist if they wish.

Total performance time should not exceed 15 minutes. Regardless of whether voice is offered as an 'instrument', singing a song is encouraged though is not compulsory. Sight-reading and aural tests appropriate to the grade level of the candidate's first instrument will be given. The standard of performance on the first instrument should be not less than that of Grade 5, though we welcome applications from candidates who may not have taken any formal music exams.

All Music Scholars are encouraged to take Music as an academic subject at least to GCSE.



CREATIVE ARTS AWARDS: CHORAL

Candidates are assessed by an audition at Clayesmore. They will also be asked to take an academic baseline assessment.

Candidates who offer singing as a first study should normally offer an additional second instrument. Candidates should prepare two songs of contrasting character (i.e. one secular, one sacred) and one piece on their second instrument. Exceptionally, a (limited) choral award may be made to a boy or girl with a strong traditional singing background who will contribute to the choral life of the school but who does not have a second instrument. Total performance time should not exceed 15 minutes. Sight reading and aural tests appropriate to the singing grade level of the candidate will be given.

All applicants are encouraged to attend the School for a trial audition with the Director of Music at least a term before the real Scholarship auditions.



CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS: DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Candidates are assessed by portfolio, practical task and interview. They will also be asked to take an academic baseline assessment.

Students should be able to demonstrate above average skill and enthusiasm in the area of creative problem-solving and the physical manufacture of high quality products in the workshops. Successful candidates are likely to have good drawing skills and take pride in the presentation of their work.

It is expected that a Design & Technology award winner will give their time freely and willingly to support the activities of the department. If a candidate should stop studying Design & Technology, the award will cease.

Candidates should bring a portfolio of both recent and past graphics/drawing work and one piece of recent practical work and be able to discuss and explain their work in the interview.

The candidate's graphics/drawing/CAD work should demonstrate an ability to communicate ideas and concepts. Practical work will be examined and discussed in terms of quality and skills used in its manufacture, and the candidate's general views on technological issues and developments in the world at large will also be sought and examined.

Candidates will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and the Head of Design & Technology.



CREATIVE ARTS AWARDS: DRAMA

Candidates are assessed by practical task and interview at Clayesmore. They will also be asked to take an academic baseline assessment.

Candidates should have reached a high standard in acting, design or technical skills.

Candidates offering acting will participate in a short workshop and will work together on a number of group exercises so that their ability to co-operate creatively can be assessed. They should also have prepared an audition speech to perform. It is expected that they will have learned the lines. They may bring any props or costumes needed in the performance but this is not required. Candidates offering design or technical skills should bring a portfolio documenting their recent work. Candidates offering acting may wish to bring photographs or DVD extracts.

Actors will usually have taken a major role in at least one school production and may well have a good deal of additional experience, either at school or for another company, amateur or professional. Designers will have designed a set or a number of costumes for a production, either at school or for another company. It is likely they will also have participated in the manufacture of the set or costumes. They should have a portfolio of drawings and photographs documenting the process.

Technicians will have experience in helping to prepare a lighting or sound plot and may have a portfolio of diagrams and cue sheets. They may have some examples of sound recordings they have edited. Recipients of the awards will be expected to contribute strongly to the dramatic life of the school throughout their time at Clayesmore.

Candidates may, if appropriate, submit references from clubs or schools to which they belong.





CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS: ART

Candidates are assessed by portfolio, practical task and interview at Clayesmore. They will also be asked to take an academic baseline assessment.

Students should bring two things to the day:

a) a personal drawing book containing linked images and ideas, first hand drawings, scrapbook items, notes and jottings etc. This is most important and should convey the impression of a person who thinks visually and enjoys drawing.

b) a portfolio of selected paintings and drawings and/or work in three dimensions should also be produced for assessment. At least two different topics should be represented. The candidate will be expected to discuss his or her work at the interview.

A practical assessment will be held during the day. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate a serious commitment to creative activities in a general sense, while showing particular interest in a specific area of two or three dimensional activity. While a well-developed range of drawing skills is desirable, an over-developed ability in this area can be a limitation at this age. Therefore, an intelligent enthusiasm, coupled with an excitement in the creative processes generally, will be looked for in examples of work and at interview.

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Candidates are assessed by interview and practical activities.
They will also be asked to take an academic baseline assessment.

Candidates will have the opportunity to experience life at Clayesmore and showcase their sporting ability, character and potential.

The practical sporting assessment will allow candidates to demonstrate their skills, athleticism, game understanding and potential across netball, hockey, cricket, tennis and rugby. Coaches will also look for teamwork, resilience, enthusiasm, determination and a willingness to learn. The day concludes with an interview with the Director of Sport and a member of the Senior Leadership Team, providing an opportunity to discuss their sporting journey, ambitions and what they hope to achieve at Clayesmore.

Scholarships are awarded to pupils who can contribute strongly to our major sports. Candidates should normally be 'A' team standard in at least two sports and county standard in one, with a strong third sport.

Single-sport Scholarships are also available for exceptional county-level athletes with significant potential.



Scholarships for

SIXTH FORM

Entry



Scholarships are available for academic performance or for excellence in the Creative Arts or Sport. Candidates should have strong potential in their chosen areas and be academically ambitious.

All candidates must take an academic baseline assessment and attend interviews at Clayesmore as part of the admissions process.

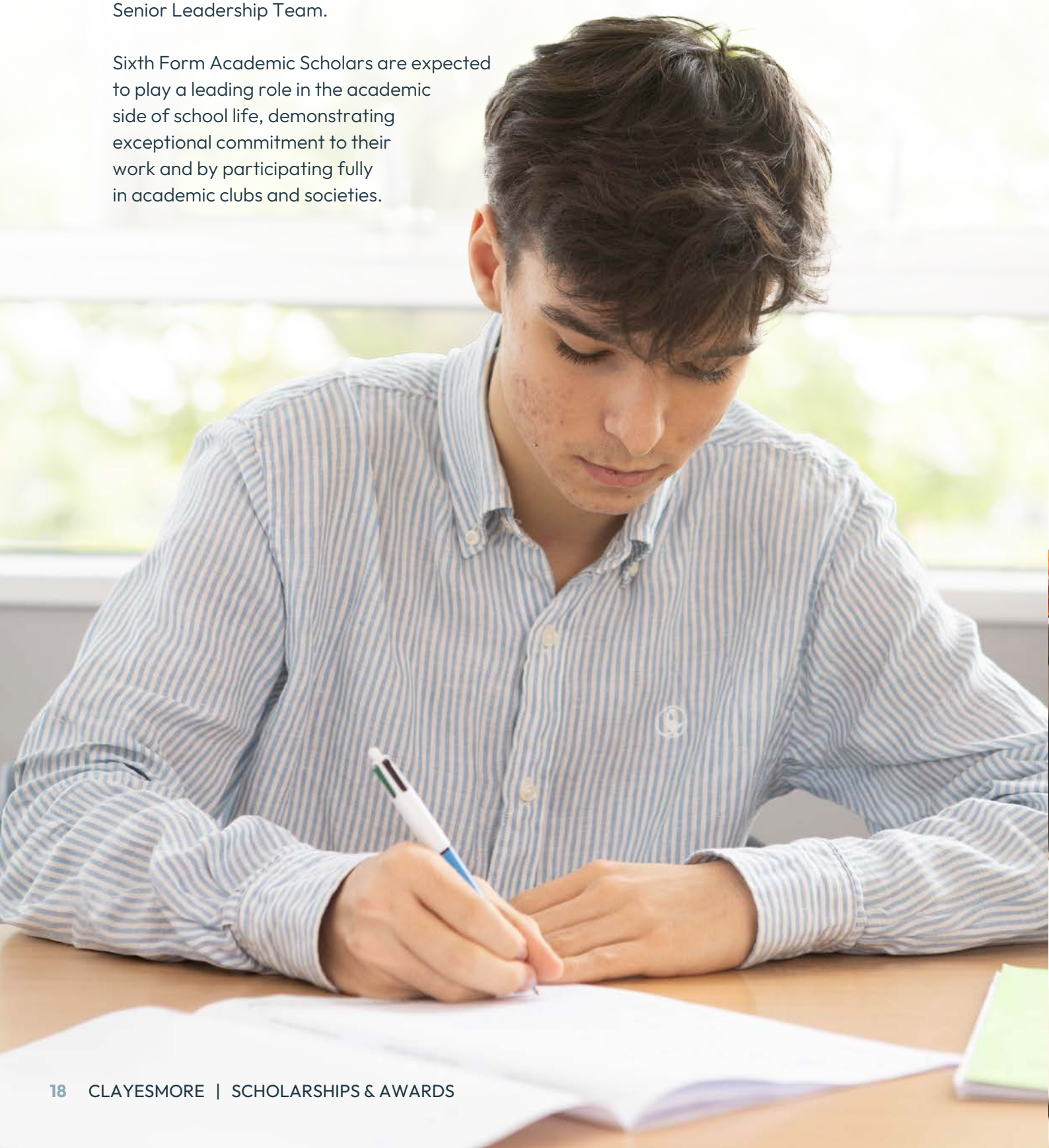
Students who have access arrangements can be accommodated: an Educational Psychologist's report or specialist teacher assessment should be sent to us with the application form.

SIXTH FORM ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Assessment is by examination, interview and an academic baseline assessment.

Successful candidates will be predicted a strong set of GCSE grades, and have a lively interest in the subjects they wish to study at A Level. Candidates take a one hour paper in each of the three subjects they would like to take in Year 12, or a suitable alternative chosen by the student if the course is new to them. They will also be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Sixth Form Academic Scholars are expected to play a leading role in the academic side of school life, demonstrating exceptional commitment to their work and by participating fully in academic clubs and societies.



SIXTH FORM CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS: MUSIC

Candidates are assessed by an audition, interview and will be required to take an academic baseline assessment.

Candidates must offer two instruments, one of which may be voice. Candidates should prepare two pieces on their first instrument and one on their second, with or without accompaniment. Candidates are welcome to perform on a third instrument/voice in order to demonstrate their full musical ability. Total performance time should not exceed 25 minutes. Singing as a first, second or third option is encouraged though not compulsory. Sight-reading, scales and aural tests appropriate to the grade level of the candidate will be given. The standard of performance on the first instrument should not usually be less than that of Grade 6 of the Associated Board or other recognised music Conservatoires.

Auditions will be followed by a short interview during which the candidate's motivation and interest in music will be assessed. It should be stressed that musical potential is as important a factor in this assessment as instrumental or vocal prowess. A Music Scholar must expect to play a full part in the musical life of the school - being ready to perform solos and to be a member of any appropriate ensembles, including choir. We would hope that any Sixth Form Music Scholars would take Music A Level.





SIXTH FORM CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS: ART

Candidates are assessed by portfolio, practical task and interview at Clayesmore. They will also be asked to take an academic baseline assessment.

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to Art and Art History, as well as an interest in contemporary Art. While we would expect to see a wide range of techniques and a willingness to experiment, we would also like to see evidence of development within a specialist area such as Painting, Sculpture or Ceramics. An advanced level of visual sophistication will be expected.

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a high standard of analytical drawing and an understanding of the energy and commitment needed to achieve well at A Level standard. Scholars will be invited to submit work for exhibitions and be expected to participate in workshops and life drawing on a regular basis. All Sixth Form Art Scholars are expected to take Art A Level.

SIXTH FORM CREATIVE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS: DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Candidates are assessed by portfolio, practical task and interview. They will also be asked to take an academic baseline assessment.

Candidates should be able to demonstrate above average skill and enthusiasm in the area of creative problem solving and the physical manufacture of high quality productions in the workshops. Successful candidates are likely to have good drawing and CAD skills and take pride in the presentation of their work.

It is expected that a Design & Technology award winner will give their time freely and willingly to support the department.

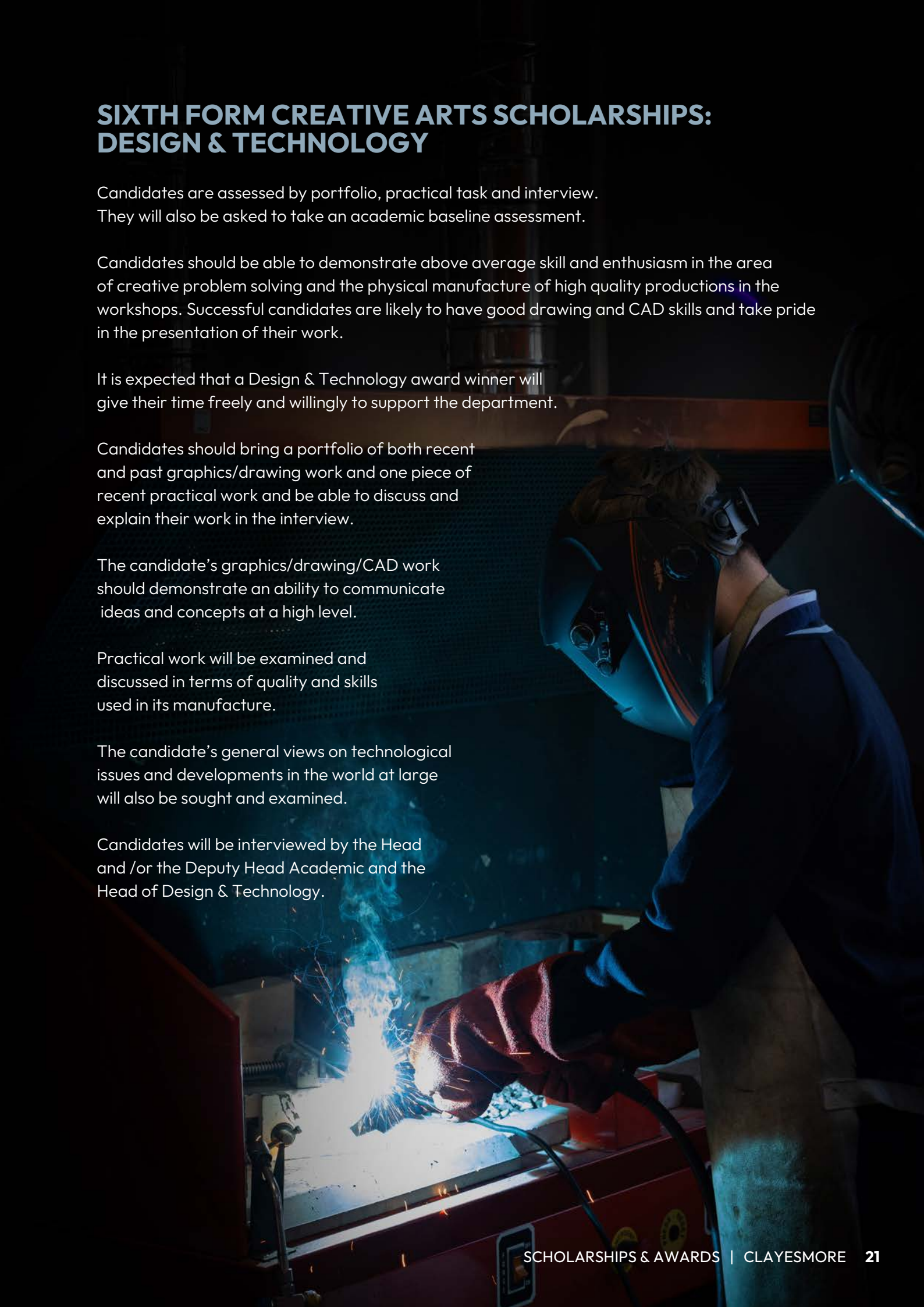
Candidates should bring a portfolio of both recent and past graphics/drawing work and one piece of recent practical work and be able to discuss and explain their work in the interview.

The candidate's graphics/drawing/CAD work should demonstrate an ability to communicate ideas and concepts at a high level.

Practical work will be examined and discussed in terms of quality and skills used in its manufacture.

The candidate's general views on technological issues and developments in the world at large will also be sought and examined.

Candidates will be interviewed by the Head and /or the Deputy Head Academic and the Head of Design & Technology.



SIXTH FORM SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Assessment is by practical tests, interview and they will also be asked to take an academic baseline assessment.

Candidates will have the opportunity to experience life at Clayesmore and showcase their sporting ability, character and potential.

The practical sporting assessment will allow candidates to demonstrate their skills, athleticism, game understanding and potential across netball, hockey, cricket, tennis and rugby. Coaches will also look for teamwork, resilience, enthusiasm, determination and a willingness to learn. Candidates should be capable of competing in at least two 'major game' teams and demonstrate above average technical ability in a third sport.



Sometimes a Scholarship is awarded in a specific sport where only one skill, sport or event is offered. In such cases candidates should be able to provide evidence of achievement of competing at a minimum of 'county' level and demonstrate the desire and practical physical and technical ability to reach divisional and/or national level in their specific sport or event. Sixth Form Sports Scholars are expected to be highly motivated, self-disciplined, and able to maintain their commitment to their sport and participate in a variety of formal and informal school sports and activities. It is also expected that a Sixth Form Sports Scholar will act as a role model for younger pupils in terms of behaviour and conduct. They must demonstrate a high level of drive, ambition and self-discipline to be able to cope with the demands of sustained high-level training and maintain their personal academic standards whilst pursuing their sporting goals.

A Sports Scholar is expected to make a commitment to sport beyond that of non-scholarship pupils and take part in the Sports Development Group training programme. It is the policy of the School for all pupils to represent School teams when selected and Sports Scholars particularly may be asked to support minor games teams if relevant.

Sport Scholars are expected to enter any competitions as a member of Clayesmore School, except where the school does not meet competition qualification criteria.



YOUR SCHOLARSHIP JOURNEY

RECOGNISING TALENT. DEVELOPING POTENTIAL.

At Clayesmore, we celebrate pupils who demonstrate talent, commitment and the potential to go further. A Scholarship recognises individual strengths and provides an opportunity for pupils to develop their abilities while making a positive contribution to school life.

Scholarships are available for entry into Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12, across Academic, Sport and Creative Arts, alongside All-Rounder Scholarships and Combined Awards.





HOW TO APPLY

1 Register with Clayesmore

Pupils must be registered for entry to the School before they can apply for a Scholarship. Full details of the admissions process can be found on our website.

2 Complete the Scholarship Application Form

To apply for a Scholarship, please scan the QR code below to access our online application form. Applications should be submitted before 31 December 2026 and submit any supporting references.

3 Prepare for Assessment

Assessments will take place at Clayesmore from 25–29 January 2027. Depending on the scholarship area, candidates may take examinations, attend auditions or interviews, complete practical assessments or present a portfolio of work. Please refer to the relevant section of this brochure for full details of what will be required.

Candidates will be informed of the outcome of scholarships in writing during the week commencing 8th February 2027.

4 School Reference

We will request a Heads reference from the candidate's current school, covering their progress, academic record, potential and wider contribution to school life.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Current pupils can apply. Clayesmore pupils applying for a Scholarship for the next stage of their education follow the same assessment process as external applicants.

More than one application is possible. Candidates may apply for multiple Scholarships or for an All-Rounder or Combined Award, but only one Scholarship will be awarded.

Scholarships recognise ongoing commitment. Awards continue throughout a pupil's education at Clayesmore, provided they remain a positive contributor to school life and demonstrate commitment to their scholarship area. Terms and Conditions of a scholarship are provided with the offer letter.

Fee reductions. Scholarship awards may include a reduction in fees up to a maximum of 25% for all scholarships awarded. Larger scholarships may be awarded in exceptional circumstances.

LET'S START A CONVERSATION

We welcome the opportunity to meet prospective pupils and their families, discuss individual strengths and answer questions about the Scholarship process.

To find out more or arrange a visit, please contact our Admissions Team.

01747 812122

admissions@clayesmore.com





clayesmore.com