



19<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Dear Year 5 Parents**

## Scholarships

At this time of year, we have traditionally written to Year 5 parents about competitions for academic, music, sport and Headmaster's scholarships that run from Year 6-8. These have primarily been honorary awards with the amount of funding attached to them significantly reduced over the years as, in common with most independent schools, we have focused resources on means-tested bursarial support for less advantaged children who would particularly benefit from a Town Close education.

We have recently been evaluating the benefits of running these scholarship competitions and are keen to hear the views of current Year 5 parents, who might normally be applying at this time, before coming to any final decision.

Over the years, we have seen children take tremendous pride in entering these competitions and winning scholarships. On the other hand, the process has caused upset and disappointment at times with the majority of applicants, who are of course still very young, experiencing what might be an unnecessary "failure". The selections have also led to some parental dissatisfaction, particularly in the sports and Headmaster's competitions.

In light of the above, we are evaluating the following options:

- To leave the scholarship system exactly as it is
- To discontinue Town Close scholarships
- To keep some of the scholarships, while discontinuing others
- To keep some or all of the scholarships but to assess children at a later age (probably in Year 6) when they have had a chance to develop their talents further

Please feel welcome to share any views you may have with me, either in person or by email ([head@townclose.com](mailto:head@townclose.com)). We will consider all of this feedback in making a final decision and will ensure that this is communicated to you all later this term.

With my thanks

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Bevington