



16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents

## Consultation about the future of scholarships

Thank you to those who responded to our recent request for feedback about the future of scholarships, traditionally awarded for Years 6-8 following assessment in Year 5. The responses were considered at a recent staff meeting prior to a decision about whether to continue making awards and, if so, in what form. There was general consensus that outstanding contributions should be recognised in some way, though some saw current scholarships as too long-lasting and final. There was also consensus that Year 5 children have not yet developed sufficiently for reliable judgements to be made about future potential.

We have therefore decided to move from three-year “scholarships”, which seem more appropriate for senior schools, to “awards”, lasting a year. These will be awarded firstly for Year 7 and again for Year 8, with the possibility that different children might be chosen each time. There will be “Academic Awards”, “Music Awards”, “Sports Awards” and “Headmaster’s Awards” (covering outstanding contributions in other areas). The recipients will receive a silver breast pocket TCH shield, similar to the red prefect shield, which they will be entitled to wear for the year of their award and keep thereafter. Awards will be made sparingly to recognise outstanding contributions and our aim will be to provide recipients with as many opportunities as possible to showcase their talents. The small amount of fee remission associated with previous scholarships will be re-deployed to our means-tested bursary fund.

The new awards will be presented to pupils in the final assembly of the summer term each year. Staff will make decisions in the same way as for colours or other prizes, without any application process. In order for advanced thinking skills to form part of the judgement for academic awards, there will be optional “challenge papers” during the summer exam weeks in Years 6&7. In all other disciplines, staff will make judgements based upon children’s performance in school as well as any achievements out of school that they share with us.

This means that we will make the first awards to the current Year 5 cohort in July 2019. We look forward to seeing how they develop between now and then.

Thank you again to everyone who took part in this consultation.

Yours sincerely

Nick Bevington