Introduction

Scholarship and Entrance Examinations can be a stressful time for teachers, parents and pupils.

The purpose of this guide is to clarify the process from the initial telephone call to the assessment day itself. Whether candidates are applying for top academic honours or merely sitting an entrance examination the route can often be bewildering, not least because it will vary from school to school.

We hope this short guide will help to clarify the process and enable you to choose the most appropriate route for your daughter, in consultation with her current school.

Should you have any further questions regarding the process, we would be happy to answer any queries you may have.

Jonathan Forster
Principal
The Assessment Process

After an initial tour and meeting with Jonathan Forster, we recommend all candidates experience a taster session with us, so that they are familiar with the school when they come to sit the assessment.

In the year preceding entry, candidates are asked to clarify their entry route. This could be entrance examination at Moreton, Common Entrance examination at their present school, or an offer conditional on achieving good grades at GCSE.

Some candidates may choose to be considered for scholarship entry. At this stage, we recommend candidates consult with the Head of their present school for their advice on the most appropriate entry route.

Scholarship examinations are held in November (Sixth Form) and January (11+, 12+ and 13+). Entrance examinations take place throughout the year.

After the examinations, a letter is sent to candidates with details of their performance. An offer of a place or a scholarship will be made at this time.
The Examinations in more detail

Entrance Assessments
All candidates joining pre-GCSE, sit the Durham University CEM Online Assessments. Tests in verbal, numerical and non-verbal reasoning are designed to enable all children to demonstrate their natural ability and achievement without excessive preparation.

For more information please visit their website - http://www.cem.org/intu/entrance-assessment

Academic Scholarship Examinations
At 11+ and 12+ candidates sit papers in English and Mathematics

At 13+ candidates sit papers in English, Mathematics, Science, French, Latin (if applicable), and a General Paper (History, Geography, Religious Studies).

16+ candidates sit papers in two subjects (usually their best GCSE subjects). There is also a third General Paper, which tests critical thinking skills and general knowledge.

Candidates who require access arrangements, such as extra time or reader, should inform the school in advance, so that the necessary arrangements can be put in place.

Specimen papers are available for all scholarship papers.

Entry via Common Entrance
Candidates who intend to sit Common Entrance Examinations at their present school, should inform us of their intention in writing. Arrangements will then be made for them to sit the online assessment test at another date.
Categories of Scholarship

Academic
Drama
Music
Art
Sports
All-Rounder
Doreen Cameron Award for Art and Design
Richard Allen Art Award
Emily Higson Award (for all-rounder lower down the school)
Bronwen Lloyd Williams Sixth Form Awards
Bronwen Scholarship (for new girls entering Year 5, 6, 7 or 8)

All scholarships to Moreton carry a nominal fee reduction in each scholarship category. We advise that girls are not entered for more than two categories of scholarship.

Preparation of Candidates for Scholarships

Firstly, it is important to note that the scholarship examinations are designed to identify potential rather than test knowledge per se. However, it is important that candidates arrive on the day of the assessment feeling fully prepared and know what is expected of them.

The following information is designed to assist families and current schools in the preparation of candidates.
Music

In assessing candidates, musical potential is as important as actual achievement. Levels of instrumental proficiency will be considered in relation to age and length of study and difficulty of instruments offered. The following is a guide:

- **11+ candidates will have reached approximately**
  - Grade III or IV ABRSM

- **12+ and 13+ candidates will have reached Grades V or VI ABRSM**

- **16+ candidates will have reached Grade VII or VIII ABRSM.**

However, it should be borne in mind that scholarships will not necessarily be awarded simply to the candidate who has reached the highest grade. Considerable importance is attached to the candidate’s responses in a variety of contexts during the audition, in order to assess the level of musical awareness and the degree to which the candidate is able to communicate through the medium of music. For example, a performance at Grade III standard which communicates a high degree of sensitivity and artistry is much more likely to impress than a technically accurate, but mainly mechanical rendition of music at Grade V or VI standard.

Preference may be given to a candidate showing proficiency on a less popular instrument in the interest of maintaining a balanced orchestra and/or wind ensemble.

The Scholarship Assessment will include the following: A practical examination (approximately 20-30 minutes) during which candidates will be asked to play a selection of scales and arpeggios of the standard of their chosen instrument:

1. Perform two contrasting pieces on their principal instrument/voice. Second instruments and/or voice will be taken into account, and candidates offering either should bring one piece to perform (the ability to offer a second instrument may be an advantage, but is by no means essential);

2. To sight read a piece on the principal instrument offered and to attempt a simple sight singing exercise:
3. Aural and general musicianship exercises e.g. reading a rhythmic pattern, clapping rhythms, singing or playing back simple melodies from memory, recognising time signatures and answering questions on a piece of music played to them.

4. To play a number of scales and arpeggios to the standard candidates have reached practically.

If an accompanist is required, please liaise with the Music Department no later than one week before the assessment.

Art and Design

Art scholarships are designed to reward those applicants who can demonstrate a high level of ability and the potential to be an outstanding student of Art.

Requirements

1. If you wish to be considered for an Art scholarship you need to complete a drawing examination. The examination will aim to assess talent and potential as well as ability. We are looking for those who have a genuine interest in and engagement with art and design. The examination is designed to test the applicant’s observational, recording and tonal skills and is very often a themed still life. Candidates will be encouraged to show their skills in drawing through a considered and well-proportioned composition.

2. Application is by submission of a portfolio, and interview to discuss the development of candidates work and interest in The Arts. If possible, the portfolio should be submitted one week before the drawing examination. It should include personal work produced by the candidate in their own time as well as work produced in school, art clubs or holiday courses. Evidence of a wide variety of approaches is encouraged. It is hoped that much of the work submitted will be exploratory, experimental and drawing-based – a good deal of which might be suitable for submission in a sketchbook. We are looking for the ability to produce not only sustained work from first-hand observation, but also imaginative, thoughtful and creative responses in a variety of media.
Three-dimensional work such as pottery, sculpture and design projects should NOT be submitted with the portfolio but instead the work should be presented through good quality print-outs showing a clear and accurate indication of the scale and quality of the work.

3. There will be an informal interview; this will be based around your portfolio and a 500 word personal statement, explaining your reasons for applying for the scholarship (for 13+ and 16+). Candidates will be given the opportunity to talk about their work, express developing interest in the subject and any artists or designers that they admire. Enthusiasm is paramount. Successful Art and Design Scholars are expected to make the most of the facilities of the School’s Design Centre during their time at Moreton Hall. They will be able to pursue their particular interests and develop their skills both within and outside the taught curriculum. Successful candidates will follow a suitable course to GCSE level and proceed to an AS/A-level in Fine Art or History of Art.

At 11+, 12+ and 13+ the candidate will be required to sit a one-hour drawing examination.

At 16+ the candidate will be required to sit a one and a half hour drawing examination.

**Drama**

Drama scholarships are awarded to applicants who demonstrate the very highest levels of dramatic techniques. We encourage applications from any promising dramatist who shows the highest level of commitment and potential within the performing arts field.

Drama is taught to all students in Moreton First and the senior school and it becomes an optional examination subject for GCSE and then AS or A2 level. Drama Scholars are normally expected to take these academic options. At the highest level pupils can be prepared for entry into any Drama School.

Moreton Hall offers a wide and ever increasing range of activities in which a Drama scholar would be expected to take full part. There are also opportunities to participate in regular school productions, drama festivals and taking drama out into the wider community. We also strongly encourage and prepare our drama scholars to audition for and participate in National Youth Theatre.
At 16+ the scholarship audition requires each candidate to:

- Perform two contrasting monologues: one pre-1900 and one post-1900
- Be prepared to deliver the monologues in different styles at the director’s request
- Be able to answer questions about their characters and the plays in addition to displaying an understanding of the genre.

At 11+ and 13+ we only ask students to prepare one monologue from any era of their choice.

For anyone coming into Remove (Year 7), Lower IV (Year 8) or Upper IV (Year 9) pupils participate in a Drama Class where they are able to demonstrate their ability at being part of a group, physical theatre, group speaking, creative imagination, voice projection and leadership potential.

**Sport**

Candidates for the Sports Scholarship should offer at least one core sport (Lacrosse, Hockey, Tennis, Cricket or Athletics) and may in addition wish to be assessed in a non-core sport (Netball, Swimming, Cross Country, Equestrianism etc.). Candidates should complete and return the Sporting CV Application Form which is sent out in advance to all Sports Scholarship Candidates.

The assessment normally lasts two hours and candidates should bring with them appropriate sportswear and equipment.

The Scholarship assessment will include the following:

1. Physical Fitness Test
2. Assessment of ability and potential in the Core Sports
3. Assessment of ability and potential in Non-Core Sports
4. Interview

Scholarships are awarded not just on current ability but also potential and successful candidates will expect to be coached to the highest level and display a commitment to sport at Moreton Hall.

New Elite Sports Scholarship aimed at talented sportswomen in Years 6, 7 and 8. This scholarship programme enables students to receive specialist coaching and on-going support before taking up their place at Moreton Hall.
The Scholarship Day

11+, 12+ and 13+ Scholarships normally take place over two days. They begin with the assessments in Art, Music, Sport and Drama (if applicable) and conclude with the written papers for the Academic Scholarships. Candidates and their parents are invited to arrive at the Front Hall, where they will be able to meet the other candidates, their families and key members of staff. Most candidates will be wearing their current school uniform. Each girl will have a nominated pupil, who will look after them during their time with us.

There will also be opportunities to meet the other girls and, if applicable, tour Gem and Pilkington House. All candidates are offered overnight accommodation in The Stables Boarding House, although some that live very locally may choose to go home and return the next day.

All candidates are advised to bring the following items:
- Pencil Case including: protractor, compass, calculator, pencil, rubber and pens

Depending on category of scholarship:
- Art portfolio, sports kit, musical instrument (if applicable) and copies of music if accompanist required, copy of chosen drama performance

Candidates staying overnight are advised to bring:
- Change of clothes
- Toiletries
- Towel

All bed linen will be provided

After their assessments have been completed, pupils are then collected from the Front Hall by their parents. Once again, key members of staff will be on hand to answer any questions or queries that candidates or their parents may have.

16+ Scholarships

The Sixth Form Scholarships normally take place on one day and in addition to the assessments, each candidate is interviewed by the Principal, Jonathan Forster. However, once again overnight accommodation is available to all external candidates if required.
Bursaries and Fee Remission

All bursaries are means-tested and are administered by the Financial Controller Ian Davies. In order to qualify for a bursary, parents are asked to complete a Confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances, which is reviewed on an annual basis.

Ursula Roberts Award
Girls whose parents live within a radius of approximately 20 miles of Oswestry are eligible for this award given in memory of Ursula Roberts, successively pupil and Librarian at Moreton Hall for 37 years. The award is worth the equivalent of 2 day places at Moreton, but may be split into up to 6 lesser awards. It may also be awarded to girls who live locally, but would like to board.

Sibling Bursaries
For parents with three or more children at the school, sibling bursaries may be available. Further details are available on request from the Financial Controller Ian Davies.

Fee Remission
Fee remission may be available upon request to the daughters of members of the Independent teaching profession, the daughters of serving members of Her Majesty’s Armed Forces and the daughters of Old Moretonians.

Frequently asked questions

Should my daughter sit the Entrance Examination or the Scholarship examination?
All 11+, 12+ and 13+ candidates sit an examination. The data from these tests help us to establish setting and identify whether your daughter will need any support in particular areas. Most prospective pupils sit the entrance examination – either here or at their current school, a few will be entered for the Scholarship examinations. Your daughter’s current school will be able to advise you as to which category is most appropriate. If a candidate sits our entrance examination and does exceptionally well, we may recommend she considers applying for a scholarship.
What is the difference between Scholarships and Bursaries?
Firstly it is important to distinguish between scholarships and bursaries. Scholarships are awarded in recognition of excellence in one or more categories and are purely awarded on merit. Bursaries are means-tested and are an entirely separate process, administered by our Financial Controller Ian Davies. Parents complete the standard ISBA (Independent Schools Bursars’ Association) Confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances. Once a bursary has been awarded, parents are asked to complete the Confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances on an annual basis and inform the bursary if their financial situation changes significantly.

The two schemes run independently of one another - a pupil may have a bursary, but not a scholarship and vice versa. A few pupils may have both.

How many scholarship categories can my daughter be entered for?
We advise that girls are not entered for more than two categories of scholarships and if they are particularly talented in a number of areas, the all-rounder category may be the most appropriate route.

I don’t know whether to enter my daughter for an All-Rounder Scholarship. What does it entail?
All-Rounder scholarships, as the name suggests, are awarded to candidates who perform well in the written examinations and have considerable talent in other areas. As well as sitting a written examination, candidates are expected to have reached a high standard in at least two of the following categories: Art, Music, Drama, Sport.

Candidates who perform well in the Common Entrance Examination at their present school and wish to be considered for an All-Rounder Scholarship, should, in consultation with their current Head, contact Moreton Hall.
How many scholarships are awarded in each age category?
For each category, a scholarship may be awarded to one outstanding candidate or a number of smaller awards may be made.

What is an honorary scholarship?
Occasionally, Honorary Scholarships are awarded which recognise outstanding achievement, but carry no fee reduction. They are occasionally awarded to pupils who may already hold scholarships in other categories.

Will the scholarship my daughter is awarded continue into the Senior School or Sixth Form?
Subject to satisfactory progress and achievement, scholarships awarded lower down the school will continue automatically as the pupil moves to the next stage.

Useful Contacts

We hope that you have found the information in this booklet useful. However, should you have any further, more detailed queries you may wish to speak to the relevant member of staff.

All the following staff may be contacted via the main school switchboard Tel: 01691 773671.

Alternatively you may wish to contact them by e-mail.

Head of Senior School: Sarah Hughes  hughess@moretonhall.com
Principal’s PA & Admissions: Ruth Brown  brownr@moretonhall.com
Financial Controller: Ian Davies  daviesi@moretonhall.com
Sixth Form Registrar: Caroline Lang  langc@moretonhall.com
Prep School Registrar: Grainne Dennison  dennisong@moretonhall.com
Director of Music: Helen Rayner  raynerh@moretonhall.com
Drama: Kate Howells  howellsk@moretonhall.com
Sport: Kate Simlett-Groves  grovesk@moretonhall.com
Art: Ruth Mills  millsr@moretonhall.com