

**Academic Scholarship Information Evening**  
**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018**  
**6.30pm**  
**Richard Theobald Theatre**

Dear Parent

Please find below a summary of the presentation that was made as a part of this event.

### **Introduction**

- Welcome to this regular event in the Foremarke calendar.
- We hope that this information will help to clear up some of the mystery that can surround the whole area of Academic Scholarships.
- We are very pleased to be able to welcome Mr Tim Owen (Deputy Head Academic), Mr Clifford Dammers (Master of Scholars) and Mr Tim Collins (Director of Admissions) from Repton School.
- There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of this evening's presentation, either from the audience, or individually to members of staff. If however, you leave this evening and still have questions, please do make contact and we will do our best to answer them.

### **Form Placement**

- The process of Form placement starts at this time each year. It is carried out by the Form Placement Committee which is made up of The Headmaster, Assistant Head (Admin), Assistant Head (Academic), Heads of Maths, English and Science and Head of Learning Enhancement. The aim of this committee is to place each individual pupil into the best possible teaching group for them.
- The process of Form Placement is carried out in a rigorous and professional manner and involves many hours of discussion based on extensive data, along with whole-staff consultation. At the heart of all discussion is always the pupil, and what is best for them.  
For those currently in Year 6, this year's 3 forms will be extended into 5 teaching groups. 4 of these will be streamed by ability and will work towards Common Entrance, and the 5<sup>th</sup> – named 7PS – will follow the Academic Scholarship programme. The anticipated route of progression for those who are currently in 6RN will be into 7PS or 7/1.  
For those currently in 7PS, the majority are likely to progress into 8S unless it is felt that scholarship is really not the right route for them, in which case they may change to 8/1 and follow the Common Entrance route.
- Details of form placement for next year will go home at the end of this term.

### **What Makes an Academic Scholar?**

- For the majority of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, the CE course is plenty challenging enough. However, for some, the scholarship programme provides the opportunity to really challenge our most able pupils.
- Being a potential Academic Scholar is about more than just academic ability, and there are a number of qualities that we look for when considering who should be placed into 7PS and 8S. These qualities include: effort, motivation, resilience, emotional maturity, confidence, creativity and flair, independent thought and a global awareness.

## **Expectations and Demands of an Academic Scholar**

- The expectations and demands on those in 7PS and 8S are high.
  - Preps are often challenging and may require the devotion of time in addition to that set out in the prep timetable.
  - We expect our Potential Scholars to work hard. We expect that they are able to think around an issue, and not just to remember factual information. We expect them to be able to listen.
  - Many pupils in 7PS and 8S have additional commitments to sport, music, art, design & technology, drama – and so require excellent personal organisation to keep up to date with all that needs to be done.
  - These pupils need to be committed!
  - They must be motivated.
  - And they need to have a ‘can do’ attitude.
- They are not, however, expected to do this all on their own and will receive support from their subject teachers, their form tutors, Year Group Head, and through the PSHE programme.

## **Subject Information**

- The scholarship programme is not for the faint hearted – but for the right pupils it is challenging and great fun.
- Information on the individual subjects that make up the Academic Scholarship curriculum is available from Heads of Department:
  - English (Mrs Golding)
  - Mathematics (Mr Davis)
  - Science (Mrs Waldock)
  - French (Mrs Newham)
  - Geography (Mr Hobson)
  - History (Mr Masters)
  - Religious Studies (Mr Way)
  - Latin (Mr Williamson)

## **Assessment**

- The scholarship examinations are usually held at, and marked by, Senior Schools. Each school has their own programme, but as well as the examinations these usually include interviews and group activities.
- Pupils heading to Repton will sit for the ‘Repton Scholarship’.
- Other senior schools use the Common Academic Scholarship papers. These are administered by ISEB (Independent Schools Examination Board), in much the same way as Common Entrance. Alternatively, schools may use their own, bespoke papers, and so if you are considering schools other than Repton, please do let us know so that we may prepare your child appropriately.
- Assessment usually takes place early in the Summer Term of Year 8, a few weeks before the Common Entrance examinations, although again, there is some variation with schools that do not use the Common Academic Scholarship papers.

## **The Repton Scholarship**

- Mr Tim Owen, Deputy Head (Academic), outlined the new ‘Repton Scholarship’ which has come about as a result of the following:
  - Some concerns about CASE (Common Academic Scholarship Examination) especially in terms of content, assessment and suitability
  - A wish to be clearer about the scholarly qualities (SQs) for which Repton is looking
  - Wider assessments: form and the skills and abilities being assessed
- The Repton Scholarship will reward academic excellence and a commitment to academic progress, enrichment and a life-long process of learning. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate in written papers, and at interview, the qualities of Aspiration; Curiosity; Independence; Reflection and Resilience as well as subject specific scholarly qualities.
- The assessment of Scholarship candidates takes place over a 4 day period with pupils sitting written examinations, interviews, a science practical, a standardised on-line test and a ‘theme and response’

exercise. They will also have the opportunity to spend time in boarding houses and having some fun too.

- Repton School look for a good all-round examination performance and are particularly keen to see evidence that a candidate has the ability to think.
- There are 5 'named' Academic Scholarships available each year, as well as a more flexible number of un-named Scholarships which are awarded on merit. In addition to this a number of exhibitions are awarded to those pupils who have put in a very strong performance, but who have not quite made a Scholarship award.
- Pupils who have been awarded a scholarship to Repton are invited to attend the 'Admission of scholars' ceremony to welcome them to the school.
- Mr Clifford Dammers, Master of Scholars at Repton School, oversees the programme of support, enrichment and development that is in place for academic scholars at Repton School.

### **To finish**

- When the current 8S group, were asked what their advice would be to a pupil about to embark on the scholarship programme, they said:
  - Keep organised and support each other
  - It can be tough and you will need to persevere, but the hard work is worth it if you enjoy a challenge
  - You need to be 100% committed right from the start
  - Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it
  - Learn from any mistakes you make and bounce back from them!
  - Keep on top of prep and revision – preparation is key
  - Balance your time and commitments, and allow for fun!
  - Believe in yourself – you are there for a reason!
  - Stay positive and enjoy – make it count!
  - Be proud of your academic ability

Paula Bushby  
Assistant Head (Academic)