

Academic Scholarship  
Guide & Application Form



TONBRIDGE  
SCHOOL

# FROM APPLICATION TO AWARD

TONBRIDGE ONLY CONNECT



# ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2026

**The Academic Scholarship Examination will be held at Tonbridge on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 29 April to 1 May 2026.**

Up to 21 Awards will be offered in competition as follows:

One **Ainslie Scholar** will be awarded a prize of £4,000, which will be deducted from the first term's fees. This Scholarship, made possible by a bequest from an Old Tonbridgian, Mr W M L Ainslie, will be offered to one outstanding candidate.

Up to 20 further Scholars will be awarded a prize of £2,000, which will be deducted from the first term's fees. Of these Scholarships, up to 3 may be **Knightley Scholarships**. Knightley Scholarships are the result of a benefaction of an Old Tonbridgian who wishes to encourage parents to have their children taught foreign languages in early childhood. Knightley Scholarships are given in the same way as other Awards, but a condition of their award is some fluency in speaking a foreign language.

Candidates wishing to be considered for a Knightley Scholarship must therefore take French II or Spanish, or another European language if notice is given. (Requests for a paper in any other language must be made and approved at least six months before the examination).

## Key Dates

- The application form of an intending candidate must reach the Admissions Office by 1 March 2026
- Examinations will take place from 29 April to 1 May 2026

## Age Limit

Candidates for the above Awards must be under 14.0 on 1 September 2026.

## Accommodation

Boys who are registered as potential boarders can, very occasionally, be offered accommodation over the examination period at the School. However, it is understood that parents might prefer their son to attend on a daily basis during this busy examination period. Those who come daily will be provided with lunch. Those staying at the School will be expected to arrive on Tuesday evening, 28 April 2026. A detailed letter about arrangements will be sent to parents and to the Heads of candidates' current schools.

# ASSESSMENT

Candidates should take 9 compulsory papers and at least two optional papers; the majority take two or three. They are advised not to take more than three.

It should be noted that Scholarships are not awarded merely on aggregate marks; it is in the interest of candidates to attempt only those optional papers in which they are likely to be graded A\*, A or B.

To gain an Award, a candidate must show competence in all compulsory papers and particular merit in the compulsory or optional papers of at least one subject and preferably more. Scholarship projects are not required.

All candidates will have an informal interview. Boys who show promise in Music or Art may ask to be examined on a practical and oral basis in the relevant subject during the Examination, and this will be fitted into the programme at an appropriate time. Existing holders of Music or Art awards (taken in January/February 2026) should not offer the subject as one of their options.

The age of candidates is taken into careful consideration.

## Compulsory Papers

- English I and II
- Mathematics I
- Science I and II
- History
- Geography
- French I
- Latin I (boys who know no Latin are encouraged to offer three optional papers)

## Optional Papers

- Mathematics II
- Music
- Art
- Divinity
- French II
- Spanish
- Greek
- Latin II
- Another language - if requested and approved at least six months before the examination.

In all papers, grades will be awarded as follows:

**A\* - High Award standard**

**A - Award standard**

**B - Near Award standard**

**C - Good, but below Award standard**

**D - Common Entrance standard**

# SUBJECT PAPERS

## ENGLISH

Paper I will consist of a poem for comprehension followed by a prose passage for comprehension. Questions will vary from close language analysis to more extensive thematic discussion, and the paper will last for one and a half hours. Paper II will require candidates to choose from a range of creative titles and write one piece over the period of an hour.

## MATHEMATICS

Paper I aims to discover scholarship ability, whereas Paper II is set with the strong mathematical candidate in mind. In both papers, candidates will be asked to answer as many questions as they can, but they should be encouraged to aim for complete solutions rather than a series of fragments. Calculators may be used freely. In neither paper will any question presume formal teaching beyond the syllabus for the Additional Paper at 13+.

## SCIENCE

There will be two papers which will test knowledge and understanding of the Common Entrance 11+ and 13+ syllabus at Level 2. No specific knowledge beyond the Common Entrance Syllabus is required, but candidates will be presented with questions which expect them to apply the science they do know in novel and unfamiliar contexts. Paper I will consist of questions on areas of experimental design, data handling and problem solving including the manipulation of simple formulae. Questions could be set in scientific contexts relating to any of the three separate sciences, with the emphasis on skills rather than recall. Paper II will have sections for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics with a greater emphasis on recall and application of knowledge.

## HISTORY

There will be two sections. The first will consist of passages from primary and secondary historical sources for comment in a style similar to CIE IGCSE Paper 2; the second will require candidates to write an essay testing their understanding of broad historical themes. They will not be expected to have studied any specific period but to draw upon examples from any period they have studied.

## GEOGRAPHY

Section A will require a response to some type of geographical stimulus material such as a map extract, with questions which in places may touch on areas of geography not previously studied by any candidates. Section B will require an essay answer; essay topics will be directly based on the Common Entrance syllabus. Consideration will also be given to any coursework submitted.

## FRENCH

Paper I will consist of both a listening and a reading comprehension with questions in English. The reading comprehension will require candidates to answer questions on the text and complete vocabulary, grammar and French-English translation exercises based on the text. There will also be a guided written task (120-150 words), based on one or more topics taken from the Common Entrance defined topic areas. Candidates will be expected to present a coherent argument, to provide opinions, and to give examples from their own experience. All candidates will complete an oral examination, consisting of (i) a discussion of a picture card, for which guiding questions will be provided; and (ii) a discussion of at least two Common Entrance defined topic areas. In both the written task and the oral examination, candidates will be expected to demonstrate secure knowledge of the present, past and future tenses.

Paper II will consist of a Use of French section testing vocabulary and grammatical knowledge in French. There will also be a translation section, requiring candidates to translate some short sentences from English into French.

### **DIVINITY**

There will be one section consisting of eight essay questions on general theological, ethical and philosophical themes. Candidates will be required to answer two questions and show their understanding of theology and philosophy in their arguments. There will be scope for candidates to display their knowledge and understanding of the bible, world religions, ethics and wider philosophical issues.

### **LATIN**

Paper I will consist of unseen translation, grammatical questions, and either comprehension questions based on a passage of Latin, or English into Latin sentences. Paper II will consist of a more difficult unseen translation and either prose composition or further translation.

### **GREEK**

The paper will consist of translation from Greek to English and of grammatical questions. Further (optional) sections will consist of English sentences to be translated into Greek, and a harder passage from Greek to English. The paper is designed to be accessible to those who have only recently begun Greek, as well as to stretch those who have done more. Vocabulary etc. will be based on John Taylor Greek to GCSE: Part 1 (BCP): for the compulsory sections, it will be drawn from the first four chapters.

### **SPANISH**

The paper will include both listening and reading comprehension questions, answered both in English and Spanish. In the reading section, candidates will need to answer questions on the text and complete tasks such as vocabulary and grammar exercises. There will also be a guided writing task (120-150 words), based on one or more Common Entrance topic areas. Candidates should present a clear argument, give opinions, and include examples from their own experience. All candidates will take an oral exam, discussing at least two topics from the Common Entrance list. In both the writing and the speaking, candidates will be required to confidently refer to the present, past and future tenses.

### **MUSIC**

There will be two parts for Music. One section will be a performance of one piece or two contrasting pieces on the candidate's chosen instrument, together with aural tests. The other section will consist of a music theory paper. Time will be given to practise before the performance section. There is no need to bring an accompanist, but candidates will be expected to supply the accompaniments where appropriate. The Director of Music is happy to discuss this option with parents, before forms are submitted, and can be contacted via:

Email: [jane.marsh@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:jane.marsh@tonbridge-school.org) Tel: + 44 (0) 1732 304288

### **ART**

Students applying for the Art Option in the academic scholarship are required to submit a selected portfolio of up to 10 pieces of work that best demonstrates the student's creative skills and interests. He will be required to present this portfolio to the Head of Department in a short interview. They will also complete a brief visual analysis and practical response.

# EXAM TIMETABLE

## Wednesday

9.30 - 11.00	English I
11.30 - 1.00	Mathematics I
- Lunch -	
2.15 - 3.00	Science I
3.30 - 4.30	French I
4.45 - 5.15	French II

## Friday

9.30 - 10.45	Science II
11.00 - 12.10	History
- Lunch -	
2.00 - 3.30	Mathematics II
3.45 - 4.45	Latin II

## Thursday

9.30 - 10.30	English II
10.45 - 11.45	Latin I
12.00 - 1.00	Geography
- Lunch -	
2.00 - 3.00	Divinity
3.15 - 4.15	Greek and Spanish*

\* or another approved language on your request

Candidates offering Music or Art as an option will be examined on a practical and oral basis at a time to fit in with their individual timetables.

## NEXT STEPS

To apply for a Tonbridge School Academic Scholarship for 2026, the candidate's parent or guardian should print and complete the application form at the end of this document. Please sign and return it, together with a passport-sized photograph, by 1 March 2026 to:

The Admissions Office,  
Tonbridge School, Tonbridge, TN9 1JP.

For more information, please contact:

[admissions@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:admissions@tonbridge-school.org)  
**+44 (0) 1732 900400**

# APPLICATION FORM

## Tonbridge School Academic Scholarships 2026

The candidate's parent or guardian should print and complete this form, sign and return it, together with a passport-sized photograph, by 1 March 2026 to:  
The Admissions Office, Tonbridge School, Tonbridge, TN9 1JP.



TONBRIDGE  
SCHOOL

### 1. Candidate Details

Full Name: .....  
*(block letters, with surname underlined)*

Age on 1 September 2026: ..... Years ..... Months      Date of Birth: .....

### 2. Parent or Guardian Details

Name: .....

Address: .....

Post code: .....      Tel: .....

Email: .....

### 3. Details of current Head

Name: .....

Address: .....

Post code: .....      Tel: .....

Email: .....

### 4. Examination Requirements

Is the candidate entitled to extra time and/or use of a laptop?      YES / NO

**If yes, please attach an Educational Psychologist report to support this which is less than two years old.**

**5. Examination choices**

Please circle the optional subjects that the candidate will offer:  
*(at least two and no more than three)*

- |                |          |          |       |
|----------------|----------|----------|-------|
| French II      | Spanish  | Divinity | Greek |
| Mathematics II | Latin II | Music    | Art   |

Pupils who have not studied Latin previously are required to sit a third optional paper.

Please tick this box if you are unable to offer Latin.

If the candidate will offer Music, please state his principal instrument and grades:

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**6. Accommodation**

Many candidates prefer to stay at home during the scholarship exams but, where this is not possible, we may be able to accommodate boarding candidates at the School during the examination.

If accommodation in school is required, please tick this box.

Has any House preference been formally stated? YES / NO



Signature of Head:

Date:

Signature of parent:

Date:

(For office administrative use. Please leave blank)

Entry Form received: .....