

Fee Assistance



TONBRIDGE  
SCHOOL

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT JUNIOR FOUNDATION AWARDS PROGRAMME

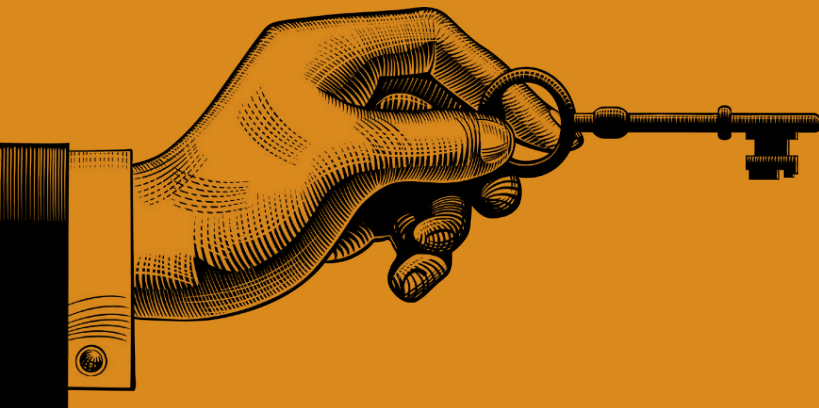
TONBRIDGE ONLY CONNECT



“As someone who benefitted from an assisted place myself, I recognise just how transformative the gift of an educational opportunity can be. It is an extraordinary privilege to be able to provide similar opportunities to young people and their families through our Junior Foundation Award programme. Tonbridge truly is a place that makes a home for individuals from a wealth of cultures, backgrounds and life experiences, and we will be keen to welcome you into it.”

James Priory, Headmaster

# FROM WIDENING ACCESS TO CREATING OPPORTUNITY



# WELCOME TO TONBRIDGE



**Tonbridge is one of the leading boys' boarding and day schools in the UK and is highly respected, both in the UK and internationally, for providing a world-class education.**

In the 2024 Sunday Times 'Parent Power' league table, Tonbridge was the sixth highest ranking independent school in the country and the top boys' boarding school.

Tonbridge encourages its students to make connections – connections between subjects, between people, between cultures – with the aim of producing fine minds and good hearts. Our ethos is summed up in just two words: 'Only Connect'.

We strongly believe that diversity opens minds. If you have an academically able son who would relish the opportunity to throw

himself into our wonderful environment, but you are prevented from applying due to insufficient income, we invite you to consider our Junior Foundation Awards Programme.

Every year, we offer up to 14 means-tested bursaries to boys in Year 6, guaranteeing them entry to Tonbridge in Year 9. Boys currently in state primary schools may be financially supported at an independent prep school for Years 7 and 8, to prepare for entry in Year 9.

Tonbridge may seem a little daunting and you might wonder whether this is a place where your son would belong. However, please rest assured that there are currently nearly 70 boys at Tonbridge with significant means-tested support and we are experienced in helping them feel at home here.

# TIMELINE FOR ENTRY IN YEAR 9

YEAR 5	
<b>March – September</b>	<p>Families are encouraged to attend one of our Open Days. Contact our Foundation Awards Manager and then, if appropriate, register for a place.</p> <p>Families are asked to submit details of their financial circumstances to the Director of Finance for a Means Tested Review and confirmation of eligibility.</p>
YEAR 6	
<b>October – December</b>	<p>Boys complete the Independent Schools Examination Board (ISEB) test and, depending on results, attend an assessment afternoon at Tonbridge.</p> <p>A confidential report is sought from the boy's current school.</p>
<b>January</b>	Some boys are invited to return for a Shortlist Day at Tonbridge.
<b>February</b>	Shortlist Day – Written papers in English and Maths, further interviews, and an opportunity to play for the Director of Music should your son have a serious musical interest.
<b>March</b>	Up to 14 Foundation Awards are awarded.
<b>April – July</b>	<p>Home visits are carried out to Foundation Award recipients.</p> <p>Boys in receipt of a Foundation Award within the Primary sector are offered a selection of prep schools for taster days.</p>
YEAR 7	
<b>March – September</b>	<p>Boys begin Year 7 at prep school.</p> <p>Reports from the boy's current school are requested each term. Our Foundation Awards Manager periodically visits boys in their prep schools. Boys are allocated to either a Boarding or Day House at Tonbridge and are invited to meet their Housemaster and tour their future House.</p> <p>During the year, boys and their families are invited to return for sporting and social events.</p>
YEAR 8	
<b>Spring – The Novi Visit</b>	<p>All boys joining the School in September of Year 9 (Novi) spend two days at Tonbridge to meet other boys joining at the same time and to orientate themselves within the School. Boarders spend one night at School, meeting their Housemaster, Matron and tutor team. Boys enjoy trying out a wide range of activities and getting to know their future peer group.</p> <p>All Junior Foundation Award recipients are required to sit the Academic Scholarship in May to ensure their academic level has been maintained, although their admission to Tonbridge is not dependent on these results.</p>
YEAR 9	
<b>September</b>	Boys begin their first year (Novi) at Tonbridge.









# ARRANGE A VISIT



**We have a dedicated Foundation Awards Manager whose role is to support Foundation boys and their families navigate the application process.**

Families wishing to apply for a place for their son are encouraged to visit the School and register with us during Year 5.

Open Mornings are held throughout the year, and offer an opportunity to meet the Headmaster, Heads of Department and Admissions staff over refreshments, as well as being taken on a tour of the School by one of our boys.

The Foundation Awards Manager, Mrs Ros Griffiths, also attends these events.

Before booking your place at one of our events, we recommend you contact Ros on **[ros.griffiths@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:ros.griffiths@tonbridge-school.org)**

“A brilliant school that somehow remains totally unsnobby. Boys make the most of world class opportunities to learn and have fun, but that’s not the best bit – Tonbridge’s modern, proactive approach to social responsibility and bursary funding ensures that they stay firmly grounded whilst doing so. These rounded, engaging young men are destined to go far, we feel – but without a scrap of the entitlement that so often accompanies a top-notch education. Top marks to all involved.”

**The Good Schools Guide 2021**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **How do I register my son?**

Registrations can be made online via our website in the summer term of Year 5. However, we recommend that you speak to us prior to registration. The registration fee may be waived in certain circumstances so please contact our Foundation Awards Manager in the first instance.

## **We are going to need a big fee reduction; most likely all of the fees paid for us.**

### **How do I know if I qualify financially?**

As part of the registration process, you are asked to submit your financial circumstances to the Director of Finance. This is a simple, confidential, online process outlining your family's income, assets and liabilities. The Director of Finance will then give you an estimate of the level of support you would receive should your son win an award.

## **How much do I need to earn to qualify?**

Tonbridge offers financial support on a means-tested basis from 10% of the fees, to 110% of the fees (in some cases with extras included such as uniform, laptop, educational school trips, exam fees and so on). Joint incomes below £65K p/a may qualify for the top end with significant support, while families on a higher income will be offered support dependent on need.

## **What if my financial circumstances change?**

If your son wins an award, you will be required to submit an annual financial circumstances update. Should your financial situation change significantly one way or the other, the fee remission would be amended accordingly.

## **My son is at a primary school that finishes at Year 6. As Tonbridge starts at Year 9, can he go to a grammar school for two years?**

No. If your son wins an award, we will introduce you to up to three prep schools, one of which may be our merged prep school, The New Beacon. Ideally these schools would be feeder schools for Tonbridge so that when your son joins in Year 9, he is joining with a group of friends he has made through Year 7 and 8. Also, prep schools prepare the boys for the Academic Scholarship your son would be required to sit in Year 8.

## **But the grammar schools are free and prep schools are not.**

As part of the financial assistance, prep school fees would be covered by Tonbridge to match the level of support offered from Year 9 onwards. So, if your son were at a primary school that finished in Year 6 and had won an award with means-tested support of 80% of the fees at Tonbridge, we would match fund 80% of the fees with the prep school.



**How academically able does my son need to be? His teachers tell me he is a clever boy but how do I know?**

For your son to win a Foundation Award, he will need to be at or near the top of his class, exceeding at some levels, keen to learn and to join the many co-curricular opportunities that an education at Tonbridge has to offer. Predicted high scores at 11+ are a good indicator, as are CAT4 scores taken at some schools.

Boys who are awarded Foundation status are expected to do their best while at Tonbridge. Most will come as Academic Scholars, although not all, and will be in the top sets for the majority of their subjects, whilst also taking a keen interest in the other aspects of the School.

**Does it matter whether my son wants to be a day boy or a boarder?**

No. While we are keen to offer both day or boarding places to local boys, we are happy to award to boys living further afield who wish to board.

**Will people in the School know that my son is on a financially supported place at Tonbridge?**

Our goal is to celebrate the success of boys who have won Foundation Awards and for them to be proud of this significant achievement. A boy's Housemaster and Matron, as well as key members of the Senior Team and staff, will be made aware. It is otherwise up to the individual boy to share news of his Award with others should he wish, and he is very much encouraged to do so when the time is right.

**Can Foundation Awards be taken away?**

This would only happen if the financial circumstances of the family were to change significantly.

**Any further questions?**

We are determined to support families and boys throughout the application process. You are welcome to contact our Foundation Awards Manager, no matter how big or small your question.

**Mrs Ros Griffiths**  
**Foundation Awards Manager**  
**[ros.griffiths@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:ros.griffiths@tonbridge-school.org)**  
**+44 (0)1732 304131**

# TONBRIDGE PEOPLE



## ALEX BEVERTON-SMITH

Alex secured a full scholarship to Princeton University in his final year at Tonbridge.

"Tonbridge has given me the best opportunity of my life and for that I am very grateful. At the time, when I was in Year 6, I did not realise how lucky I was to receive the award but now I truly appreciate how much it has helped me and what it has let me achieve. I have never experienced anyone treating me differently because I won the award and only good things have come of it. I feel it is an honour. The scholarship has allowed me to experience one of the best educations in the country, taught by some of the best teachers, and I can honestly say I have loved all of it. It has allowed me to join clubs, meet new people and try out new things that I would never have experienced if I hadn't come here. Without this award I know my life would have been very different."



## DUNCAN RANDALL

After Tonbridge, Duncan now studies Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nottingham.

"Until the beginning of Year 6 at my primary school, I hadn't thought I'd go anywhere except a local grammar school. My parents heard about the Foundation Awards on offer at Tonbridge, so I came for a visit. I sat a few exams and won a place! So, coming to Tonbridge was a pretty big shock. Initially I was worried that I might not fit in, but four and a half years later, I know I could not have made a better decision. Tonbridge has enabled me to go on various trips to London, spend a week in the Ardèche, go flying with the RAF, travel all over the UK and even compete in Italy with the sailing club. I feel like any other Tonbridgian, which I think is exactly what the Foundation Award should achieve."



#### **ZACHARY NWOGWUGWU**

**Zachary now attends Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) studying Maths and Computer Science.**

"Largely, no one really cares about how much money you have. The only thing that really makes you aware of your background is when people talk about where they've been on holiday, or the number of takeaways they get per week – really trivial things. You grow to realise everyone's situation is unique, and that no one is looking down at you simply because you may not have as much as them. Having a Foundation Award means that you've been given an opportunity to experience things previously quite out of reach; I went to China, Belgium and the United States, made friends all over the world, tried rock climbing, Mahjong, speaking Mandarin, singing, logging (with a real axe!), feeding pigs, debating... the list goes on; and that was only in my first two years! As you can probably tell, the pros of being able to go down whichever avenue you want far outweigh any cons you may perceive about Tonbridge from the outside."

#### **PENNY NWOGWUGWU**

"Both our boys were awarded the Foundation Award, in 2017 and 2020 respectively, which gave them a quality of education and a wealth of opportunities we otherwise could not afford. Their interest in competitive sports and music, and love for academia, afforded them this great opportunity to be educated at Tonbridge. The process was straightforward thanks to the Admissions team, which supported us on our journeys. As parents we are delighted that the boys are receiving such a well-rounded education and achieving so much."

# TONBRIDGE PEOPLE



## EMILIA SANDERS

"Tonbridge School has been providing my three sons with a brilliant education. Education is key for success and my ambition and passion to give my sons the best education possible thanks to the generosity of Tonbridge. I grew up in Brazil and, being the 19th child in a family with 21 children, I didn't have the education I wanted. I was determined to break the cycle and I am proud to say that my sons have been educated by amazing teachers. Tonbridge gave us the opportunity with generous bursaries, as we are not able to afford the full fees. In return, my sons have taken advantages of the many chances offered. Everyone is treated fairly, my sons have made friends for life and the teachers are so amazing at guiding them along the best possible path. My sons now make a difference to the wider community by tutoring younger children as a way to give back something of what the scholarship has given us. Thank you so much to everyone who has made it possible."



## ELI CARTER

"When I was in Year 4 at a local primary school, my teacher suggested that I should apply for a scholarship to Tonbridge School. After I had done some tests, I went for a tour to see their amazing grounds and facilities. Even if I hadn't been accepted, I still would have had a great experience enjoying my time there. Luckily, I was accepted, and couldn't wait to start in Year 9."

## BEN CARTER

"I'm extremely proud of my son Elijah and all of the hard work that he has put in to gain this amazing opportunity. The process has run so smoothly. Thank you to all the people involved, especially Ros Griffiths."





#### PAULINE KNIGHT

"Choosing the right school for your child isn't an easy task for any parent, grandparent or guardian. With very little knowledge of private schools, it was almost with a sinking heart that I agreed that boarding school was perhaps the best option for young twins when both parents were serving in Afghanistan. Prior to that, the twins had attended a most loving and kind Church of England state primary school and had made lots of friends. The thought of prep school and wealthy friends with lifestyles very different to our own, seemed scary. Moving on to senior school with even higher fees was equally intimidating!

"Our own family experience had been progression from state primary, junior, and onto the local comprehensive or grammar school if successful in the 11 plus. Private school fees were well out of our reach.

"But young boys are boys, regardless of background, and if you want your child to have amazing opportunities as well as make

lifelong friends then all I can say is you have nothing to lose. I need not have worried. From my first call to Ros Griffiths at Tonbridge, she encouraged me to bring the boys along and see for ourselves! From that first visit, that's exactly where the boys wanted to go. Everyone, from Cook to Headmaster is just so welcoming. Quickly you get to feel that here is an environment where boys can grow safely into men, where academic study comes alive and relevant, and that there is a genuine care for the community. This is a grounded school!

"Tonbridge is certainly a door worth opening if you can. Regardless of outcome, our boys adored all the Open Days, the assessments and Scholarship exams, and we treated them like an enriching experience rather than an ordeal. They went off each day as if it were summer camp and came back with stories about friends from local schools. I would encourage any bright boy interested in the wider world to find out more."







**TONBRIDGE  
ONLY CONNECT**

Tonbridge School  
High Street  
Tonbridge  
Kent TN9 1JP  
+44 (0)1732 304297  
[foundationawards@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:foundationawards@tonbridge-school.org)

**TONBRIDGE-SCHOOL.CO.UK**



Tonbridge School is a registered charity No. 1097977  
The information contained in the brochure is accurate at the time of going to press

  
**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

**SCHOOLS GUIDE  
2024**

TOP BOARDING SCHOOL  
TOP BOYS' SCHOOL FOR A-LEVELS  
TOP BOYS' SCHOOL IN THE  
SOUTH-EAST