

Academic Medal Programme

As per Mr Newton's letter to parents and carers on 10 September 2021, this programme is currently under review; he will write again before the end of term with arrangements for Lent

For some time, Highgate has aimed to ensure that scholarship is not seen to be or allowed to be the preserve of an academic minority; rather, scholarship is an exemplary way of working and studying, or a set of academic values lived out in a pupil's academic behaviour. However, the existence and the award of 'scholarships' can lead to confusion in the minds of pupils, parents and teachers alike. For this reason, we have reviewed the nomenclature of the awards, and the process for recognising exemplary academic endeavour and maturity.

Awards, hitherto called Scholarships or Exhibitions, are now called Academic Medals (and their recipients are known as Academic Medallists rather than 'scholars' or 'exhibitioners'); new awards are made annually on the basis of the previous year.

An outline of the Academic Medal Programme

Our Academic Medallists are those pupils who model exemplary levels of academic behaviour and achievement. They will have performed extremely well throughout the year, as evidenced in their Learning Reviews, which serve as the principal determinant for the awards.

All Academic Medallists should attend an academic society's lunchtime talks. They should also consider volunteering to talk at an academic forum to share a special interest they have developed with other pupils. The academic fora are lunchtime or after-school seminars open to all pupils. Some of our best fora have been led by Sixth Form Academic Medallists, on topics ranging from the psychology of supermarkets to the latest advances in medicine. In the Sixth Form, Academic Medallists also publish *Perspective* on an annual basis. This magazine celebrates a sample of the best academic work from the year.

Foundation Scholarship awards remain: these are prescribed in the School's Scheme of Governance. These are normally awarded to pupils entering Year 12 who have modelled the very best in academic behaviour and achievement over the course of their time at Highgate. These pupils are likely to have held multiple Academic Medals at some point.

The Academic Medallist Programme is overseen by Dr Benjamin Dabby who reports into the Deputy Head (Academic).

Academic medals and Foundation Scholarships are honorary and do not bring with them any remission of school fees.

How are Academic Medallists chosen?

Each September, the highest performing pupils in the previous year are identified using Learning Review data. Heads of Houses and Section Heads then consider the nominations before submission to the Deputy Head (Academic). He will then make recommendations to the Head, who will award Academic Medals to pupils in Years 8 to 13; pupils will hold their award for that academic year. This means someone might be a Medallist in Year 8 but not in Year 9; similarly, a pupil might join the Academic Medallists' programme in Year 12 having not held a medal before. The Head will award Academic Medals to up to 10% of a given year group.