



SURBITON

HIGH SCHOOL

Guidance for applying for an Art Scholarship

Many independent secondary schools offer art scholarships or all-round scholarships in which art is included. Some schools publish guidelines, but you should check with the school admissions for exact requirements and dates for registration and dates for exam or portfolio viewings. At Surbiton we typically have between 40-50 applicants per year. We look at all of the portfolios and select a shortlist of candidates to interview and to sit a creative exercise.

A typical Art Scholar will have some or all of the following characteristics:

- The potential to develop as an artist
- Creativity
- Great passion/ enthusiasm for creating visual things
- A child who will be visually creative at home without being prompted
- A child who enjoys looking at works of art in Galleries & Museums.
- The ability to talk about works of art and artists and their own work with ease.
- An exceptional ability in at least one of these areas: drawing, painting, sculpture

In a portfolio we are looking for:

- A genuine love of what they are doing
- A range of work which shows a variety of skill
- Sketches and/or sketchbooks which show a thought process
- A range of work, which can be from: school and/or art classes but, most importantly, work compiled independently at home

A portfolio may contain some or all of the following:

- Observational drawings
- Painting
- Collage
- Sketches
- Sketchbooks
- Sculpture
- Photography
- Film/animation
- Illustrated books/poems



SURBITON

HIGH SCHOOL

FAQ

- How much work should a portfolio contain?

Some schools specify an exact quantity, but between 10 and 20 sheets is a good benchmark plus one or more sketchbook(s)

- What type of portfolio should I have?

It does not matter as long as it is sturdy and not going to fall apart when being moved. It should be no bigger than A1 size.

What type of work should I put in my portfolio?

A good range from the list given

- Should the work be mounted?

It is a good idea to present your work well because it shows you have selected and considered what your best work is. Heavy-weight mounting card should be avoided as it will make your portfolio very heavy. A light-weight card in a consistent size is best.

- Can I bring 3D work? No, please photograph any very large or 3D work and present the photograph in the portfolio.

- Do all schools have the same scholarship requirements?

Most are similar but you should get in touch with the admissions department of individual schools if you need clarification.

Things to avoid

- Crafts done at after school clubs or similar, such as glass painting, decorated picture frames
- Lots of copies of cartoon characters
- Be careful of over-tutoring. We are looking for creativity independence, so a portfolio that may not be as polished as another, but we do not mind this.

Note:

The selection process at Surbiton High School is carried out by the Director of Art and other teachers of art who look at all the portfolios in the initial selection. Should any member of the art staff know the candidate, that teacher would not be involved in the selection process that year.