

GDST Prizes and Scholarships

Academic year 2023-2024

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Key dates

PRIZE	DATE PRIZE INFORMATION IS SENT TO SCHOOLS	DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS
GDST Travel Scholarships	October	19 January 2024
GDST Johnston Memorial Scholarship	November	31 Jan 2024
GDST Creative Writing Prize	November	5 Feb 2024
GDST Minerva Prize	November	1 March 2024
GDST Pearson and Silver Awards	November	8 March 2024
GDST Somerville and Gurney	January	Exams to take place 6 - 17 May 2024
GDST Laurie Magnus Poetry Prize	January	15 March 2024
GDST University Scholarships (Lorna Cocking, Mo Bosch)	February	2 May 2024
GDST Anne Hogg Modern Foreign Languages Prize	March	17 May 2024

The following prizes and scholarships are available:

GDST Travel Scholarships

For Year 13 students intending to take a Gap year or to travel in the summer before university.

GDST Johnston Memorial Scholarship

For Year 13 students intending to read Law at university.

GDST Creative Writing Prize

For students from all age groups with an interest in writing short stories.

GDST Minerva Prize

For Year 13 students. The prize is awarded for all-round achievement.

GDST Pearson and Silver Awards

For Year 12 students. The awards provide financial help towards the cost of attending courses, or meetings, or carrying out projects with a classical content.

GDST Somerville and Gurney Awards

For Year 12 students after sitting a two-and-a-quarter hour general exam paper.

GDST Laurie Magnus Poetry Prize

For students from all age groups with an interest in poetry.

GDST University Scholarships

Two scholarships, for Year 13 students pursuing higher education- see relevant section for more details.

GDST Anne Hogg Modern Foreign Languages Prize

For Year 10 students who are taking two or more modern foreign languages.

GDST Travel Scholarships

Key dates

October 2023 - Information about the prize sent to schools and academies

19 January 2024 - Deadline for GDST to receive applications

Background information

Applications are invited from Year 13 students who are either:

- a) planning to take a gap year or
- b) planning to travel in the summer before their university course.

Preference will be given to applicants who will be / are:

- i) travelling independently (rather than using a gap year provider) and
- ii) in receipt of a bursary or other financial assistance.

Application process

In October, the schools will be sent the following instructions on how to submit online: the confidential report from the Head, together with the student application form.

Each school may only nominate a **maximum of three candidates**.

GDST Johnston Memorial Scholarship

Key dates

November 2023 – Information about the prize sent to schools and academies

31 January 2024 – Deadline for GDST to receive applications

Background information

This Scholarship was established as a tribute to Lady Johnston, a distinguished lawyer, one of the first women to achieve first class honours in jurisprudence at Oxford University and later Parliamentary Counsel. Betty Johnston gave outstanding service to the GDST, not least through her membership of the Council for 35 years, serving as its Chair from 1975 – 1991 and President at the time of her death in 1994.

The terms of the Scholarship reflect her commitment to ensuring that the Trust's schools (and other independent schools) remain accessible to students from a range of circumstances, and also her encouragement for young people entering the legal profession.

Details of award

One or two awards will be made annually to a student or students intending to read law at university. The award(s) will be conditional upon the candidate taking up a place to read law either as a single subject or in combination with any others. Award winners will be offered the opportunity to complete a week's work experience within the Legal department at the GDST office.

Eligibility

Candidates must be:

- In Year 13 and intending to read law at university, whether as a single subject or in combination with another (the Scholarship covers universities both in the UK and overseas).
- Attending a Trust school (preferably from the age of 11).
- Currently receiving a Trust bursary or a 50% (half-fees Scholarship) award for reasons of financial need, or a Government Assisted Place or an equivalent externally-funded bursary.

Applications

- In November, the schools will be sent instructions on how to submit their entries online.
- The application form and supporting letter from the Head will need to be uploaded online.

Interviews and case study workshop

Any shortlisted applicants will be sent further details regarding their interview and case study workshop. Students will be invited to the GDST office at a date in March - further details will be confirmed nearer the time.

Criteria for award

The award will be made on the basis of the candidate's personal academic achievements and potential, their aptitude for a career in the law and their financial circumstances.

Conditions of award

- The scholar must forward the confirmation of their university place immediately to gdstprizes@wes.gdst.net and their payment will be arranged.
- Subsequent years' payments will be made as soon as possible after the start of the academic year, following receipt of the university's confirmation of attendance.
- The scholarship will be withdrawn if the holder changes courses prior to or after entering university or does not complete the course.
- The Selection Committee may withhold an award if it considers that in any year there is no suitable candidate.
- The Selection Committee asks each candidate to write a personal letter each year, to be sent with their confirmation of university place for the following year, and to write at the end of their degree, giving their degree classification and future plans.

GDST Creative Writing Prize

Key dates

November 2023 - Information about the prize sent to schools and academies

5 February 2024 - Deadline for GDST to receive stories

Background information

The GDST Creative Writing prize is an opportunity for GDST students to produce a piece of creative writing. As with the previous years, we ask for entries to be returned in February which will allow pupils the opportunity to develop their thoughts over the Christmas holidays.

Application process

- Students from all year groups will be able to submit an entry of up to 1,000 words (not including the title) to their school.
- Each school can submit one short story or creative writing piece for each of the following six year group categories. Waterstones vouchers will be awarded as follows:
 - Years 1 and 2 - £50 for the winner and two highly commended prizes of £25
 - Years 3 and 4 - £50 for the winner and two highly commended prizes of £25
 - Years 5 and 6 - £100
 - Years 7, 8 and 9 - £100
 - Years 10 and 11 - £100
 - Years 12 and 13 - £100
- Each entry must be typed in Word or (for Junior girls only, where illustrations are involved) uploaded as a scanned pdf and must include:
 - the title
 - number of words
 - the initials of the pupil (this is to ensure poems are judged anonymously)

Separately the following details will need to be provided:

- the school
 - the pupil name
 - the year group the student is in
 - confirmation that we have permission to add the piece and student name to the GDST website
- In November, the schools will be sent instructions on how to submit their entries online.

GDST Minerva Prize

Key dates

November 2023 - Information about the prize sent to schools and academies

1 March 2024 - Deadline for GDST to receive applications

Background information

The GDST Minerva Prize is awarded for all-round achievement. The adjudicators will be looking for a role model, someone the younger students look up to. The ideal candidate will have character, they will be engaging and well rounded, as well as bright with impressive academic achievements.

There is one prize worth £500.

Process

The Head is invited to nominate **one** candidate from Year 13 and is asked to submit their nomination online. The nomination will consist of the following:

- The student personal statement (for the Minerva prize)
 - Typed and no more than three sheets of A4

Candidates are asked to divide their statements into the following four areas, using the closing paragraphs to draw any other areas to the attention of the adjudicators, as well as to provide a rounded picture of themselves. The statement should demonstrate past and present involvement in various activities within and outside school.

1. Examples of being a role model to others and in particular why they see themselves as a role model
2. Contributions to school life and extra-curricular activities undertaken within school e.g. debating, Duke of Edinburgh awards, drama, music, sport
3. Activities undertaken outside school including community service, paid work etc.
4. Academic achievements

The student personal statement should be no more than 1000 words.

- School UCAS reference
- Confidential report by the Head. This should be no more than 150 words.

Up to six students will be shortlisted and invited to attend an interview at the GDST office (at a date in May). Further details will be confirmed nearer the time.

GDST Pearson and Silver Awards

Key dates

November 2023 – Information about the prize sent to schools and academies

8 March 2024 – Deadline for GDST to receive applications

Background information

The Pearson and Silver Awards are offered to pupils in GDST schools to assist towards the cost of attending meetings or courses or carrying out projects with a classical content, e.g. summer schools in Classical Greek or Latin at Bryanston, Durham or Repton Schools, University or King's Colleges, London, or Lampeter (Univ. of Wales).

Mr Bertram Pearson, CB, DSO, MC, MA, who was a member of the Council of the Trust from 1958 until 1969, died in 1984 leaving a share in the residue of his estate to the Trust with a request that it be used for the purpose of promoting and furthering the study and pursuit of classical learning in Greek and Latin in the schools of the Trust.

Since 2000, after augmentation of the capital of the Fund by an appeal in memory of Mrs Nancy Silver, a classicist and former Headmistress of Streatham Hill & Clapham and Putney High Schools, the award to the most outstanding candidate of the year has been called the Nancy Silver Award.

Criteria for the award

The Sub-Committee considers that the best time for a recipient of a Pearson or Silver Award to attend a summer school or other course is usually in the break between the Year 12 and Year 13, and so grants will not normally be awarded to candidates in Year 13.

- Academic excellence in classical subjects
- Commitment to study a classical subject at university
- Contribution to school life
- Financial need
- Determination to overcome practical difficulties in studying classics at school where these are encountered

Application process

- In November, the schools will be sent instructions on how to submit their entries online. Each entry will require a completed application form and a confidential report from the Head.
- Each Head may nominate up to **three** candidates from the Senior School

Condition of the award

Recipients of the Pearson and Silver Awards are expected to provide a report on their course or project by October, sending it to gdstprizes@wes.gdst.net.

GDST Laurie Magnus Poetry Prize

Key dates

January 2024 - Information about the prize sent to schools and academies

15 March 2024 - Deadline for GDST to receive poems

Background information

The Laurie Magnus Poetry Prize was established in memory of Laurie Magnus by his widow. Laurie Magnus was a GDST Council member from 1907, and Chairman from 1929 until his death in 1933. He also wrote The Jubilee Book of the Girls' Day School Trust (1923).

Prizes are awarded to six age groups for original poetry.

Process

- Each school can submit one poem for each of the following year group categories. Waterstones vouchers will be awarded as follows:
 - Years 1 and 2 - £50 for the winner and two highly commended prizes of £25
 - Years 3 and 4 - £50 for the winner and two highly commended prizes of £25
 - Years 5 and 6 - £100
 - Years 7, 8 and 9 - £100
 - Years 10 and 11 - £100
 - Years 12 and 13 - £100
- Poems must be typed in Word and must include:
 - the title of the poem
 - the initials of the pupil (this is to ensure poems are judged anonymously)

Separately the following details will need to be provided:

- the school
 - the pupil's name
 - the year group the student is in
 - confirmation that we have permission to add the poem and student name to the GDST website
- In January, the schools will be sent instructions on how to submit their entries online
- The names of the winners will be announced towards the beginning of the summer term

GDST University Scholarships

Key dates

February 2024 - Information about the prizes sent to schools and academies

2 May 2024 - Deadline for GDST to receive applications

Two Scholarships Available:

- The two university scholarships were established to provide financial support for students during the next stage of their education.
- Both are tenable for the duration of the degree and will have an annual value of £1,000.

The Lorna Cocking University Scholarship

- Established to mark the outstanding contribution made by Lorna Cocking, who retired as Chair of the GDST in 2014, after a very successful seven year tenure.
- There is no requirement that the student intends to study at a particular university.

The Mo Bosch University Scholarship

- The Mo Bosch Scholarship has been established as a tribute to our much-loved colleague Mo Bosch who sadly passed away in April 2021. Mo was Head of Communications and an integral member of the GDST Communications team for 15 years, helping to craft the narrative that so clearly defines who we are and what we stand for. She was a brilliant wordsmith and her passion for educating girls, women empowerment and equality shone through everything she wrote. We are pleased to be able to forever honour her person and her contribution to the GDST in this way.
- To honour Mo, the applicant can be applying for any degree at any university and should have a passion for women's equality.
- The applicant will simply be judged according to their demonstrated interest in women's equality and how they will take this passion forwards into the sector following their university degree.

For both university scholarships

Eligibility

- Year 13
- Applying for higher education
- Attended a GDST Academy or school preferably from the age of 11
- Currently in receipt of one or more of the following, totalling 50% or more of the published fee:
 - Trust Bursary
 - Scholarship
 - HSBC Scholarship
 - Founders' Award

Application process

In February, the schools will be sent instructions on how to submit their entries online.

The nomination will consist of the following:

- Student statement for the Scholarship
- Confidential report by the Head
- Personal statement and Reference prepared for UCAS

Consideration will be given to the student's contribution to school life and their grades, so the Head's supportive statement should reflect this.

While this will not be means tested, it will be important for the student to write about the impact the funding would have on them financially.

There is no limit to the number of applications each school can submit and if applicable, students can apply for both but will not be awarded more than one.

Consideration

- Applications for both scholarships will simply be judged according to the impact the Scholarship funding would have on them during the next stage of their education.
- The applications will be considered by a committee of Trust Office senior leaders.
- Lorna Cocking will be involved with selecting the Lorna Cocking Scholar.
- The recipients of the Scholarships will be asked to write a personal letter each year, by way of a progress report, to be sent in the first instance to gdstprizes@wes.gdst.net. The report from the Lorna Cocking scholar will be shared with Lorna Cocking herself.

GDST Anne Hogg Modern Foreign Languages Prize

Key dates

March 2024 – Information about the prize sent to schools and academies

17 May 2024 – Deadline for GDST to receive nominations

Background Information

- Established with the generous support of Dr Anne Hogg, a former Chairman of the GDST and a linguist with a keen interest in the Hispanic languages.
- Can be awarded to one student in each school and is intended to recognise the work of pupils in Y10, who are taking two or more modern foreign languages. This includes Welsh, where it is not the mother tongue.
- To acknowledge excellence in achievement in two of those languages, both of which should be followed in school.

Criteria

- Each school will have established its own internal procedures/criteria to identify excellence; a significant element however, should be the student's oral competence in the languages.
- There will not necessarily be a winner in every school each year, unless the expected standards have been met.
- Where there are two (or more) candidates of equal ability, preference should be given to a candidate who excels at Spanish, if there is one.
- Staff should not include a pupil's mother- tongue language in one of those assessed for the prize.

Process

- In March, schools will be sent instructions on how to submit their nomination online.
- A certificate of excellence will be issued by GDST, recognising the pupil's achievement within the GDST. Each prize-winner will be presented with their certificate and school cup (theirs for the year). Please note the engraved cup is provided by the school.

GDST Somerville and Gurney Awards

Key dates

Jan 2024 – Information about the prize sent to schools and academies

6 – 17 May 2024 – Exam to take place invigilated in schools

Background information

- Entrants for this award will sit a general paper which involves writing two essays.
- The first prize will be £500, second £300 and third £200.
- The winners will be announced at the end of the summer term.

Criteria for the award

Candidates for these awards shall be:

- In Year 12 and
- Holders of Bursaries, Trust Entrance or Sixth Form Scholarships, or Honorary Trust Scholarships.

Please note that we do not insist that students who fit the criteria sit the exam – it is not mandatory.

Application process

Prior to the examination, schools will be asked to provide a list of the students who wish to take the exam.

The examination will take place during 6 – 17 May. Schools may select a date and time during this period to undertake the exam. Where possible, we are proposing for students to write their essays on computers in school, under normal exam conditions, to be submitted by a member of staff following the exam.

The examination will take the form of a two-and-a-quarter hour general paper. This paper will be divided in two sections and candidates will be expected to attempt both, which will be given equal weight.