

10th October 2025

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to introduce an exciting new initiative for Years 7 to 11 at Ballard School: The Laureate Programme. This programme is designed to recognise pupils who embody the ethos of Ballard. It is not based solely on attainment or academic profile, meaning every Ballard pupil can strive to be selected for the programme by demonstrating sustained holistic engagement, intellectual curiosity and a strong commitment to co-curricular excellence – upholding the Ballard values.

What is the Laureate Programme?

The Laureate Programme replaces the Scholars' Programme, and all Scholars will have access to it. The programme consists of a range of enrichment and extension opportunities across academic disciplines including trips, workshops, lectures and other opportunities. Recent examples include residential trips to London, Sports Psychology sessions, competition entry and specific co-curricular activities within School.

My child is already a Scholar. How will this affect them?

All current Scholars will retain their status and will automatically be enrolled in the Laureate Programme. They will be expected to meet the criteria of the Laureate Programme, which align with the existing Scholarship terms. Failure to meet these standards may jeopardise their Scholarship.

How does the Laureate Programme work alongside Scholarships?

Ballard pupils have an annual opportunity to apply for a Scholarship. Scholarships are highly competitive with only a small number awarded each year. They may include a small financial discount alongside enrolment in the Laureate Programme.

	Scholarships	Laureate Programme
Application process	Rigorous application, shortlisting process, assessment days.	No application, pupils are identified through a series of measures of current performance.
Assessment criteria	Pupils are expected to be attaining at an exceptional level for their age.	Holistic engagement, commitment and attitude are of equal importance to attainment.
Financial discount	A small, discretionary discount is sometimes applied.	There is no financial benefit.
Opportunities	Pupils have access to all the opportunities included in the Laureate Programme. There may be some additional opportunities, including mentoring, depending on the discipline.	Pupils have access to all the opportunities included in the Laureate Programme.

Tenure	Pupils maintain their Scholarship for the duration of their Ballard education, providing they maintain expected standards, including meeting the required criteria for the Laureate Programme.	The Laureate Programme is fluid. Once selected, pupils may be removed if they are not meeting expected standards. They can also be re-added.
Numbers	Only a very small number of Scholarships are awarded each year.	The Laureate Programme will identify around 20% - 30% of each year group.
Disciplines	Scholars focus on a maximum of two areas.	Laureates can participate in several areas of the programme, though there may be a limit to the number of opportunities they can select within one cycle.

How are pupils selected for the Laureate Programme?

Pupils are identified through a transparent and inclusive process using a range of criteria that measure their day-to-day commitment, work ethic and attainment across several areas.

An Engagement Score is generated for all pupils, taking into account effort grades, punctuality, co-curricular participation and readiness for learning. This score helps identify those who consistently demonstrate commitment and embody Ballard values in their everyday actions. In addition to data, professional judgment plays a key role, incorporating staff feedback on character, leadership, and alignment with Ballard values. The final element is the Attainment Profile, which considers subject-specific achievement, academic progress, and potential.

This framework has been carefully designed to uphold the principles of inclusivity and holistic merit, ensuring that pupils who demonstrate sustained commitment, progress and developing academic strengths are considered through a fair and balanced process.

What does being selected for The Laureate Programme mean?

Pupils selected for the Laureate Programme will be expected to:

- Demonstrate consistent academic effort and curiosity
- Serve as role models within the school community
- Participate actively in enrichment opportunities, including lectures, workshops, mentoring sessions, and leadership roles

The Programme will be reviewed on a termly basis. Pupils may be added or removed based on sustained performance, with all decisions communicated clearly to both parents and pupils. Re-entry into the Programme is possible upon renewed engagement and achievement.

We are confident that the Laureate Programme will further cultivate aspiration and excellence across our pupil body.

‘Excellent’ & ‘Outstanding’ (ISI & OFSTED)

What does my child need to do to be considered for The Laureate Programme?

As the selection process is based on current performance, your child does not need to do apply for a place or sit any assessments in order to be considered. If they are not selected this time, they can seek feedback on what they can improve to be considered in future reviews.

When will the Laureate Programme begin?

The first Ballard Laureates will be selected at the end of this term, based on data gathered since September, with the programme beginning in January.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss your child's potential involvement, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Kind regards



Vicky Gray
Deputy Head Co-curricular & Operations



Aaron Markar
Pupil Engagement and Most Able Co-ordinator