WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

SPORTS AWARDS

13+ & 16+ CANDIDATES
SEPTEMBER 2027

	13+	16+
1.TOUR (Open Days)		
2.REGISTER	Year 8 by Friday 16 October 2026	Year 11 by 1st October 2026
3.ASSESSMENT	Wednesday 18 November 2026	6 – 9 November 2026
5.OFFER	Friday 4 December 2026	December 2026

13+
Application form (existing applicant)

13+
Application form (new applicant)

16+
Application form (existing applicant)

16+
Application form (new applicant)

WELCOME

A Winchester College Sports Award is a tremendous opportunity for pupils to develop both their sporting and academic potential. Previous award recipients have been members of County Cricket Academies, Regional Hockey Performance Centre squads, County Football squads and gained athletic scholarships at US Universities.

Award holders benefit from one-to-one technical and tactical training from professional coaches, strength and conditioning sessions with an accredited trainer, mental skills workshops and mentorship.

CONTACT US

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GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR SPORT AWARDS

Applicants with notable ability in either football or cricket are highly desirable, although talent in other sports such as golf, tennis, squash, rackets, rowing, hockey, and/or athletics will also be considered. Applicants should evidence experience at county, academy, regional, national, or international level.

In deciding whether to make a Sports Award the panel consider:

- the talent of the candidate in their preferred sport(s),
- the demand for talent in a candidate's preferred sport(s),
- the ability of the candidate to contribute to the sports programme at the school.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

13+

Candidates must have a birth date between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014

16+

Candidates must have a birth date between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011

Contact the Director of Sport, Mr Mark Burley **msb@wincoll.ac.uk**, to discuss individual circumstances. Sports Awards carry no automatic remission of school fees. However, in cases of financial need, eligible parents may apply for means-tested financial support in the form of bursaries. See the Bursaries section towards the end of this document for more information.

THE AWARD PROGRAMME

Sports Award holders benefit from one-to-one technical and tactical training from professional coaches, strength and conditioning sessions with an accredited trainer, mental skills workshops and mentorship. The programme includes:

- specialist coaching sessions, paid for by the School, focusing on the award holder and their core sport(s). The School cannot guarantee provision of additional specialist sessions for those sports where coaching expertise does not exist within the Sports Department.
- 1 – 2 Strength and Conditioning sessions per week as agreed, relevant to individual sports programmes,
- a Mental Skills Programme addressing themes such as identity, fear of failure, goal setting and mind-set. For 13+ Award holders, this begins when pupils reach VIBK (Sixth Form), a mentor from the Sports Department to help each award holder achieve their sporting goals while maintaining a sensible and sustainable routine in the school.
- permission to attend external county level (or equivalent) training sessions, provided there is no detrimental effect on academic studies or overall contribution to the sports programme.

APPLICATION PROCESS

There are two application routes, depending on your prior engagement with the School.

Application Form (existing applicant): for applicants who have previously completed a registration form, been through the assessment process, and been offered a confirmed place or a place on the waiting list.

Application Form (new applicant): for applicants who have not yet applied for a place at Winchester College. Form 2 applicants will also need to provide two recent school reports and contact details for a School Reference, and will complete a short academic assessment on Assessment Day.

Prior to application, candidates will need to collate:

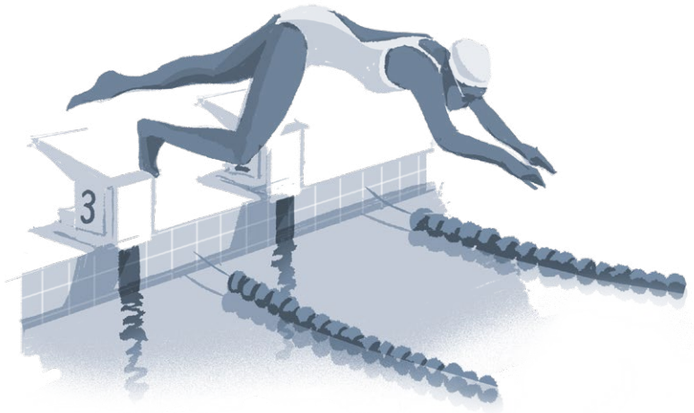
- a personal statement (written by the applicant, not the parent), **13+ only**.
- an indication of a major and minor sport, including positions played.
- an indication of teams (e.g. academy, county, national, international)
- A reference, as well as the contact details for the Head of Sport at the candidate's current school
- A reference, as well as the contact details for a Sports Reference (e.g. coach, team manager)
- supporting evidence such as a Sporting CV (PDF), YouTube link or Academy Report

13+
Application form (existing applicant)

13+
Application form (new applicant)

16+
Application form (existing applicant)

16+
Application form (new applicant)



ASSESSMENT DAY

Shortlisted candidates will be notified and invited to attend Winchester College for a Sports Assessment. The Assessment Day is designed to give an all-round view of the sporting ability of the candidate, and we try to make it as relaxed as possible.

The Assessment Day is split into three parts and seeks to assess the physical, technical, tactical and mental abilities of each candidate. It will involve:

an athletic assessment,
a sport-specific assessment based on the candidate's preferred sport(s),
an informal interview with a member or members of the Sports Department.
For those who have not already completed an academic assessment for a place at Winchester, they will need to do this on the day.
Most candidates will undergo only one sport-specific assessment. If a candidate genuinely has two sports of equal or near-equal potential, the School will do its best to enable assessments in both.

- an athletic assessment,
- a sport-specific assessment based on the candidate's preferred sport(s),
- an informal interview with a member or members of the Sports Department,
- for Sport Award Form 2 applicants: a short academic assessment.

All candidates will be asked to take part in assessments in two sports. However, if you would prefer that your child is not assessed in a second sport, you will have the opportunity to indicate this in advance.

16+ ENTRY ONLY

For 16+ candidates, shortlisting will be confirmed prior to the Year 12 (Sixth Form) academic assessment day, and the Sports Assessment will take place during the candidate's allocated visit.

CONDITIONS OF SPORT AWARDS

In addition to the general terms and conditions applicable to all pupils set out in the Parent Contract, all Sports Award holders are required to:

- involve themselves fully in the sporting life of the school, prioritising sporting commitments ahead of other extra-curricular activities;
- set an example to others through positive intent, commitment and demeanour both on and off the sports field;
- promote the highest level of sportsmanship amongst peers and fellow Wykehamists, upholding the standards of fair play and respect;
- set and achieve the agreed physical, technical, tactical and mental targets;
- **13+:** represent the school in at least three sports in the first two years, and at least two sports during the final three years;
- **16+:** represent the school in their main sport and at least one other sport during their two years at the School; and
- **16+:** apply the life-skills and attributes developed as a sportsman to maximise their potential both on and off the sports field, using their experience and knowledge to support and encourage others.

The continuation of awards is subject to satisfactory progress and commitment, assessed at an annual review. Parents and successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement committing Sports Award holders to fulfilling their obligations, both on and off the pitch.

Successful candidates enter the school in September of the year in which examinations take place. It is not possible to reapply to enhance the value or status of an award already given.

The Headmaster reserves the right to allocate holders of Sports Awards to any boarding house in the school, taking parental preference into account.

Successful candidates, on entering the school, will be given the opportunity to pursue sport to such an extent as the Headmaster (in consultation with the Director of Sport) may think desirable, and will be expected to play a full and positive part in the sporting life of the school.

13+ ENTRY ONLY

13+ Awards are open to boys already in the school providing they are under fourteen on 1 September. The Headmaster reserves the right to allocate Sport Scholars who are not already holding a House place to any boarding house, taking parental preference into account. The school reserves the right to reject an application without assessment, based on information supplied by parents and teachers.
Bursaries are available on entry to the school and can be for up to 100% of fees. The full boarding fees for the year can be found on the school website. Fees are payable in advance of each term. Parents and guardians of applicants who will need bursary assistance must indicate that they wish to apply for support before, or at the same time as, the application for a Sports Award. The School's expectation is that parents who do not apply for a bursary at this point will not require financial support during their child's time at the School, and subsequent applications will not be entertained.

BURSARIES (13+ ENTRY ONLY)

Parents and guardians of applicants already holding House or General Places at the School for September 2027 entry will have already applied for a bursary; the deadline was January 2027 as part of the offer of a House or General Place. New applications from those who already hold a place will not be accepted.
Applications for bursary awards for 2027 entry will be made online. Only families who have expressed an interest on the general application form will receive a link to the application portal. The bursary application should be completed by each parent/guardian with parental responsibility.
More information and guidance about bursaries can be found here **winchestercollege.org/admissions/financial-support**.

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