

The Prince Albert Foundation Scholarship programme – key information

It is a fact that while talent is spread evenly throughout society, opportunity is not.

We want to do what we can to address this disparity and support access and opportunity for more young people in our community and beyond. Our community is enriched by having a bright, ambitious, talented and inclusive student body.

- The Prince Albert Foundation (PAF) Scholarship programme was established with a clear objective of widening access by offering fully funded (100% funding) places to young people with talent and ambition whose families simply cannot afford the fees.
- The programme is designed to give young people the life-changing education and opportunities which a Wellington education provides in order to significantly enhance their life chances, future options, and life-long ambitions.
- This is not a one-way beneficial relationship, far from it, we know that the benefits to the whole Wellington Community (and beyond) are deeply enhanced and enriched with a student body that more accurately reflects the world in which they live and the world that they will enter when they leave.
- Inclusivity and diversity are central themes of our educational philosophy and underpins everything we do. Wellington has inspired and been inspired by the young people that have come here on a fully funded place.

1. Why the name Prince Albert?

Wellington College largely owes its existence to Prince Albert, who saw it as the opportunity to establish a new kind of school in England. He wanted to provide the children of deceased Army officers with the best possible education in modern, relevant subjects – one which would fit them for employment in all walks of life – all at a nominal fee. The Prince Albert programme continues the Prince's commitment to helping children from different backgrounds to access top-quality, innovative, life-changing education.

2. What do our former Prince Albert Scholars say?

Esther Ujah (Hg 18)

“My two years at Wellington were truly inspiring. It has given me so many incredible opportunities and experiences I couldn't have previously imagined. A simple thanks is not enough to express my gratitude for what Wellington has given me; greater expectations of myself, more confidence in my own abilities, incredible experiences, life-long friendships and above all, a bundle of unforgettable memories.”

James Brown (Hg 20)

“Wellington has very much changed my view of myself. I always had confidence in my abilities but never really viewed myself through the eyes of someone who should be respected. When I started to take myself seriously and decide to invest in and enrich myself, I began to view education as the tool to do that. This changed perspective of education has enabled me to reach the next level.

During some work experience I did at Garden Court Chambers I was shadowing a barrister who was working on a case about a group of young people from Tottenham who had robbed and stabbed a boxer on Tottenham High Road, and I recognised one of the boys that I used to play football with sitting in the dock. This made me consider how small decisions can cause the lives of two individuals from the same area to diverge to such a great degree. This showed me what the power of education is.”

3. What are you looking for in a potential Prince Albert Scholar?

A Prince Albert candidate would fulfil most of the following criteria:

- be from a family with below national average household income.
- not already be attending an independent or selective and/or outstanding state school with provision through Sixth Form.
- able to demonstrate a certain level of academic potential – we do, however take into consideration the lower level of support and opportunities that candidates may have experienced up to the point of entry.
- demonstrate a wish to broaden their horizons, raise their aspirations, improve their academic performance, and improve their confidence and social skills.
- have the maturity to see the ‘bigger picture’ - i.e. that they should do their best to make the most of the opportunity.
- demonstrate self-awareness, self-control and seek help when needed.
- have the capacity to be aware of others’ needs.
- have the confidence to be able to enter into a different cultural and social environment.
- to be open-minded and try new things, show empathy towards others and make new friends.
- be motivated and determined to make the most out of the opportunities, face challenges and work hard.
- be capable of becoming role models for their peers at Wellington and in their community.

4. What's the Admissions process for Prince Albert Scholar candidates

The admissions process is run by the Admissions Office working closely with the Head of the Prince Albert programme. Consideration will be given for the lower educational opportunities and support that each applicant will have received compared to other applicants.

The admissions process includes the following elements:

- Attendance at assessment day including interviews.
- References from Head Teacher of current/previous school.
- Home visits conducted by key members of the College team.
- Financial means test administered by Finance Office.

5. What does 'fully funded' include?

- At 2025/26 fees with the extra 10% on top, fees are £58,204 per year.
- The additional 10% means that each child will have their 'set up' costs covered; for example; uniform, sports kit and a laptop will be provided.
- We work closely with each student to develop a personalised co-curricular plan within a clear financial framework that will be directed at their particular interests that might include; LAMDA, music tuition, Duke of Edinburgh, etc. It is essential that our Prince Albert Scholars are able to access the opportunities that are available in such a dynamic environment.

6. What kind of pastoral support is available?

- The programme is overseen by the Head of the Prince Albert Foundation, Sarah Miller, who is responsible for ensuring the highest levels of pastoral care for our scholars - this is achieved by working closely with House Masters/Mistresses and tutors.
- The programme has a particular focus on identifying children who are disadvantaged in some way; we therefore work proactively with educational charities, such as Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation, who help identify children who would particularly benefit from a Wellington education and provide additional pastoral support during the year.
- All Prince Albert Scholars and their families/carers receive an enhanced level of pastoral support before, during and after their time at the College.
- We track and support the progress of each Prince Albert Scholar up until the age of 25 years old.

7. What's the impact of the programme?

- We are currently working with partners to establish a longitudinal study to assess the long-term outcomes of the programme.

- Over the last 10 years we have had 63 students through the programme.
- As of September 2025, we have 42 Prince Albert Scholars studying at Wellington College and Wellington College Prep.
- In September 2025 we welcomed 16 new Prince Albert Scholars, 4 in the 3rd Form, 10 in the Lower 6th and 2 in Wellington College Prep.

8. What's the difference between a PAF Scholarship and other types of fee assistance offered

- All financial aid in terms of fee remission is awarded via a means-testing procedure. These awards are split into four categories;
 - **Foundationers** - In accordance with the College's original foundation, one aim of which was to provide education for the children of deceased military officers, the College continues to educate, free of charge, the children of deceased servicemen or servicewomen of Her Majesty's Armed Forces irrespective of rank and the orphan children of persons who, in the sole opinion of Governors, died in acts of selfless bravery.
 - **The Prince Albert Foundation (PAF)** - The Prince Albert Foundation is a scholarship programme aimed at widening participation to families who would not normally consider or be able to access independent education, and for whom we can offer a genuine shift in opportunity. Children who are eligible for Prince Albert Scholarships are those whose families are on national average income or below; there is often a further relevant need for boarding. Candidates must meet our minimum criteria for entrance, and we will assess potential as well as current achievement. The Prince Albert Foundation is not a programme designed to recruit pupils with specific talents. It is very unlikely that a pupil who already attends an outstanding or selective school or one already in the independent school system would be eligible.
 - **Means-tested fee assistance** – these are offered to children whose families are not able to afford the full Wellington fees and range from 10-100% but an average reward is 50%. Fee-assisted places are not always linked to scholarships, but some are named, such as the Jimmy Higham Award (supporting a talented sportsperson), the Seb Foundation Award (for talented rugby players) and the Sir Anthony Seldon Arts Award (for talented performers, musicians, and artists).
 - **The Queen Victoria Foundation (QVF)** – Alongside PAF, the Queen Victoria Foundation offers significant bursary support to talented students whose families might otherwise be unable to consider or continue a Wellington education. At a time when many families are facing increasing financial pressures, including the impact of VAT on school fees, some parents may wish to direct their support towards these areas, helping ensure that no young person has to leave, or miss out on, a Wellington education due to financial hardship.