Introducing the
Orwell Award
Transformational Sixth Form opportunities
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We are committed to making an Eton education accessible to talented boys, whatever their background.

A Warm Welcome

From Simon Henderson, Head Master of Eton College

I have always felt that having the opportunity to educate other people’s children is a rare privilege, bringing with it a huge responsibility to provide the best all-round education possible as we aim to prepare young people for happiness and success in their adult lives. At Eton we take this responsibility extremely seriously. We care about the individual and we pride ourselves in the warmth of a community in which all our pupils feel valued. The Orwell Award is a reflection of this responsibility and we look forward to welcoming applicants with great potential, and who want to broaden their educational experience.

We were founded in 1440 as a social mobility charity to give transformational opportunities to bright boys with lots of potential: in the 21st century, we endeavour to do the same.

We are committed to making an Eton education accessible to talented boys, whatever their background, and very significant levels of financial support are available, with over 80 boys currently in the school on free places.

Eton is academically selective and successful candidates will need a high level of academic ability. However, we also consider a boy’s character and attitude, because we want boys with energy and purpose who will take advantage of the vast array of opportunities on offer at Eton.

We are also looking for boys whose presence here will enhance other pupils’ experience through the contribution they make to the life of the College and to the warmth of the boarding community.

From Simon Henderson, Head Master of Eton College
All about the Orwell Award

The Orwell Award offers recipients a funded place in our Sixth Form.
The award is named, with the family’s permission, after the novelist George Orwell, who came to Eton as a scholar from a hard-working, unpretentious family, with strong, unconventional ideas of his own. George Orwell, whose real name was Eric Blair, was just the sort of boy we would want to attract today.
The scholarships cover the whole or part of the fees and other educational expenses, according to parental means. Parents of all shortlisted candidates are asked to complete a confidential bursary application form.

We want to find boys for whom Eton’s warmth, rigour and breadth will be life-changing.

- Boys on pupil premium
- Those who are the first in their families to go to university
- Boys with a need to board
- Boys in care or on the edge of care
- Or simply boys, currently with limited opportunities, who need a break, to enable them to take off and fly when they join our amazing community.

Boys who have spent Years 9, 10 and 11 in a UK state school may submit an application. The only exception is for boys in a UK independent school who receive substantial bursarial support, with no provision for Years 12 and 13.

Boys applying for the Orwell Award can also apply for the following:

Music Scholarship*
For exceptional musicians who play an instrument and/or sing to Grade 8 standard or beyond.

Michael Meredith Drama Bursary*
For boys with a track record of excellence as an actor, technician, playwright or director.

Usually up to 12 Orwell Awards are given in total each year; the exact number depending on the quality of applications.

*Further information on these awards will be enclosed along with the application form.
The Application Process

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mid July</td>
<td>early September</td>
<td>mid September</td>
<td>mid October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications open</td>
<td>Open Day</td>
<td>Application deadline</td>
<td>Shortlisting results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>late November</td>
<td>mid November</td>
<td>late October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induction for successful applicants</td>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Assessment at Eton</td>
<td>Bursary application deadline</td>
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Please see enclosed paperwork for this year’s application dates.

What will happen at the assessment?
We will invite you to Eton where you will stay in one of the boarding houses, with free board and lodging for the assessment period of up to four days. By staying with us for a few days you will be able to fully immerse yourself in Eton life, taking part in co-curricular activities, as well as experiencing life in a boarding house.

During this time you will undergo the following tasks:
- An online aptitude test
- A written mathematics paper
- Interviews in your potential A Level subjects
- Interviews with the Head Master and the Director of Welfare
- A group activity encouraging discussion and debate.

If you have applied for the Music Scholarship or the Michael Meredith Drama Bursary, you will also have an audition and interview when you are here.
The two senior years are called ‘specialist’ years because boys reduce the number of subjects studied to those in which they feel most highly motivated, and begin to think about their intended university courses, in preparation for their future working lives.

The number of subjects and combinations offered at Eton enable boys to select a specialist curriculum of their choice, with careful guidance from their House Master and Tutor.

Academic Curriculum

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C Block/Year 12
Boys take four academic subjects, each leading to an A Level or Pre-U qualification the following year. Most will also follow a programme of non-examined general study and take a course in current affairs, ethics and philosophy, or religion to encourage thinking beyond the confines of their subjects.

B Block/Year 13
Some boys will continue with four examined subjects. Others will reduce to three. Application for universities takes place during the Autumn term, though some boys will decide to take a gap year and defer until the following year.

You have access to limitless opportunities.

Kaashif
(Orwell Award recipient)
A boy does not come to Eton simply to earn a set of qualifications.

The following examined subjects are currently on offer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Literature</th>
<th>Mathematics (Single or with Further Mathematics)</th>
<th>Biology, Chemistry, Physics</th>
<th>Ancient History, Latin, Greek</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern Foreign Languages*</td>
<td>History (medieval, early modern or modern)</td>
<td>History of Art</td>
<td>Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre Studies</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Government and Politics</td>
<td>Music Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>*French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin, Japanese, Russian, Arabic.</td>
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Co-Curricular Activities

Although learning is obviously an important part of what happens in the school, it is certainly true that the most important things that you learn at school are not really to be measured in terms of qualifications.

When a boy leaves Eton, he will have experience of academic, sporting, dramatic, artistic, musical and, perhaps most importantly, personal growth to look back on.

On the following page is just a taster of some co-curricular activities that Sixth Form boys can get involved in.

You have everything you want to do right at your doorstep.

Hamza
(Orwell Award recipient)

Sports
Take part in the main sports such as football, rugby, rowing or cricket, or focus on ‘minor’ sports like basketball, fencing, fives or mountaineering.

Art
The Drawing Schools have facilities for painting, drawing, printmaking, computer graphics and digital photography. We also have two purpose-built 3D studios for ceramics and sculpture in wood, metal and plaster.

Drama
There are more than 20 theatrical productions staged at Eton in a typical year. Find your place either on the stage, or working behind the scenes on lighting, props or set design.

Music
There are music lessons in almost any instrument you can imagine; join an orchestra, choir, rock band, or just enjoy the variety of concerts on offer.

Societies
Listen to talks and debate with world class speakers – from politicians and medical professionals, to footballers and television personalities.
Boarding Life

When you visit the school, you may notice some differences between your current school and Eton College. Despite any differences and beneath the traditional appearance, Eton is a thoroughly modern school.

As a large school, Eton is a challenging, vibrant place and offers a wide range of opportunities. The School is made up of a series of smaller communities with 25 boarding houses, each providing a home for about 50 boys. The House often becomes the focus of a boy’s social life within the school and traditionally inspires a great sense of community and loyalty.

Each House is run by a House Master who lives in the House.

The House Master’s chief task is to get to know the boys well and to support them in their various endeavours, including their study programmes and university applications. The House Master is also responsible for the day-to-day running of the House, assisted by a resident Dame (Matron) who shares the pastoral responsibilities. In addition, each boy has a Tutor whom he sees on a regular basis each week, and whose task is to expand a boy’s intellectual and cultural horizons and to provide him with personal and academic support.

I’m from East London so it’s a completely different thing coming into a school like this but it’s not as daunting as it seems. I think the best thing about Eton is that it allows you to become who you want to be. It brings out what your passions are and it gives you the chance to try anything that you think you will be good at and, if you are good at it, Eton pushes you to become even better and really brings out the best in you.

Even in your free time you are doing something – if you want to go and work on your robot or start a project, you can do that, or if you want to learn how to code, you can go to the coding society. There is no door that doesn’t open for you once you’re here – you might previously have had a glass ceiling that’s stopping you, but you shatter that glass ceiling as soon as you come here.

Hamza (Orwell Award Recipient)

Boarding is just living with your friends.

Stephen (Orwell Award recipient)
Within the first few days of arriving at Eton, I felt welcome and knew that I was going to enjoy my time here. I immediately got involved in the house play and the school play soon after, something that allowed me to get to know other students very quickly. I found there to be a prodigious amount of activities available, many of which I had taken up before arriving at Eton so it was great to be able to carry these on. Due to the plethora of extracurricular opportunities at hand, I was keen to try my hand at things I’d never done before such as playing the Field Game, a sport which combines elements of football and rugby, exclusive to Eton.

I frequented the School Library in my first year, not only as a place to study but also as a place to relax, with a sizeable area specifically dedicated for this purpose. This encouraged me to apply for the role of Keeper of School Library which I got and have thoroughly enjoyed thus far. I love the fact that Eton, despite its history, is a dynamic place that is willing to innovate in order to meet the wide-ranging needs of its pupils, for example through the use of the latest technology. My proudest moment at Eton was delivering a speech to all the teachers on how we can better celebrate Diversity and Inclusion at the school which was very well received. I can honestly say that there is something here for everyone and if you are considering applying, I highly advise that you do.

Josh (Orwell Award Recipient)
There is an Open Day in early September for prospective candidates who are in Year 11.

On this visit you will have a tour of the school and have the opportunity to ask plenty of questions to current Orwell Award holders, teachers, and the admissions team.

Potential candidates are welcome to apply for the Orwell Award either before or after the Open Day. The deadline for applying is stated at the top of the application form, which can be found on our website. Please return the completed application form with a copy of your unabridged birth certificate (showing both parent names) and a personal statement. A copy of the 'Reference Request' form should also be given to your Head Teacher for them to complete and return to us.

We will then shortlist the applications and successful boys will be invited to Eton for the assessment in November.

What happens next?

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‘Eton Speak’

Beak/Master – a teacher, whether male or female.

Bekynton – the central dining room providing breakfast, lunch and supper for about half of the Houses. The other Houses eat in their own dining rooms.

Block – a year group: Year 12 are known as C block and Year 13 are known as B block.

Burning Bush – an iron lamp post conveniently positioned right in the centre of Eton and hence often used as a meeting point.

Chambers – a mid-morning break of about 25 minutes when boys return to their houses for a snack, and masters gather together.

The Chronicle – a magazine edited by senior boys that comes out every few weeks.

Extra Work (EW) – work set by a teacher to be done out of school.

Field Game – Eton’s special version of football.

Fives – a sport developed in the late 19th century at Eton, which is similar to handball.

Fixtures – a booklet containing a diary for the term and a great deal of other information.

Fourth of June – a gala day (not always on 4th June) when parents, friends and relatives are made welcome. The day features exhibitions, sporting events, speeches and a Procession of Boats.

Half – a term: Michaelmas, Lent and Summer.

Pop – the school prefects, more properly known as The Eton Society.

School/Div – a lesson.

School Dress – the school uniform, often referred to as ‘tails’.

Specialists – Sixth Formers.

Trials – end of term examinations.
Speaking as a mother of a former Orwell Award holder, I can honestly say that I was sceptical when my son said he was going to apply to Eton; I was worried about how he would fit in and I didn’t want to lose him. Now, as he finishes his Master’s course at Imperial College London, I can say – hand on heart – that it was the best thing he could have done; it was the making of him and I didn't lose my son – rather, I gained a young man who grew in confidence and independence and was well prepared to make the transition to university that parents often worry about.

Parent of a former Orwell Award holder

Get in Touch

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