PEPONI

SCHOOL

13+ Scholarship Information

2026 - 2027



Introduction

> *Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of intelligent effort.*
>
> *John Rushkin (1819 – 1900)*

All schools are fundamentally academic but good schools should be trying to develop pupils beyond the confines of a set curriculum and allow them to develop the curiosity that is going to prepare them for a life beyond the world of academia. More fundamentally, schools are preparing pupils for their adult working world that is more commonly demanding a much wider variety of skills.

We wish our pupils to be defined by following intellectual and personal qualities:

Independence – Self motivation is something that should be second nature to all Peponi pupils.

Contribution – Peponi pupils should have a strong sense of community and want to have an impact on our local, national and global societies.

Aspiration – Peponi pupils should aim high, set targets and want to realise their potential, achieve excellence and persevere until success is enjoyed.

Confidence – Peponi pupils should be self-assured, should be proud of their abilities but guard against arrogance.

Integrity – Peponi pupils should be honest, sensitive to the needs of others and acknowledge the contributions of others.

Curiosity – Peponi pupils need to develop their interests and have a genuine desire to inquire and to learn.

Our scholars are selected to become leaders in the academic, intellectual, and extra-curricular areas of the School. Whether on the games field, within the classroom, the Concert hall, the debating chamber or on the stage, our scholars should exhibit our ideals to support all of our community to do their best.

Expectations of Award Winners

> *Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.*
>
> *Aristotle (385 BC – 323 BC)*

At Peponi School, we view pupils who have been awarded either a scholarship or an exhibition as ambassadors for scholarly practice within the school. These are pupils who are both inspired and who can inspire others to achieve their very best. All Scholars and Exhibitioners are part of the wider school community and are fully integrated in the systems of the School. However, those who hold awards are members of the "Symposium" and work under the direct observation of the Headmaster.

They are supported, as all pupils are supported, by their tutor, their Housemaster or Mistress, and other members of the school community but expectations of their behaviour, their development, and their ambition are all more accountable to those who teach them and to the Headmaster.

Academic award holders are expected to contribute to the intellectual life of the School, demonstrating a passion and thirst for the academic opportunities at Peponi, not simply in the classroom but in the myriad of opportunities for academic extension.

Sports award holders should be taking leadership positions in their teams and contributing to the success of the School on the games field and, more importantly, advocating an exceptional sportsman's and sportswoman's attitude.

They should also aspire to join Peponi School's Talented Athlete Programme (T.A.P)

All specialist award winners are expected to choose their specialist subject as an IGCSE or GCSE option. They should also make the most of the opportunities offered and be a role-model to other pupils.

All Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded at the discretion of the Headmaster and the Scholarship Election Committee. All awards are merit based and there is no limit to the awards given in any one particular year. There is also no demand on the Election Committee to give a particular number of awards

Scholarships

A man's mind, stretched by new ideas, may never return to its original dimensions.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. (1841 – 1935)

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

Malcolm X (1925 – 1965)

Peponi School welcomes applications for scholarships and exhibitions at 13+ entry and at 16+ entry. There are a number of awards available in a wide range of pupil activity.

The aim is to reward and encourage pupils to excel and to strive for the very best in their endeavours.

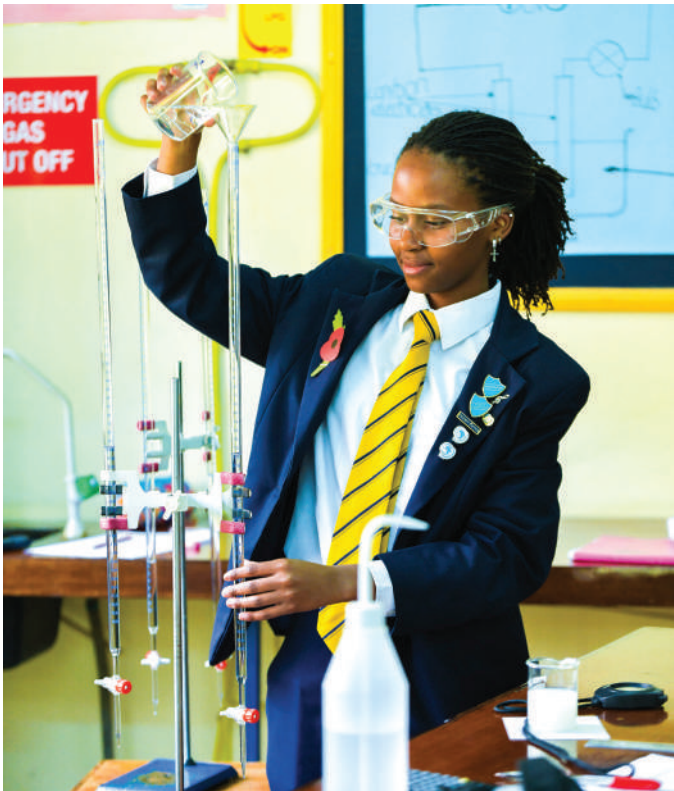
The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn ...and change.

Carl Rogers (1902 – 1987)

Awards are placed in three categories:

- Academic;
- Specialist;
- All-Rounder Awards.





1. Academic

The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

Sydney J. Harris (1917 – 1986)

A series of examinations are written to assess a pupil's aptitude in a wide range of subjects that are common within a Prep or Primary School curriculum. Candidates are expected to have a basic knowledge of main subject areas but we emphasise the demand for potential and therefore specific memory-based knowledge is kept to a minimum. The regurgitation of prepared answers does not necessarily show the true ability of candidates; we are looking for genuine flair and intellectual acuity, together with a sensitivity towards other people. This provides access for any academic award to any pupils from perhaps a more diverse nature of previous educational experiences.

This diversity of candidates is often broader than traditional IAPS Common Entrance curriculum; examinations are set to reflect this diversity. Academic Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded based on the performance in a full range of academic subjects.

The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go.

Dr. Seuss (1904 – 1991)



We also offer three specific academic awards:

The Wangari Maathai Scholarship for all round academic excellence
This is the highest academic award at Peponi School and the successful candidate will need to perform at the highest level in all academic papers. The pupil who wins this award will also be expected to produce an outstanding General Paper that shows initiative, independence of thought and exceptional writing skills for their age.

The Ramanujan Mathematics Scholarship
The successful candidate will be expected to produce two superb mathematics papers (Mathematics II and III). A good performance will also be expected in the Physics examinations.

The Thiong'o Scholarship for Modern Languages and Literacy
The successful candidate will be expected to perform in not only the Modern Foreign Language paper of their choice (Kiswahili, French and Spanish) but should also produce excellent essays in the English II and the General paper. A good performance in History can also be credited.

In all academic award assessments the following papers are compulsory:

- English II
- Mathematics II
- Science (for all pupils)
- History
- Geography
- The General Paper
- Modern Foreign Language (as a second language option)

Papers are also offered in the following subjects: – [all candidates should choose two of these papers. If candidates wish to be considered for the Wangari Maathai, Thiong'o or the Ramanujan awards then they should opt for the correct and specific papers.]

- English III (Thiong'o Scholarship)
- Mathematics III (Ramanujan Scholarship)
- Physics (Ramanujan Scholarship)
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Religious Studies
- ICT
- Modern Foreign Language (Kiswahili, French or Spanish)

The Wangari Maathai Scholarship

It is important to nurture any new ideas and initiatives which can make a difference for Africa.

Wangari Maathai (1940 – 2011)



This is an award for all-round academic excellence. This is the highest academic award at Peponi School and the successful candidate will need to perform at the highest level in all academic papers. The pupil who wins this award will also be expected to produce an outstanding General Paper that shows initiative, independence of thought and exceptional writing skills for their age.

A candidate must complete all the compulsory subjects and take two papers from the list below.

Compulsory Papers:

- English II
- Mathematics II
- Science (for all pupils)
- History
- Geography
- The General Paper
- Modern Foreign Language (as a second language option)

Two papers should be taken from:

- English III (Thiong'o Scholarship)
- Mathematics III (Ramanujan
- Scholarship)
- Physics (Ramanujan Scholarship)
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Religious Studies
- ICT
- Modern Foreign Language (Kiswahili, French or Spanish)

It would be expected that a successful candidate will have taken either Mathematics III or English III.

All candidates for this award will be interviewed by the Election Committee and questions will be based on the General Paper, a candidate's ambitions for their academic future and the opinions on current world events.

The Ramanujan Mathematics Scholarship

An equation means nothing to me unless it expresses a thought of God.

Srinivasa Ramanujan FRS (1887 – 1920)



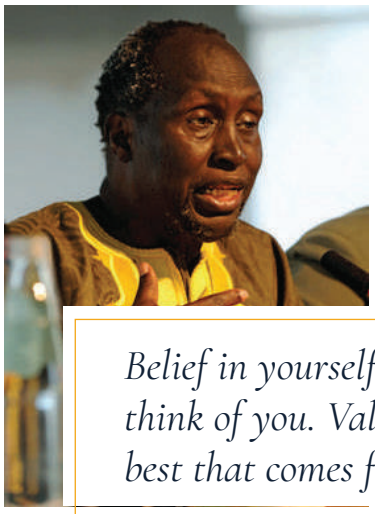
A candidate must sit all compulsory papers;

- English II
- Mathematics II
- Science (for all pupils)
- History
- Geography
- The General Paper
- Modern Foreign Language (as a second language option)

The successful candidate will be expected to produce two superb mathematics papers (Mathematics II and III). A good performance will also be expected in the Science and Physics examinations.

Candidates who wish to be considered for this award must choose Mathematics III and Physics for their optional papers.

The Thiong'o Scholarship for Modern Languages and Literacy



Belief in yourself is more important than endless worries of what others think of you. Value yourself and others will value you. Validation is best that comes from within.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o (1938 -)

This is an award dedicated to those candidates who excel in the written word.

A candidate must sit all compulsory papers:

- English II
- Mathematics II
- Science (for all pupils)
- History
- Geography
- The General Paper
- Modern Foreign Language (as a second language option)

If you know all the languages of the world but not your mother tongue, that is enslavement. Knowing your mother tongue and all other languages too is empowerment.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o (1938 -)

Candidates are expected to present excellence in their modern language paper and in the English II paper. Their essay in the General Paper will be expected to demonstrate freedom of thought and a suggestion of independent ideas.

All candidates for this award should choose the English III paper and preferably the Religious Studies paper or another Foreign Language paper.

All candidates will be interviewed by the Election Committee where they will face questions on their General Paper, current world events and their ideas on society and government. They will also be expected to make comment on any novel that they will have read.



2. Specialist Awards

> *A child educated only at school is an uneducated child.*
>
> *George Santayana (1863 – 1952)*

These awards are based on activities in which many pupils excel and are based on excellence outside of the classroom. They will be interviewed by a member of the Election Committee. There are both scholarships and exhibitions available and all are awarded based on merit and potential. The Election Committee is not bound to give any specific number of awards.

A candidate must sit the following papers:

- Mathematics I
- English I

The following areas may be presented for candidacy:

- Sport
- Music
- Art
- Drama



Sport Scholarship

> *If I can offer one piece of advice, it would be to learn to control the mind and train each day with a positive attitude.*
>
> *Eliud Kipchoge*

At Peponi School we believe that involvement in sporting endeavour is an integral part of a young person's growth and development. Sport supports not only the development of athleticism, but also the positive development of mental and emotional health.

Successful Scholars will demonstrate an exceptional aptitude for their chosen sport(s) and will be beginning to compete to a high level. Peponi Sport is looking for individuals who can demonstrate an understanding of both leadership and teamship qualities in addition to their sporting talent. The applicant will be able justify their Scholarship by establishing and driving the highest standards of themselves as well as others in the context of sport.

> *One man practising sportsmanship is far better than 50 preaching it.*
>
> *Knute Rockne*

As a guideline, a successful candidate will be:

- An individual who has wholly represented their schools first team in one, but often two more sports throughout both Years 7 & 8 to a great level of competition
- Able to demonstrate a high level of technical and tactical ability in one, but often two or more sports
- An outstanding sportsperson who looks to support and develop others as much as themselves
- An individual to whom other pupils look to as a positive role model in the sporting arena
- Highly consistent in their approach to any training and competitive opportunities with regards to effort and application
- Coachable and willing to ask questions to both better themselves and their peers
- Expected to consistently engage with and be motivated to utilise support programmes and opportunities to improve such as the Talented Athlete Programme

Candidates are only required to provide a reference from their Director of Sport, but may also choose to share a portfolio if they wish, or if the sport they are submiting for cannot be assesed on the day.

Key assessment elements:

- Technical and tactical ability
- Coachability
- Sporting & athletic potential
- Communication skills
- Self-discipline
- Open-mindedness

Sports that can be assessed:

- Basketball
- Cricket
- Football
- Hockey
- Athletics

(Sprints, Distance Running, Jumping, Throwing)

- Swimming
- Tennis
- Golf (Assesssed by portfolio)
- Boys' Rugby
- Girls' Netball

There are three components in the assessment process:

Part one **Physical and Motor Skills Assessment**
Candidates should bring suitable footwear and wear their current school's PE kit.

Part two **Sport-Specific Assessment**
Candidates are expected to bring their own sport-specific equipment to compete in their 2 chosen sports, such as hockey sticks/shin pads, studded boots, gum shields, cricket bat/padding or swimming goggles, etc. This element of the assessment will take place outdoors so candidates should bring sun-protective or waterproof clothing as appropriate.

Part three **Team Work & Interviews**
Candidates are randomly grouped and assessed based on their responses to a series of questions in a speed-interview setting. These questions could include scenarios, particular experiences or queries about their character. In addition, candidates are also assessed on their teamworking skills, such as how they communicate and blend with others in both fun and challenging contexts.

Music Scholarship

Without Music, life would be a mistake.

Friedrich Nietzsche



Music belongs to everyone. Music is a spiritual food for which there is no substitute. There is no complete spiritual life without music. There are regions of the human soul which can be illuminated only through music.

Zoltan Kodaly

At Peponi School, we are very much looking at the potential of Music Scholars as much as current ability. As a minimum though, candidates are expected to have reached a good Grade 5 standard in their primary instrument and to have achieved at least Grade 1 theory. Ability on a second or third instrument is an advantage

N.B. All successful Music Scholars must choose GCSE Music as an option in the 5th form. Music Scholars must also demonstrate a willingness to make the most of the musical opportunities offered, take part in a variety of musical groups, and will be expected to perform regularly in public as required by the Director of Music.

Candidates for the music awards will be expected to complete the following tests:

Performance (15 minutes)

- Candidates should prepare two contrasting pieces on their primary instrument (including voice). They are expected to have reached at least Grade 5 standard on their primary instrument.
- Candidates should prepare a piece on their secondary instrument (including voice) if applicable.
- Each piece should last approximately 3-4 minutes. Overlong pieces may be self-penalising.
- The pieces may be accompanied, have a backing track or be unaccompanied. Candidates who are not using backing tracks (which should be submitted to the Director of Music in advance) should arrange to bring their own accompanist. Please note that we cannot guarantee the time slot for auditions in advance.
- A short practice will be allowed beforehand for pieces with accompaniments.
- ALL candidates will be required to sight-sing a short unaccompanied piece, in the style of a folksong. They will be given one minute to prepare.

Quick study piece (5 minutes)

- Candidates will be given a piece of music on their primary instrument to look through.
- They should perform the piece to the best of their ability and as musically as possible, taking note of any performance directions & markings. Questions may be asked about the style and character of the music.

Listening tests (10 minutes)

- Candidates will sit a multiple-choice paper based on a series of listening tests. They will feature questions on pitch, melody, rhythm and texture.

Interview (15 minutes)

- Candidates will be interviewed by the Director of Music on various aspects of their music-making, experience, interests and ambitions.
- Candidates are welcome to bring a portfolio if they wish but it does not necessarily convey any advantage over other candidates.

References:

- A reference is required from the candidate's current classroom music teacher in their Preparatory School. It should detail the candidate's musical ability and contribution to the Music Department. In addition, references are also welcomed from the candidate's instrumental teachers.
- When registering for scholarship day, candidates MUST inform us of their primary instrument and, if applicable, their secondary instrument.

When registering for scholarship day, candidates MUST inform us which instrument(s) they are auditioning on.

Art Scholarship

One can have no smaller or greater mastery than mastery of oneself. — *Jerzy Kosinski*

The Art Scholarship holder is expected to be a passionate artist with outstanding technical ability and an obvious flair for art. The candidate will be an active and enthusiastic volunteer and participant in art activities around the school from extracurricular activities to school productions. The candidate is expected to be a dedicated and motivated pupil who will inspire others around them and lead projects with ease.

The successful candidate will have demonstrated the following:

- Outstanding proficiency in the use of media.
- Creativity and individuality in their style.
- Versatility in the use of materials, techniques and/or processes.

Prerequisites:

A written reference or recommendation from their previous school and current teachers outlining their ability, contributions and achievements in and outside of the school. The successful candidate will not only submit the drawings required prior to the scholarship day but also a portfolio of work completed over the years that demonstrate an interest, commitment and love for art.

Scholarship day:

Interview:
To be conducted based on their interests, experiences and ambitions. This is also an opportunity to share and talk about their portfolio of work. The portfolio should demonstrate use of a range of techniques and/or processes (e.g. pencil shading, paints, prints, craft/3D, etc.

Candidates should be selective when preparing their portfolios, presenting a maximum of 10 artworks and one sketchbook, to showcase their level of artistic knowledge, ability and creativity.

Task:
The assessment is a practical task that will take place in the art room. The candidate will be given one and a half hours to complete a drawing from observation. The composition will be pre-arranged for them and specific instructions provided. Equipment and tools will be available but the candidate is free to bring along additional preferred supplies.

Drama Scholarship

> *All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players.*
>
> *William Shakespeare, As You Like It*

Drama is an important feature of life at Peponi School. We are looking for pupils who are committed to the performing arts and particularly to those who are keen to be part of the dramatic arts. The school has put on a large number of exceptional plays and we are looking to expand the experience of all of our pupils so that they can benefit from the world of the theatre. We believe that drama, theatre, and the performing arts in general, have enormous beneficial influences on the development of young people. The benefits are physical, emotional, social and they help pupils to develop a healthy appreciation of culture and the arts.

Drama is especially good for the development of :

- Self-confidence
- Imagination
- Empathy
- Cooperation
- Concentration
- Emotional Outlet
- Memory

Pupils who are applying for a Peponi School Drama Awards will be assessed in two areas:

- Performance Skills
- Attitude and Approach

Performance Skills

Pupils should create and prepare a 2-minute monologue based on either a character from a play or a historical figure. They must be ready to perform it from memory (off script) on the day

Here is some information on how to prepare for the audition.

Creating a Monologue for Your Drama Scholarship Audition

- Choose a compelling character

- From a play or real history (e.g. Wangari Maathai, Rani Lakshmibai, Nelson Mandela, Shakespeare).

- Research deeply

– Find out what shaped them: key events, emotions, quotes, and challenges.

- Focus on a powerful moment

– Choose a turning point or emotional scene that reveals their personality.

(Shell Year 9)

- Write in first person

– Speak as the character. Let us hear their thoughts, fears, hopes.

- Show range and emotion

– Use tone, pace, and physicality to bring the character to life.

- Keep it tight and polished

– 2 minutes maximum in length. Learn it off by heart and rehearse for clarity and impact.

Improvisation

- Pupils will take part in a group improvisational workshop, led by the teacher of Drama.
- There is no need to prepare anything for the workshop, although candidates should come appropriately dressed in comfortable clothing and soft footwear.





Attitude and Approach

Direction

- Candidates will be given feedback on their monologue on the day and asked to respond to the direction given.
- A willingness to experiment will be required.

Interview

- Candidates will be interviewed about their experiences of performance, as well as their ambitions and targets.
- Candidates are welcome to bring a portfolio showing their previous performance experiences but please note, this is NOT a necessary requirement.
- Discussion of other Performing Arts skills held by candidates would be welcomed. Eg dance, Music, design or photography.

It is expected that all successful candidates and award holders will audition for parts in all school or relevant year group plays and, if selected, will be part of all school productions. In addition to this they are expected to advocate the importance of drama in the school curriculum and support other pupils in their dramatic ambitions. It may be that award holders are involved in at least one other Drama event within an academic year.

References

Candidates will be required to obtain a reference from their current Drama teacher (either in school or out-with), detailing their contribution to Drama and general attitude and approach.

3. All Round Scholarships

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

William B Yeats (1865 – 1939)

Pupils are expected to sit the compulsory academic papers that are presented for an academic award. Candidates should then choose two specialist areas to form part of their full assessment for an All-Round Award. These areas include:

- Sport
- Music
- Art
- Drama

They will also be interviewed by a panel of the Election Committee.





Key Dates for the Scholarship

Friday, 11th September 2026	:	Applications Open
Tuesday, 1st December 2026	:	Deadline for Applications
Friday, 8th to Sunday, 10th January 2026	:	Scholarship Assessment Weekend



HADI · UPEONI

PO Box 236, Ruiru 00232
+(254) 0733 615 139; +(254) 0722 287 248
registrar@peponischool.org
www.peponischool.org

 @peponischool  @peponi_school  Peponi School  peponi_school