



## DISCONTINUATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Our College Board has supported a proposal that **from 2015, St Anne's will no longer offer any new scholarships**. We are excited about this change, which was prompted by reasons such as the following:

- Expectations and stress levels of many prospective pupils, who are only 12 or 13 years old, are unnecessarily (and often unrealistically) raised as they seek to win scholarships.
- Academic scholarships were previously awarded on the basis of performance in our Academic Benchmark Tests which provide an objective but not definitive assessment of a pupil's English and Mathematical ability. However these scholarships were often controversial in that they were not necessarily awarded to the top academic pupils at their respective primary schools. Furthermore, recipients did not always prove to be the top performers during their senior years at St Anne's.
- Similar controversy was often linked to the awarding of our sport and music scholarships.
- Notwithstanding our efforts to encourage parents to apply for a bursary if they needed financial assistance, we still had parents who did not do so and who instead put pressure, even if only unintentionally, on their daughters to earn a scholarship in order to attend St Anne's.
- Certain parents of scholarship recipients reported that, despite St Anne's low-key approach to scholarships, their daughters subsequently placed undue pressure on themselves as they perpetually strived to justify their awards.

### What we will now be doing

The following is a summary of how money previously spent on scholarships will, in future, be spent at St Anne's:

- ✓ The bulk of the money will instead be used to fund **bursaries** which are awarded on the basis of **financial need**.
- ✓ Our policy pertaining to bursaries will be adjusted to allow for the partial payment of costs relating to certain co-curricular involvement.
- ✓ A fund will be established that increases our material recognition of exceptional academic performance of pupils currently at St Anne's, particularly in pupils in Grades 10 to 12.
- ✓ A second fund will be established that will enable us to assist girls with certain expenses related to exceptional performance in sport, music and other co-curricular activities.

We are confident that this change will reduce the pressure that is inevitably associated with our enrolment process and eliminate the subsequent pressure, perceived or otherwise, associated with being a scholarship holder. Furthermore, the increase in the amount of money available for bursaries will reinforce St Anne's endeavours to transform the socio-economic profile of its pupil body.

It is gratifying to know that with very few exceptions, our current scholarship recipients decided to attend St Anne's for reasons relating to our broad curriculum, ethos and values rather than to their actual scholarship. As previously stated, we are excited about this change and look forward to this year's enrolment process.

David Arguile  
**COLLEGE HEAD**  
27 January 2015