

The Royal High School

Prizes and Bursaries awarded in the 2020/21 session

This list does not represent all awards which were made at the Prize Giving, but is largely correct. It is sequenced by 'year first awarded'

Year first awarded	Prize name	Prize detail
1794	MacGregor Prize, Dux in Latin	Murray (Macgregor) Medal (1794): Endowed by Lt.-Col. Peter Murray. MacGregor was allegedly a descendent of Rob Roy.
1800	The Lady Glenorchy Prize for Religious Education	Until 1787, Lady Glenorchy owned the estate on which the Barnton Campus now sits. She left money to provide scripture prizes in Edinburgh schools
1824	Ritchie Prize Dux of form 2 (S2)	Endowed by William Ritchie, a master in 1824, originally for Dux of form 4 in the Preparatory school, since 1973 for Dux of S2
1850	RHS Club Prize, Dux of School	Endowed by the RHS Club
1851	Carson Medal for an English Essay	Endowed by F.Ps. in honour of Dr Aglionby-Ross Carson, Rector from 1820 to 1845
1857	Boyd Prize Dux of form 1 (S1)	In honour of Dr James Boyd, Fourth form master for many years. Originally just for Dux of Latin in the first form
1865	Macmillan Club Prize, Dux in English	In honour of John Macmillan, Master. Endowed by his pupils. For many years, the prize included a fine gold fob watch, an example of which is shown here
1868	Tullis Prize, Dux in Mathematics	Originally the Tullis 'Medal', endowed by Bailie Tullis, FP., for Dux in Mathematics. Usually awarded as an Open prize.
1871	Sibbald Bursaries	Endowed by Dr J. R. Sibbald. Also referred to as 'Heriot' Bursaries in 1903. Formerly simply for two or three pupils, has since 2014 has been two awards in S3 for 3 years each, one boy, one girl.
1877	Mackay Prize, Dux of form 4 (S4)	Endowed by Benjamin Mackay, Master, for Dux of Form IV
1878	Carmichael Club prize, Dux of S3	In honour of John Carmichael, Master, for Dux of Form 3 (S3). Initially awarded as a medal. The Carmichael Club prize for knowledge of New Testament Greek was first awarded in 1872
1881	Robertson Bursaries	When first awarded, it was for boys from Edinburgh state schools – via an open competition. It paid six years of fees. Now awarded to two S1 pupils for 5 years
1910	John Marshall Prize, Dux in Mathematics, S4	Originally the John Marshall Medal (1910): In honour of Dr John Marshall, Rector (1882-1909), for Dux in Classics and Maths in Form IV
1915	Crichton Cup	Formerly known as the Crichton Trophy. Gifted by J. D. Crichton, whose sons were at School, for Scholarship and Athletics. Now awarded to the best Nation
1917	Inches Prizes. Duxes in Chemistry and Physics	Endowed by Sir Robert Inches, F.P., Co-founder of Hamilton and Inches jewellers, and Lord Provost from 1912 to 1916
1920	Donaldson Bursaries	Endowed in honour of Dr James Donaldson, master and rector (1865-1882) Said to have been first awarded in 1882, but not evident in our records until 1920. Formerly simply for two or three pupils, has since 2014 has been two awards in S3 for 3 years each, one boy, one girl.

1924	The RHS Club in London Prizes	First awarded for Dux in Drawing. Nowadays three awards are endowed by the Club, Dux in CDT, Dux in Art, and a prize for an English Poem
1925	Chisholm Prize, Dux in Geography	Endowed by Dr G. G. Chisholm, F.P., for Dux in Geography. Originally awarded in sixth form (S6), now in S4
1925	J. G. Cattanach prize for Scottish History	Endowed by J. G. Cattanach, F.P., for Scottish History and Literature. Now awarded in S4, formerly an Open prize
1925	Bruce Prize, Dux in History	Endowed by Edward Bruce, F.P., Dean of Guild
1928	N H Small prizes, Duxes in Spanish and German	Endowed by W. A. Small in memory of his son, Norman Howard Small, a private in the 9 th Royal Scots, killed in action in WW1, on 23 rd April 1915. Originally for Dux in French in 6 th form (S6)
1928	The MacKelvie Trophy	Gifted by Lt.-Col. Maxwell MacKelvie, F.P., for Best Piper, usually the Pipe Major
1929	Muir memorial Prize, Dux of S5	Formerly the Muir Memorial Medal, in honour of T. S. Muir, master, for Dux of Form 5
1929	Sir David Yule Scholarship	Endowed by David Yule's widow in his memory. Originally to assist entrance to university. Awarded for four years
1932	Sir Walter Scott Centenary Prize	Until 1971, presented as a medal. Endowed by RHS Club at the Centenary of the death of Sir Walter Scott. There is a companion plaque on the school wall.
1932	Sir Alexander Stevenson Prize	Endowed by Sir Alexander Stevenson, L.P., for Proxime accessit to Dux of School
1934	Andrew Wilson Prize	Endowed by Andrew Wilson, Dean of Guild, for Service and Leadership
1935	John Turner Prize, Dux in Mathematics (S5)	In honour of John Turner, master and deputy rector (1926-1934)
1935	J. G. Cattanach Prize	Endowed by J. G. Cattanach, F.P., for Scottish History and Literature
1936	Royal High School Exhibition	Endowed by the RHS Club, initially for Entrance to University – now awarded to the Dux
1937	Morrison Bursaries	Endowed by John Paton Morrison. Two awards in S3 for 3 years each, formerly simply for two pupils, since 2014 to male and female pupils. Morrison was, prior to that, the lowest in value of three, the other two being Sibbald and Donaldson
1938	Carson Bursary, Dux of English, S4	Endowed by RH.S. Club from surplus of the Carson Medal Fund for excellence in English in Form IV. One award for two years
1938	Carson Prize, Dux in English, S5	Endowed from a surplus of the Carson Medal (1851), for Dux in English in S5
1938	J. W. Loudon prize for Public Speaking	Endowed in memory of J. W. Loudon, F.P., for Public Speaking. For many years an Open award, now S3, S4 or S5.
1939	Tait Prize, Dux Proxime	Formerly for Dux of the 4 th form in the RHS Preparatory School. Since co-education started in 1973, awarded to 'Proxime' (runner-up) to the Dux
1939	Grant memorial Cup, Dux in Music	Endowed in honour of J. A. Grant, master, for Dux in Music.
1939	James A. Grant Cup, Dux in Music	Endowed in honour of J. A. Grant, Master.
1942	W. King Gillies Prize for Scottish Literature	Endowed by his son, (an F.P.) in memory of his father, who was Rector from 1919 to 1940
1948	Percy Malcolm Stewart bursaries	Endowed by Sir Percy Malcolm Stewart, originally intended to assist University Entrance. Three bursaries, Major, Median and Minor, each for four years
1951	Nicol Prize for Service	Nicoll Memorial Prize. Endowed by his mother in memory of son Alan killed in WW2 (1945 – Burma), for Service and Leadership. He was awarded the MC. Originally awarded to a Prep. school pupil, it reverted in 1979, spelt wrongly.

1956	Nicholson Prize for Music	Endowed by Dr J. C. Nicholson for Music, initially an Open prize, now S4
1962	Burgoyne Prize, Dux in German	Edgar Burgoyne was Depute Rector from 1940 to 1959, having joined the staff in 1923. Endowed by Glasgow and West Scotland RHS. Club
1963	Sir John Greig Dunbar Prizes for Citizenship	Endowed by F.P. Sir J. G. Dunbar, Lord Provost 1960-1963, known as 'Mr Lemonade'
1963	W. J. Watson Prize for Original Research	Endowed by Sir Hugh Watson in memory of father, rector from 1909 to 1914
1967	Hector McIver Memorial Prize	Endowed by widow in his memory. For Literary Appreciation. Hector was a legendary English teacher from 1947 to 1966 (head of department from 1949) dying during his final session.
1969	RHS FP President's Prizes for S5 Dux in History and Geography	Prizes donated by (and sometimes presented by) the current RHS Club President. At its inception in 1969, that was A. B. Scrimgeour, F.F.A., F.I.A.
1970	James Scott Bursary	Endowed by his family in his memory, for Entrance to University. Awarded for four years
1972	RHS Parent Group prizes	The Parent's representative group has changed its name several times over the last fifty years. For many years, their prizes were presented to 3 rd and 5 th form pupils, for 'Meritorious Effort' and 'Modern Studies' respectively. Since 2013, two prize groups are shown, S1-S3, and S4-S6, now known as 'PFG' prizes
1972	Phillip Harris Prize, Dux in Biology	Endowed by Phillip Harris, F.P., President of the RHS Club in 1978
1974	John Murray Prizes for Music	John was an inspirational Music teacher from 1971-2003, initiating the first, then organising many further European music trips. Described simply as 'The Murray Prize for Music' when first awarded. Awarded in S1, S2 and S3. John sadly died in 2021
1984	Alex Aitken Prize for Scottish History	Alex 'Bobo' Aitken was an eccentric but much-loved History teacher in the Regent Road era, retiring in 1959
1985	Alex F Hall prize for Computing	Alex Hall was Depute Rector between 1967 and 1977. Prior to that, the award was in the name of Alex Skinner
1987	The Janine Whitecross Trophy – all-round endeavour in P.E.	Janine Whitecross - died in 1986 aged 12, killed by a car on Telford Road. She is shown in the 1985/86 Annual Report as being class 1a2. The prize was first awarded in 1987
1994	Jessie P Young prize for meritorious effort	'Jessie P' was a famed Junior school teacher from 1941 until 1968. She formed a 'former pupils' club which met in her house in Warrender for many years
1997	Noreen Richardson prize for courage and determination	Noreen was the school's first female Principal Teacher, joining the Home Economics Dept. 1976. She fell ill, but still presented the prizes at the 1994 Prize Giving, and died that year. The prize was first presented in 1997.
2000	John Paterson Small prize for Music	'J.P.' Small was President of the RHS Club in 1979, and the prize was endowed in his memory
2009	The Neil McCurrach Award	Neil died in 2008 while still at school. The 2012 AR describes the award – "The Neil McCurrach Award -- awarded to the student that best characterises the spirit, enthusiasm, and participative qualities exemplified by Neil"
2012	James Montgomery Bell Prize for Law studies	Endowed by his son Sheriff Andrew Bell in memory of his father. Andrew Bell was president of the RHS Club in 1982

2015	Maclean prizes for STEM subjects	Alastair Maclean (leaving year 1960), a frequent prize winner in his time, noticed the apparent lack of reward for improvement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), and his five prizes (S1 to S5) hopefully remedy that
2017	Evelyn Small prize for drama	Evelyn was the sister of a former RHS Club President, and wanted to endow prizes for youngsters. One award in each of S3 and S5, currently for Drama
2019	Spanish Consulate prize for S3 and S5	The school asked the historian to find sponsor(s) for two prizes in Spanish, given the considerable increase in SQA exam entries. The Spanish Consul was approached, and agreed.
2021	Archie Davidson prize for Engineering Technology	Archie joined the teaching staff in 1968, having worked in industry. He became Principal Physics teacher in 1971, retiring in 1996. Archie's name was added to the prize in 2021. He is credited by Anne Richards (Dame since 2021) with defining her career path.