

## ECS Tennis Academy

**Q: Is being in the Tennis Academy at ECS equivalent to having an ECS sports scholarship?**

**A:** From a prestige point of view being an ECS Tennis Academy Scholar has the same merit as being awarded any other Ewell Castle School Scholarship. Members of the ECS Tennis Academy are Tennis Scholars and treated as such at Ewell Castle School. However, there is a difference in how the School financially supports ECS Tennis Academy Scholars compared with other ECS Scholars. The latter receive money off their School fees, whereas ECS Tennis Academy Scholars have their tennis training funded by the School.

**Q: If a child is admitted to the ECS Tennis Academy, do they receive money off/remission off the School fees?**

**A:** Most members of the ECS Tennis Academy do not receive money off/remission off their School fees. This is because the ECS Tennis Academy Coaching Programme is fully funded by the School. However, if they have successfully applied for one of the available scholarships (see below) or successfully applied for a Bursary, then this is possible.

**Q: If a child is applying for the ECS Tennis Academy can they also apply for one of the scholarships available at Ewell Castle School?**

**A:** Yes, prospective applicants can also apply for one of the following scholarships in addition to applying to be an ECS Tennis Scholar:

Art, Photography (Sixth Form only) DT, Drama, Music, Academic (Sixth Form only).

The Sports scholarship is not available to those on the ECS Tennis Academy.

**Q: My child is applying for a Ewell Castle School Tennis Scholarship (part of the Sports Scholarship). Can they also apply for an ECS Tennis Academy Scholarship?**

**A:** No, this is not possible. Prospective candidates may apply either for a Sports Scholarship with other sports or an ECS Tennis Academy Scholarship, not both. Pupils can apply for and receive a Ewell Castle School Sports Scholarship, but this does not mean that they will be part of the ECS Tennis Academy.

**Q: How do I find out about Scholarships and Bursaries?**

**A:** Details to both can be found within the Admissions tab of the Ewell Castle School website.

**Q: If a child is admitted to the ECS Tennis Academy, are all their ECS Tennis Academy tennis lessons and coaching sessions paid for by the School?**

**A:** Yes, the ECS Tennis Academy Coaching Programme is fully funded by the School for up to 4.5 hours of coaching per week

**Q: What age can pupils join the ECS Tennis Academy?**

**A:** The ECS Tennis Academy is for boys and girls in Years 7 to 13.

**Q: How many ECS Tennis Academy Scholars do you take each year?**

**A:** There is a small number of places available each year. Demand currently exceeds places available.

**Q: My child enjoys tennis and has weekly tennis lessons outside of school. Can they apply to join the ECS Tennis Academy?**

**A:** The ECS Tennis Academy is for boys and girls in Years 7-13 who are currently competing every week and during the holidays and are currently county standard. If they meet the minimum joining criteria, then they can apply.

**Q: My child is already an existing Year 8 to Year 11 pupil of Ewell Castle School and their tennis potential has only recently come to light. Can they apply to join the ECS Tennis Academy?**

**A:** Yes, if your child is an existing Year 8 to Year 11 Ewell Castle School pupil they should speak to Mrs McManus, Head of ECS Tennis Academy in the first instance. A formal tennis assessment will then take place and if the prospective candidate is successful, their family will be asked to complete an ECS Tennis Academy application form and thereafter the pupil's timetable will be adjusted accordingly.

**Q: My child is a pupil in Year 8 to Year 11 pupil at another school and their tennis potential has only recently come to light. Can they apply to join the ECS Tennis Academy?**

**A:** Yes, please contact Mrs McManus, Head of ECS Tennis Academy to discuss your child's current tennis ability and standard. She will then decide whether to invite your child in for a formal tennis assessment.

**Q: How do you determine if a child has the potential to be a professional tennis player?**

**A:** Potential ECS Tennis Academy candidates are assessed for suitability during a tennis assessment session, conducted by the ECS Tennis Academy coach Tom Burn. The minimum joining criteria for Year 7 is a minimum 8.2 or Green 1\* tennis rating or equivalent. The minimum joining criteria for Year 12 is 5.2 or equivalent.

**Q: How successful is the ECS Tennis Academy?**

**A:** ECS Tennis Academy is one of the best School Tennis Academies in the country. The 2019/20 season was cancelled due to Covid-19, however, during 2018/19 we were winners of the following: 18U Surrey Winter County Cup, 15U Surrey Schools Festival, 14U Surrey Schools Festival, 13U Surrey Schools Festival, 13U ISTA Nationals, Open Surrey League. We were also Finalists in the following: 15U Mixed Doubles Surrey Winter Cup, 13U Regional Surrey Schools Competition, 18U National Schools Finals.

**Q: Who coaches the ECS Tennis Academy?**

**A:** Tom Burn was one of Britain's most successful tennis players. Having reached an ATP best of 550, Tom went on to become part of Eugenie Bouchard's coaching team when she made it to the Wimbledon Ladies Singles Final.

**Q: Where does ECS Tennis Academy coaching take place?**

**A:** Coaching takes place at Ewell Castle School and Sutton Tennis and Squash Club.

**Q: How many hours training do members of the ECS Tennis Academy receive each week?**

**A:** Members of the ECS Tennis Academy have 4.5 hours of specialist training each week, consisting of technical work, tactics, and match play as well as strength and conditioning work.

**Q: Do ECS Tennis Academy Scholars receive any complementary kit or equipment?**

**A:** All members of ECS Tennis Academy receive a branded competition shirt, branded hoodie, branded tracksuit trousers and a pair of branded shorts each academic year.

**Q: How do ECS Tennis Academy members manage 4.5 hours of specialist tennis training each week alongside their academic studies?**

**A:** Each member of the ECS Tennis Academy has a bespoke academic curriculum which is tailor made to ensure they fulfil the 4.5 hours a week ECS Tennis Academy training alongside their academic studies. In Years 7, 8 and 9 this is done by pupils training during their double Games lessons, their double P.E. lessons and another double lesson decided by the timetable manager. Core subjects are not affected. For those in Years 10 and 11 who have selected their options, one of their 'options' is ECS Tennis Academy. In the Sixth Form, the 4.5 hours are taken from students' Games lessons and 'free' study periods.

**Q: What is the entry process for ECS Tennis Academy?**

**A:** The prospective candidate will be asked to pay the Ewell Castle School registration fee, submit a completed Ewell Castle School application form, and will then be invited in for a tennis assessment. If the tennis assessment is successful, they will be asked to sit the Ewell Castle School entrance assessment.

**Q: Does a prospective candidate need to pass both the ECS Tennis Academy assessment and the Ewell Castle School entrance assessment before being accepted into the ECS Tennis Academy?**

**A:** Yes, prospective candidates need to have passed both to join the ECS Tennis Academy.

**Q: Can a pupil apply and/or join ECS Tennis Academy at any time during the academic year?**

**A:** Yes, there is no deadline in which to apply for the ECS Tennis Academy. Applications are accepted throughout the year and depending on the circumstances, prospective members will be admitted throughout the academic year.

**Q: What are the expectations of being an ECS Tennis Academy Scholar?**

**A:** ECS Tennis Academy Scholars are expected to maintain training discipline and show respect for their coaches and mentors. They are expected to compete regularly outside school, on weekends and during school holidays. They are expected to represent Ewell Castle School and take part in tennis competitions that the School has entered.