



# 11+ (Year 7) Music Scholarship

Music Scholarships may be awarded at Year 7 (for seven years). They are prestigious awards which provide talented young musicians with a broad range of outstanding musical opportunities which support and develop their musical progression. Our Music Scholars are expected to participate fully in the musical life of the school. They should be members of all ensembles appropriate to their instrumental speciality and will have plentiful solo performance opportunities, including regular performances at lunchtime recitals and teatime concerts. Their musical development will be supported with free weekly coaching sessions with one of our piano teachers. These can be used for practising pieces with piano accompaniment and for musicianship and general coaching. Music Scholars must remain members of one of the school's choirs throughout their time in the school. They are expected to take a lead in all musical activities and they should set a good example in participation, punctuality and general conduct.

Development Awards may also be available for promising musicians working towards scholarship level. This includes free tuition on one instrument up to the termly value of the amount charged by our visiting teachers (£290 per term for 2021/2022). This can be an instrument studied either with a teacher outside school or at school and payments will be made directly to individual teachers.

Music Scholarship appointments will be made on the basis of current playing ability as well as potential and likely contribution to the life of the Music Department. Though there are no hard-and-fast rules, Year 7 scholars are likely to have achieved at least Grade VI standard on their first instrument. This does not mean that the candidate must actually have taken the examination and have the certificate to prove it; this is merely a rough indication of the minimum likely standard of a successful applicant. If in doubt, please do apply for the scholarship; it is very useful for the Director and Assistant Director of Music to meet pupils and find out about their musical aspirations, even if this informal and positive process does not result in the award of a scholarship. The auditions will be conducted by the Director of Music and the Assistant Director of Music, who may be assisted by an external consultant. Candidates will be asked to perform two contrasting pieces on their

first instrument (and, if they like, a further piece on a second and/or third instrument). Candidates offering three instruments should bear in mind that we may only hear the third study if time permits.

It is not necessary to offer more than one instrument, though a commitment to a range of musical activities may count in the applicant's favour. Singing does, of course, count as an instrument and many of our scholars have been first-study singers.

There will be some aural tests, of approximately ABRSM Grade V standard, consisting of a melody to sing back and some brief discussion of the musical aspects of a short piece of piano music.

In the summer term of Year 8, Music Scholars embark on studying GCSE Music, which they complete by the end of Year 9. This is an optional fast-tracking scheme which allows Scholars to attain GCSE Music before they undertake any other GCSE subject choices and has proven very popular. Study takes place during timetabled lessons, including one lunchtime each week.

The Music Scholarship Application Form, together with a musical reference (to be submitted on the candidate's behalf from one of her music teachers or from someone else suitably qualified to comment on her musical ability), should be submitted online by **Friday 12 November 2021**. Once you have made an 11+ application, the scholarship application form will appear on your online parent portal as an outstanding checklist item. The auditions will take place on Wednesday 26th January 2022. Candidates will be informed in January 2022 whether we are able to invite them for an audition.

Due to the school's outstanding tradition of Music, we may award fee remissions to especially deserving candidates. Whilst fee remissions can be awarded up to the value of 50%, such a significant fee remission is rare. Development Awards come with paid lessons but without fee remissions. Where fee remissions are awarded, families are invited to contribute, if they wish, all or part of the remission to the school's bursary fund.