



South Hampstead

High School

G D S T

Sixth Form Music Scholarship

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, Sixth Form scholars are likely to have achieved at least Grade VIII 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.

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. There is usually time in the audition to hear two or three pieces in different musical disciplines, should the candidate wish to offer more than one study. Singing does, of course, count as an instrument and many of our scholars have been first-study singers.

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 and/or a second and third instrument) and there will be some aural tests at around ABRSM Grade VI-VIII level, including singing back the upper part of a two-part melody, cadence recognition and discussion of the stylistic features of a short passage of piano music. Finally, there will be time for a chat, and the whole process should last for about 45 minutes.

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 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. They are expected to take a lead in all musical activities and they should set a good example in participation, punctuality and general conduct.

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.

Music Scholarships are awarded on merit, without reference to family income. Small fee remissions accompany all Sixth Form Scholarships. On occasion the school may award an Honorary Music Scholarship without fee remission but with free tuition on one instrument up to the termly value of the amount charged by our visiting teachers (£378 per term for 2025/2026). This can be an instrument studied either with a teacher outside school or at school and payments will be made directly to individual teachers.

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 the 16+ application deadline. Auditions will take place in November.