



South Hampstead

High School

G D S T

11+ (Year 7) Music Scholarship

Music Scholarships are awarded from Year 7 and may last for the full duration of a student's time at the school. They are prestigious awards that provide talented musicians with opportunities to develop their skills, broaden their experiences, and play a leading role in the musical life of the school. 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.

Scholars receive free weekly coaching sessions from one of our pianists. These sessions may be used to practise pieces with an accompaniment, develop musicianship, or receive general musical guidance. Scholars also have regular performance opportunities, taking part in at least one lunchtime recital and one evening recital each year, and, depending on their instrument, participating in chamber music ensembles.

Scholarships are awarded for up to seven years; however, continuation is subject to the scholar meeting the expectations made clear upon acceptance of the award. Music Scholars are expected to demonstrate leadership, commitment, punctuality, and exemplary conduct in all musical activities, acting as role models to others. They should contribute fully to the musical life of the school and join a number of ensembles suitable for their first-study instrument or voice.

Appointments are made on the basis of current playing ability, potential, and likely contribution to the Music Department. As a guide, candidates should be working towards approximately Grade VI (ABRSM or Trinity). However, greater value is placed on distinction-level achievements at any grade rather than lower results at higher levels. Successful candidates will present polished, expressive performances demonstrating musical sensitivity and understanding.

Auditions are conducted by the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music and will consist of a performance of two contrasting pieces on a first instrument (which may be voice) and an optional performance on a second or third instrument. Candidates should prepare no more than 10 minutes of music. Then there will be **sight-reading** at approximately Grade V standard (unaccompanied, with time allowed for preparation), and **aural tests** including singing back a melody and a brief discussion of a short piano extract. Finally, there will be a short interview.

Candidates not awarded a full scholarship may be considered for a **Development Award**, particularly if they play a rare instrument such as the french horn or bassoon. These awards cover the cost of instrumental lessons up to £390 per term (2026/27), with lessons taken either at school or externally and payments made directly to teachers.

Applications for a Music Scholarship should include a reference from the candidate's instrumental or singing teacher and must be submitted via SchoolPost by early October. Auditions are held each November. Full details will be sent out to all Year 6 families each September via SchoolPost. Fee remissions may be available for especially deserving candidates, and families are invited, if they wish, to contribute all or part of any remission to the school's bursary fund.