



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL
GDST



Sixth Form Scholarships

Information for External Candidates

2026 Entry

Contents

All Scholars	3
Academic Scholarships	3-4
OWLS Leading Scholars	4
Additional Scholarships	5
Art & Design or Textiles	6 - 7
Drama: Acting or Production	8 - 9
Music	10 - 11
Sport	12 - 13
Application Deadlines	14
Application Checklist	15

All Scholars

All scholars are expected to make a contribution to the school in their specialist area(s) and to participate in all Scholarship programmes. Some students may alternatively be awarded an Exhibition to recognise their excellence in a particular field.

Academic Scholarships

As students' passions and interests naturally focus in as they move from GCSE to A Level, we recognise and value that hits is a part of the journey from beginning learner to master.

Therefore, our Sixth Form Academic Scholarships focus into subject areas (STEM, Languages, Humanities and Social Sciences) and students are invited to apply for a scholarship representing one of these areas, likely to align with their intended degree area of specialism.

For those considering joint honours or whose passions overlap into more than one area, they may apply to represent two areas (but still within a single Academic Scholarship award)

STEM inc. Med/Vet	Languages	Humanities inc. Law	Social Sciences
Maths	French	Geography	Economics
Biology	German	History	Politics
Chemistry	Spanish	RS	Psychology
Physics	Italian	Philosophy	
Computer Science	Mandarin	English	
	Russian		
	Latin		
	Greek		

How to apply

To apply please submit a 500 word essay on the theme of *Legacy* related to the area of specialisation within the above table that you wish to apply to, outlining your interests in this subject area and how you would like to develop scholarship in this area whilst you are in the Sixth Form.

Those who are shortlisted will be invited to our Sixth Form Academic Scholarship assessment day on Monday 17th November 2025, where students will be interviewed and complete a written assessment.

Academic Scholars are required to make a full contribution to the academic life of the school and participate fully in OWLS, a cross-GDST scholarship programme linking together academic scholars at different GDST schools.

OWLS Leading Scholars

Our Sixth Form Scholars' Programme, known as OWLS is run in collaboration with scholars & staff at Wimbledon High School GDST.

The scheme brings together Academic Scholars and Exhibition holders from both Sixth Forms to engage in academic research, discussion and collaboration. Initially established to create a community of scholars, it gives students the opportunity to expand their horizons beyond the scope of A Level study.

Working individually and collaboratively, students produce a range of pieces based on challenging assumptions. Their work is published in an online journal, OWLS Quarterly. It also offers students a chance to get to know their peers from other schools in the GDST family through a programme of interactive sessions, virtual meets and a residential symposium.

Additional Sixth Form Scholarships

Scholarships are also available in the following categories:

- Art & Design or Textiles
- Drama: Acting or Production
- Music
- Sport

Scholarships will be awarded based on current performance, excellence in the scholarship assessments, ability to demonstrate a wide range of interests, anticipated GCSE results and the ability to contribute to the life of the Sixth Form and the school. **To be eligible, you must apply for these scholarships by the deadline.**

Each pupil may be considered for a maximum of two categories of scholarship in addition to an Academic Scholarship. Any combination of two scholarships may be held. The application must be completed by the pupil.

Art & Design or Textiles

Head of Art: Mr Marc Berrett

Head of Textiles: Mrs Helen Wilson

What We Expect

Art & Design / Textiles Scholars are expected to make a full contribution to school life. This includes advocating Art and Textiles across the school in lessons as well as taking an active part in attending and leading clubs, workshops and events. They also are expected to meet up with the Art & Design / Textiles Scholars in the lower years once every half-term.

How to Apply

Art & Design / Textiles Portfolio

We want to see what the candidate is good at and what she enjoys doing, to get a sense of her as an artist. Files submitted online as a Powerpoint or at PDFs or JPEGS. Candidates must submit online a selection of their best artwork and research with a maximum of 15 slides*. Further details of these directly below:

- Slides numbered 1 to 10. A portfolio of selected work of the candidate's current coursework. This should include evidence of topic/theme research, drawings, exploration of ideas, media and techniques towards outcome pieces. Note - one slide could capture a full page in a sketchbook.
- Slides numbered 11 to 12. Evidence of outcome pieces from any of the following: Painting, Sculpture, Textiles, Art, Printmaking, Photography and Digital Art .
- Slide 13 - Evidence of the applicant's own artistic practice outside of school.
- Photos/slides numbered 14 to 15. Two photos/slides that capture the following: A visit to an art exhibition or gallery within the last six months - this should be evidenced with some notes, sketches, collected postcards and photos that they have put together in response to the visit.

**All Slides should be titled with some brief annotations which help communicate the thoughts and ideas behind the work.*

Letter of Application

- A typed letter of Application on A4 (no more than 500 words) including a CV,
- Candidates should include evidence of the following or equivalent:
- A section explaining why the candidate is applying for the scholarship.
- Details of Art & Design / Textiles clubs attended.
- Details of recent Art & Design / Textiles competitions (local/national) that the candidate has entered, and the position achieved, within the last two years.
- Details of Art & Design / Textiles exhibitions attended.

Shortlisted Candidates

Please note that this is a competitive scholarship and unfortunately not all candidates will be chosen for an interview. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview with their art portfolio, including school work and independent work, to discuss their work, art interests, experience and influences.

Drama: Acting or Production

Director of Drama: Ms Julie Bramall

What We Expect

Drama Scholars should be subject role models in terms of their conduct, effort and skill, and are required to be involved in Drama productions; front of house, in rehearsal, onstage or backstage.

How to Apply

Letter of Application and CV

In the letter of application (no more than 500 words) and CV, candidates should include evidence of the following or equivalent:

- Involvement in productions inside or outside school.
- Speech and Drama qualifications.

Acting Candidates: Video Performance

Candidates need to submit a video recording of a two minute speech from a published play of their choice. Costume is not necessary for characterisation; however, candidates may use small props if they are integral to the scene. The speech must be memorised. *Please note: the video can be recorded on a smartphone device or similar.* Specialist equipment is not required, nor will it be advantageous. Please include the script of the two minute speech in your application.

Production/Technical Candidates

Candidates should state in their letter of application which play they will be designing for, should they be shortlisted for an interview (see details on page 7). The letter should include context and knowledge of the play they are choosing and demonstrate their technical skills.

Shortlisted Candidates will be invited to a live interview.

Acting Candidates: Shortlisted candidates should prepare two speeches from published plays (maximum length of two minutes each), one classical and one modern - 20th / 21st century. *Please note: no musicals, films or book excerpts.* Candidates should state which pieces they will perform in their Letter of Application. One speech may be from the first application. Both pieces should be learned in advance. Prompts are acceptable but scripts must not be held by the candidate. Costumes or props are not required, but this is left to the candidate's discretion.

OR

Production/Technical Candidates: Shortlisted candidates should prepare a five minute presentation on an aspect of theatre design for a specific production, for example; set, costumes, lighting and sound. Please state which play you will be designing in the Letter of Application. You may prepare a mood board, PowerPoint, artefact, portfolio or photo(s) to bring to the interview.

Music

Director of Music: Dr Peter Foster

What We Expect

Sixth form Music Scholars are required to make a full contribution to the musical life of the school as soloists and ensemble performers by:

- Regular attendance at rehearsals and participation in performances by the ensembles that are appropriate for their age, instruments and standard
- Continuing to develop their own musicianship and prioritising practice
- Performing in concerts, both as a soloist and as a member of orchestras, choirs, bands and chamber groups, as appropriate
- Taking on leadership roles in school music

How to Apply

Letter of Application

In the letter of application (no more than 500 words) candidates could include evidence of the following or equivalent:

- Achievement in exams in one or more instruments. It is not a requirement that Grade 8 has been passed, provided your audition demonstrates that this standard has been reached.
- Participation in the musical life of your current school
- Involvement in music at a high level outside school (e.g. county or national ensembles, masterclasses, competitions or festivals)
- Particular musical interests
- Any other musical experience or achievement you are proud of

If you wish, you can add some of these things as a list at the bottom of your letter. We do not require references or a CV.

Video Recorded Recitals

In addition to the Letter of Application and CV, candidates are invited to submit a video-recorded recital consisting of two or three contrasting pieces lasting up to 12 minutes in total. This includes setting up and tuning between pieces. Please time the pieces carefully and do not exceed this. The video should be made in one continuous, unedited take. Please note: the video can be recorded on a smartphone device or similar.

Specialist equipment is not required, nor will it be advantageous. The overall standard should be approximately Grade 8, although an easier piece can be included. If they like, candidates can play on more than one instrument (including singing) but this is not necessarily an advantage in the scholarship audition process. We would like to hear candidates do what they are best at, and communicate enjoyment through their music.

Shortlisted Candidates

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview and audition. At the audition you should perform a programme of up to three contrasting pieces, on one or more instruments, lasting no more than 12 minutes. These can be the same as in your video application or different. A programme giving details of pieces and photocopies of the music should be presented at the start of the recital. You will also be asked to do some aural tests and sight reading of approximately Grade 8 standard. An accompanist is available if required, but please give as much notice as possible so that one can be arranged, including emailed copies of your music.

In the interview you will have the opportunity to talk about your musical interests and skills, and what you would offer as a leader of the school's musical life.

Sport

Director of Sport: Miss Kat McGonigle

What We Expect

Applications will be considered from candidates participating in the following core sports: hockey, netball, football, swimming, gymnastics, cricket, tennis and athletics. Other sports will also be considered but a candidate must be County Level or above.

Sport Scholars will be an ambassador for the school's sporting values and participate in a variety of activities including strength and conditioning sessions, mentoring programmes and high-level coaching across a range of sports.

Sport Scholars are expected to be fully committed to the sporting life at Oxford High School by:

- Attending training sessions and fixtures on a regular basis, which should take priority over external commitments (except where selection for a representative team causes a clash).
- Participating fully in House Competitions.
- Representing the school in sporting events, internally and externally.
- Attending compulsory Sport Scholar sessions, as arranged by the school.
- Being positive in all aspects of sporting life.

Letter of Reference from the School's Sports Department

In addition to the Letter of Application and sporting CV, candidates must submit a reference from the candidate's school's sports department detailing the candidate's commitment and achievements inside and outside school, as well as personal attributes.

Video Compilation of Sports Performance (optional only)

Candidates are welcome to send a video of them playing their sport(s). We understand that candidates may not have videos of them playing sport, so not having a video isn't going to have a negative affect on their application.

Shortlisted Candidates

Shortlisted candidates should select a recent press article on a sports issue that interests them for discussion in the interview.

Candidates applying for a Sports Scholarship would normally be expected to be performing at an appropriately high level outside of school.

Application Deadlines

Please email your application materials to our Admissions team on admissions@oxf.gdst.net before the the end of Monday 13th October 2025. There will be no extensions to this deadline.

Scholarships	Application Deadline	Interview (Shortlisted Candidates Only)	Place Offer & Scholarship Outcome
Academic	Monday 13 th October 2025	Monday 17 th November	Friday 5th December 2025
Art & Design / Textiles		Interviews to take place between Thursday 6 th November 2025 and Friday 7th November 2025	
Sport			
Music			
Drama			

Application Checklist

Category	Application Submission	Category Specific
Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a 500 word essay on the theme of <i>Legacy</i> (MS word or PDF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Related to the area of specialisation within the Academic Scholarship table, outlining your interests in this subject area and how you would like to develop scholarship in this area whilst you are in the Sixth Form.
Art & Design / Textiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a Letter of Application (MS Word or PDF, < 500 words). Email a CV (MS Word or PDF), which should be as full as possible, listing her achievements, interests and passions as well as outlining her contributions to the life of the school. <p>Please send your Letter of Application and CV to admissions@oxf.gdst.net</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a digital portfolio consisting of current coursework and show evidence of personal research on a visit to a gallery / museum (within the last six months).
Drama		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acting: Create a video recording of a 2 minute speech from a published play of their choice, and provide the transcript of the speech. The Speech must be memorised. Production/Technical: Disclose in the Letter of Application which play they will be designing for, if shortlisted for an interview.
Music		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a video recording consisting of two or three contrasting pieces lasting up to 12 minutes in total.
Sport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a reference letter from the school's sports department. Submit a video compilation of the candidate playing sports (if available, but not essential).