



OXFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL  
GDST



# Year 9 Scholarships

2026 Entry

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## Scholarships Overview

The Girls' Day School Trust aims to seek out the brightest, most deserving girls for scholarships so that the largest possible number of talented girls can benefit from the opportunities that a scholarship brings.

At Oxford High School, we are proud to offer a range of scholarships to celebrate our students' many achievements and talents. These are available in **Art & Design / Textiles, Drama, Music and Sport. Scholarships** are awarded based on performance in the scholarship process, ability to demonstrate a wide range of interests, a good report from the applicant's present school, and the ability to contribute to school life. **Exhibitions** are awarded to candidates who excel in the assessment or scholarship process.

Scholarships currently offered are worth 5% of fees per annum and Exhibitions are worth £300 per annum.

Each applicant may apply for a **maximum of two categories** of a Scholarship. A candidate may hold more than one Scholarship, together with a Bursary and an Academic Scholarship.

Any Scholarship or Exhibition awarded will last for the duration of a girl's time at Oxford High School, subject to good conduct and satisfactory progress.

## Academic Scholarships

For external candidates, we award Academic Scholarships based on performance in the entrance assessments and interview; there is no separate Academic Scholarship examination or interview for external candidates. For internal candidates, information on Academic Scholarships has been sent out separately. Please contact us if you have not received this. Academic Scholars are expected to make a full contribution to academic life.

# 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 the artistic life of the school, not only in lessons but by taking an active part in clubs and events and advocating art in their year group. They also are expected to meet up with the Art & Design / Textiles Scholars from all year groups once every half-term - this group is run by the Y12 Art & Design / Textiles Scholars.

## How to Apply

### **Art & Design / Textiles Online 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 as PDFs or JPEGs. Candidates must submit online a selection of their best artwork with a maximum of 10 slides\*. Further details of these directly below:
- Slides numbered 1 to 5. A selection of no more than 2 drawings per slide can be submitted
- Slides numbered 6 to 8. Other artwork could be: Painting, Sculpture, Textiles, Art, Printmaking, Photography and Digital Art - no more than 2 of these per slide in total. One or more of these must be a finished piece of artwork of high calibre. Other work can be a finished piece but could alternatively be explorative work in any chosen media by the applicant.
- Photos/slides numbered 9 to 10. 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 she has put together on the day of the visit.

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

## **How the work is assessed**

The online portfolio of slides will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Artwork the candidate has completed inside and outside of lessons and independently.
- Accurate, confident observational drawing/recording from visual sources.
- Evidence of an understanding of the formal elements in art such as shape, proportion, tone and form.
- Use of a variety of materials and techniques.
- Awareness of other artists/designers.
- A finished piece of high calibre - candidates' choice of type of Art, media and technique.

## **Letter of Application/CV**

A typed letter of Application on one page of A4 (no more than 250 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. They will be asked to bring with them their best artwork (previously submitted online) to talk about, and also their Art interests, experience, and influences.

# Drama

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

### **Acting Candidates**

Candidates need to submit a video recording of an 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 should be memorised if possible.

*Please note: the video can be recorded landscape on a smartphone device or similar.* Specialist equipment is not required, nor will it be advantageous. Please include the script of the speech in your letter of application.

### **Production / Technical Candidates**

Candidates should write a letter of application and state a technical specialism they would like to be considered for: set, costumes, lighting or sound. At the application stage, candidates should write 300 words about EITHER a production design skill that they have imagined or created for a play (or musical). OR candidates may provide a 300 word review of a particular design skill of play (or musical) that they have seen. If shortlisted, candidates have an opportunity to speak in more depth about their ideas.

### **Letter of Application and CV**

In the Letter of Application (no more than 250 words) and CV, candidates should include evidence of the following or equivalent:

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

## Shortlisted Candidates

### **Acting Candidates**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview and audition. As well as talking about their drama interests and experience, they will be asked to perform their two minute speech from a published play of their choice (or they can choose a different speech than the one they submitted at the application stage). Candidates will be asked to provide the script extract prior to the interview. It is expected that the speech will be learnt and there should be some awareness of the context of the play they have chosen the piece from. Although they will not be tested on this, they must know, and be able to demonstrate through the performance, knowledge about the play and the circumstances of the character.

Following the performance, candidates will be asked a series of simple questions about the performance and theatre productions, and further questions about drama and their application.

**Technical Candidates:** Shortlisted technical candidates should prepare a 3–5-minute presentation on an aspect of theatre design for a specific production, for example, set, costumes, lighting and sound . Prompts are acceptable as are GGL picture slides or physical designs (such as a showbox design of a set) or a mood board to aid the presentation. Please email any GGL picture slides to [j.bramall@oxf.gdst.net](mailto:j.bramall@oxf.gdst.net) in advance of the interview so they may be uploaded easily and / or printed off.

# Music

Director of Music: Dr Peter Foster

## What We Expect

Music Scholars are required to make a full contribution to the musical life of the school as soloists and ensemble or orchestral 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.

## How to Apply

### **Video Performance**

Candidates are invited to send a video performance **consisting of two contrasting pieces, lasting up to 10 minutes in total**. This includes any setting up and tuning between pieces. The video should be made in one continuous, unedited take. Please note the video can be recorded via a smartphone device or similar. Specialist equipment is not required, nor will it be advantageous.

Please time the recital carefully and do not exceed this time. The overall standard should be at least Grade 6 standard. Applicants on some instruments, especially piano and violin, often offer more advanced pieces than this, but we would prefer them to hear them play pieces that they have completed mastered, rather than something they are in the process of learning. If they wish, candidates can play their two pieces on different instruments, but this is not necessarily an advantage in the audition process. We would like to hear you do what you are best at and communicate enjoyment through your music.

## **Letter of Application**

Candidates should write a letter of application explaining why they want to be a Music Scholar, and what musical skills they can offer (no more than 500 words). The letter must be written by the candidate, not by a parent or teacher. You may wish to refer to:

- Music exams passed on any instruments you play (it is not a requirement that any particular grade has been passed, as long as your audition provides evidence that you meet the required standard)
- Participation in choirs, orchestra, ensembles in your current school or outside
- Success at getting into county or national ensembles
- Performances you have been in, either as a soloist or as part of a group
- Any competitions/festivals you have entered
- Particular interests in music
- Any other musical achievements 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.

## **Shortlisted Candidates**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview and audition. At the audition, you should play two contrasting pieces of up to 10 minutes in length, which can be the same as or different from the video application piece. You will also be required to undertake a sight-reading test and aural tests at Grade 6 standard. The audition process is a competition; scholarships will be offered to the candidates who show the highest levels of technical assurance and musical communication in their audition.

# Sport

Director of Sport: Miss Kathryn 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.

## 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:

- Details about yourself as an individual and as a sportsperson.
- Details of regular commitment to playing for a school team, and/or outside school.
- A list of representative honours, if appropriate.

### **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). Not having a video is not going to negatively affect their application.

## Shortlisted Candidates

Successful candidates will be shortlisted for an interview, which will include a 2 minute oral presentation of a sportsperson that the candidate admires.

*Please note: Shortlisted candidates may be invited to attend a sports assessment on site, if deemed necessary.*

## Important Dates

Please email your application materials to our Admissions team on **[admissions@oxf.gdst.net](mailto:admissions@oxf.gdst.net)** before the deadlines highlighted below. There will be no extensions to these deadlines.

<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Interview (Shortlisted Candidates Only)</b>	<b>Scholarship Outcome</b>
Monday 9th February 2026	Monday 9th March 2026	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026



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