



## Y E A R 9 S C H O L A R S H I P S 2 0 2 6



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## Y E A R 9 S C H O L A R S H I P S

Gresham's has much to offer pupils who have outstanding talents and potential. Accordingly, a range of scholarships are available to exceptional pupils who will benefit from the experiences and opportunities our scholarship programmes offer.

Scholarships are available in the following areas:

- Academic
- Art and Design
- Drama
- Music
- Sport

All scholarships are worth up to 20% of the fee.

A combination of scholarships can be applied for; however, the combined value of scholarships awarded will not exceed 40% of the fee.

Successful music scholars may also benefit from 30 free music lessons per instrument (including voice) for a maximum of two instruments per year.

If you wish to apply for a scholarship, please request an application form from Mrs. Lucy Arole, Head of Admissions via telephone on 012363 714614 or via email [admissions@greshams.com](mailto:admissions@greshams.com)

## DATES AND DEADLINES FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND ENTRANCE ASSESSMENTS

Year 9 scholarship application deadline:	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Sport scholarship:	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025
Drama scholarship:	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025
Art and Design scholarship:	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025
Music scholarship:	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025
Academic scholarship:	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Year 9 entrance exams and interviews:	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026

All scholarship candidates are required to sit the Year 9 entrance assessments which take place at Gresham's on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The entrance assessments include an online assessment in English, Maths, Non Verbal and Verbal reasoning and an interview.

### HOW ARE THE RESULTS ANNOUNCED?

The outcomes of the assessments will be communicated no later than Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

## **YEAR 9 SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

The assessment process for all scholarships will enable the school to evaluate how well candidates perform within their chosen field, and whether they can demonstrate the potential to develop further. There will be an expectation that candidates are more than comfortable handling material and skills they have already been exposed to at school by Year 8. The assessments will explore potential by exposing candidates to new concepts or processes, and offering challenging opportunities to show tenacity and leadership. The school will also look for evidence that candidates have already demonstrated commitment and dependability at school and in their activities.

### **HOW DO WE DECIDE WHO IS AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP?**

Scholarships are inevitably a competitive process as the standards are high and the fields strong. At Gresham's we aim to make the process fair and transparent for all applicants.

The following evidence is used in order to assess pupils for scholarship:

- CVs written by pupils in support of their applications (all scholarships EXCEPT the Academic scholarship)
- References (provided by current schools)
- Examinations (for academic)
- Interviews (for some scholarships)
- Observed performance (Art and Design, Drama, Music and Sport scholarships)

Applicants are graded on the basis of all this information. Scholarships are only awarded if applicants are deemed to be of a scholarship standard.

### **WHAT YOU SHOULD PUT IN YOUR CV**

You should complete the standard Gresham's CV for your scholarship summarising:

- Your main achievements to date (in your scholarship area but also your achievements generally)
- Why you want to be a scholar
- What use you would make of a scholarship
- Any other information you think might be relevant

### **WHAT WE ASK FOR IN YOUR SCHOOL REFERENCE**

- Your standard and potential in your scholarship area/s
- Evidence of your major achievements to date
- A statement about your personality and character and suitability for scholarship
- Other relevant information

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the Entrance exams, Academic scholarship candidates will sit an additional assessment of 35 minutes, the paper will include a creative comprehension and problem-solving tasks.

The candidates will be interviewed by the Deputy Head (Academic) and the Headmaster.

Upon the receipt of the scholarship application, Gresham's will write to the candidate's current school to request a reference, which will also be taken into consideration.

Award holders will be expected to participate widely in the academic life of the school and maintain very high standards in their approach to their studies.

## DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2025

Candidates will be assessed in three areas:

- The first part of the day will look at candidates' participation in a group workshop. Candidates will be assessed on their co-operative, theatrical and improvisation skills through a series of games, exercises and tasks.
- An individual performance of a monologue lasting approximately two minutes. These must be presented as a performance and demonstrate a clear understanding of the play and the theatrical moment, the style of the piece and the role of the character within it. This is an opportunity for the individual student to prepare a piece in advance that plays to their strengths and demonstrates their ability to create a character and communicate with an audience.
- After the performances, external candidates will be interviewed by a member of the Drama department, interviews may be recorded. In the interview candidates will have the opportunity to discuss their choice of monologue share their theatrical interests and discuss performances they have seen or participated in.

Candidates must supply a scholarship CV which clearly states the name of the play from which the audition material is taken and the chosen role. The CV should list productions the candidate has taken part in including the role(s) played and other drama experiences e.g. LAMDA Speech, membership of a drama club or society.

References from the Head of the candidate's school, Head of Drama and any drama clubs (where relevant) will also be taken into consideration.

A pupil who is awarded a Drama scholarship at Year 9 becomes an ambassador for Drama and will be expected to take GCSE Drama and to actively work with the department on their own creative development. They will be expected to commit fully to the extra-curricular production and performance opportunities at Gresham's on stage or behind the scenes.

## ART AND DESIGN SCHOLARSHIPS TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2025

The selection of Art and Design scholars will be by an individual interview with the Head of Art and/or Head of Design, and through an inspection of the candidate's portfolio. Candidates will also participate in a group printmaking workshop on the day of the interviews. Portfolios should show evidence of ability and enthusiasm in one or more art disciplines, such as sculpture, photography, graphic design, textiles, illustration, animation, ceramics, product design, printmaking and painting.

Personal sketchbooks and projects that show evidence of work undertaken independently will be of particular interest. As part of the interview process, the candidates will have the opportunity to discuss the artwork that inspires and informs their own art-making practice, this should include work by at least one contemporary artist.

All candidates must supply a scholarship CV. For external candidates, a reference from the Head of the candidate's school and Director of Art will also be taken into consideration.

Award holders would usually be expected to take GCSE Fine Art, Graphic Communication or Three-Dimensional Design, and to take a full part in the co-curricular Art programme of the School.

# MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

## TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2025

Music at Gresham's offers an incredible breadth of opportunities for all musicians. From Chapel Choir to the Strathmore Studio, our program is designed to inspire and challenge. Unique to Gresham's, we offer scholarships in both performing and creating, recognising the evolving landscape of the music industry and the diverse skills musicians need to thrive.

Music scholarships are awarded based on merit and potential, through an audition and an interview with a panel of music staff. For Year 9 entry, we seek candidates who can fully engage with Gresham's Music programme, both academically and through extracurricular activities.

We welcome applications from musicians in classical and contemporary styles. This is an opportunity to showcase your skills, discuss your musical identity, and share your aspirations. Consider this a portfolio presentation where we can get to know you as an individual and a musician.

Successful scholars will play an active role in the co-curricular and academic life of the school, enrolling in the Scholars program for further development of their musical skills.

Scholars are expected to study music at the appropriate level; GCSE, A level, BTEC, or IB Diploma and participate in at least two co-curricular ensembles or activities, including Chapel Choir.

These commitments are at the discretion of the Director of Music.

There are two categories for consideration

MUSICIAN AS A PERFORMER	MUSICIAN AS A CREATOR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instrumental</li> <li>Vocal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Composing and Songwriting</li> <li>Music Production</li> </ul>

These categories are not mutually exclusive, and we expect candidates to have overlapping skill sets. If a candidate does not meet the Grade V standard for performance in their principal instrument but excels in creating, they can present their creative work as their principal study.

### MUSICIAN AS A PERFORMER:

For instrumental and vocal performance scholarship applicants, candidates will be asked to perform two contrasting pieces on their principal instrument or voice, and one piece on any secondary instruments or voice, if applicable. This is an opportunity to demonstrate technical ability, breadth of repertoire, and knowledge and understanding of the pieces presented.

The music for the principal instrument should be of Grade V standard. It is not necessary to have taken the practical examination. An experienced accompanist will be available where appropriate, and backing tracks may also be used. These must be with the music department at least 2 working days before the audition. All candidates should present program notes for their performance, detailing the music they are playing or the influence it has had on them. This will serve as a starting point for discussion with the panel.

A second study (instrument or voice) is expected. Performances on any second instrument or voice should be of at least Grade III standard. We are also very keen to receive applications from orchestral instrumentalists, whether as a principal or secondary study.



When selecting music for performance, the panel is interested in seeing a contrasting program that reflects the candidate's own interests and style. Candidates must provide music for the accompanist (if required) and one copy for the audition panel.

All performance candidates will be given sight-reading tests, a short series of aural tests from the Grade V syllabus, and a singing assessment. Candidates are expected to have a working knowledge of Grade III+ music theory.

All tests will be appropriate to the instrument and style presented by the candidate. Please also prepare any information regarding notable ensembles, residential courses, or concerts in which the candidate has participated.

If the candidate has evidence as a creator, such as compositions, songwriting, or DAW applications, these can contribute to the application as a second or third study presentation.

## MUSICIAN AS A CREATOR :

For Musician as a Creator scholarship applicants, candidates will be asked to present at least two contrasting pieces. These pieces should be at least one minute in length and demonstrate a secure knowledge and understanding of form, texture, instrumentation, harmony, style, and effects.

The presentation will reflect the style of the music:

- **Songwriters:** A performance or recording of the piece with a score or lead sheet detailing chords and lyrics.
- **Composers:** A score with a recording or MIDI realization. If the composition is set to film footage, visuals, or meets a specific brief, please prepare this for presentation.
- **Music Producers using DAW:** Evidence of understanding of recording audio, applying effects, MIDI, automation, and any plugins used. Annotated screenshots of the work created or the music project on the candidate's own device can be presented.

If the candidate deems it appropriate, presenting a performance as a second instrument can contribute to the audition. DJ-ing, rap, spoken word, and original song lyrics will also be accepted for presentation.

All creator candidates will be given a composition/creating brief and asked to discuss initial ideas on how they might meet it, along with a short series of aural tests. Candidates are expected to have a working knowledge of music theory.



S P O R T   S C H O L A R S H I P S  
M O N D A Y   1 s t   D E C E M B E R   2 0 2 5

Sport scholarships are awarded to:

- candidates we believe have the potential to reach an elite level in one of our major sports.
- candidates who would make a significant impact across two or more of our major sports.

Our major sports are cricket, hockey, netball and rugby.

If awarded a Sport scholarship, candidates will have a place on our Talented Athlete Development programme (TAD), for more details about the programme please visit our website - <https://www.greshams.com/senior-school/co-curricular/sport/talented-athlete-development-programme/>.

Candidates will be assessed in all three of our major sports, they will also undertake a physical assessment. Candidates will also participate in a discussion regarding their sport and ambitions.

A CV outlining the candidate's sporting achievements should be provided. References from coaches, Head of Sport and sports clubs (where relevant) will also be taken into consideration.

Sport scholars will be expected to be fully committed to the sporting environment of the school and to represent Gresham's at sport throughout the school year.

## THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENTS

Candidates will be invited to sit both the entrance assessments and the Academic scholarship assessment on the same day as their interviews. All candidates will be invited to have lunch together.

Timings will be confirmed prior to the day.

### DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENTS

The assessment for the Drama scholarship will take place on the morning of the assessment day. Candidates will gather at the Auden Theatre. The start time will be confirmed prior to the day.

### ART AND DESIGN SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENTS

On the day of the assessments candidates and parents are invited to drop portfolios off at the Dyson Building, the work will be collected when the candidates depart at the end of the process. While the portfolios are being assessed candidates will take part in a print workshop and the outcomes they produce can also be taken home.

### MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENTS

The Music scholarship auditions and assessments will take approximately 1 hour. Candidates will be given a time to arrive at the Britten Building on the assessment day.

Time is allocated accordingly:

15 Minutes	Warm Up Independently	Practice Room
15 Minutes	Practice with accompanist	Practice Room
30 Minutes	Presentation of performance pieces	Fishmongers' Recital Hall
	▫ 1 <sup>st</sup> Study – candidates will introduce themselves and their pieces	
	▫ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Study – candidates will introduce themselves and their pieces	
	▫ Sight Reading on first study instrument	
	▫ Grade V Trinity Aural assessment	
	▫ Sing through Folk Song with guidance	
	▫ Discussion with Panel	

*If presenting a 3<sup>rd</sup> Study, more time may be allocated*

Pianists will perform on a Steinway Grand Piano Model C.

The Director of Music actively encourages discussing the application with potential candidates and their parents informally prior to the audition to provide advice about musical standards and the opportunities for musicians at Gresham's.

### SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP ASSESSMENTS

Candidates meet at the Senior School reception on the day of the assessment.

A programme for the day will be sent out to all candidates two weeks prior to the assessments. The day will conclude at approximately 4:30pm.

## N O T E S

1. Scholarship candidates must be registered for entry to Gresham's School, and the registration fee must have been paid before the candidate is entered for a scholarship.
2. Pupils entered for Year 9 Scholarships must be under 14 on 1st September of the year of entry to Gresham's (unless extraordinary circumstances are agreed by the Headmaster).
3. Scholars are expected to contribute to the school in a manner befitting their talents, and their conduct and general attitude to academic study is expected to be excellent. All scholars are expected to be fully committed to the appropriate academic and/or co-curricular activities associated with their scholarship. They will be expected to set standards and demonstrate leadership to their contemporaries in their scholarship area.
4. As part of the scholarship process, we review annually the achievements and prospects of scholars.
5. All scholarship awards are made at the discretion of the Headmaster. The Headmaster's decision is final. In exceptional circumstances, the Headmaster, after consultation with the Chairman of Governors, may withdraw an award where a candidate has repeatedly fallen short of expectations.
6. Pupils who are awarded a scholarship at Year 9 or Sixth Form are expected, under normal circumstances, to continue at Gresham's and to complete A-Levels, the IB Diploma or BTEC. If a pupil is withdrawn before the completion of such a period, Gresham's reserves the right to request repayment of all or part of the value of the scholarship for the period from the commencement of the award to the date of withdrawal.
7. Scholarships may be augmented by a means-tested bursary up to 100% of the fee. Parents who apply for a bursary will have their financial position assessed and bursaries may be reassessed on an annual basis. The amount of support available is dependent on family income and assets and on the financial resources of the school.
8. Bursary applications are assessed by an external organisation and all applications must be received by the date stated on the School website. A bursary application cannot be made prior to a child registering with the school. Bursary application forms are available from the Admissions team. Please email [admissions@greshams.com](mailto:admissions@greshams.com).
9. Prep candidates already holding a bursary, who gain a Scholarship, will have the bursary reduced by the Scholarship. Sibling discounts are replaced or reduced by a Scholarship. Candidates already holding a Year 7 Scholarship from Gresham's Prep, will have that Scholarship replaced by a Year 9 Scholarship, if successful.