



MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION: 2020 Entry

Year 9 (LE) & Year 12 (DG) entry: Music Scholars at CH

Our Music Scholars – which number between 30 and 35 at any time – are amongst the most talented pupils in the school. They are highly valued students who are expected to work hard as individual instrumentalists or singers, and to contribute to the broader life of the school. They are supported and encouraged throughout their time at CH through top-class tuition and coaching, frequent performance platforms as soloists and ensemble members, regular supportive assessments, and extraordinary opportunities such as masterclasses, talks, and concerts given by visiting professional musicians. As part of the sense of academic and musical nurturing on which the department prides itself, Music Scholars also enjoy regular trips to concerts in London, talks, and social events.

Auditions

At audition, we seek to find musicians with great potential, a willingness to learn and contribute, and an unbridled, informed enthusiasm for music-making, both as an individual and as part of a group. Candidates should normally be expected to be at least of a standard equivalent to the following:

Candidates for Year 9 entry: Grade 4 or above on a principal instrument.
Candidates for Year 12 entry: Grade 6 or above on a principal instrument.

Singing may be offered for scholarship application and special consideration will be given to cathedral choristers who will be able to sing in the Chapel Choir. Candidates must have a fast, secure sight-reading ability and a good vocal range, although obviously consideration of vocal change and development is taken. First-study singers will be expected to pursue a supporting musical activity, for example the learning of a keyboard instrument or a minority orchestral instrument.

Financial details

Music Scholars are entitled to a remission of school fees (up to 20%). Additionally, individual instrumental / vocal lessons on their first-study instrument are paid for by the school. For those studying music academically for GCSE or in the Sixth Form, the school pays for individual instrumental / vocal lessons on a second instrument. Lessons on a second instrument are charged according to parental means, and full fees are charged for a third instrument. Additional means-tested bursarial support is available. Potential Music Scholars are required to meet the school's normal academic standards.

Expectations

- To continue to demonstrate outstanding instrumental ability, progress, and self-discipline.
- To be an ambassador for music, perhaps taking a leadership role in an ensemble.
- To be committed to taking part in the major ensembles and chamber groups, as required.
- To pursue music academically to at least GCSE level.



Year 7 (Second Form) entry

Music Scholarships are not offered for entry into Year 7. Even though music lesson fees for first and second instruments are in accordance with parental means it is acknowledged that, in some cases, the additional financial burden, particularly of a second instrument, is unmanageable. With this in mind, Year 7 entrants are invited to apply for the **Music Lesson Assistance Scheme**.

Successful applicants will receive tuition paid for by the school on one instrument, but there will be no school fee remission attached. This arrangement lasts for Year 7 (Second Form) and Year 8 (Third Form) only, after which the pupil can choose to apply for a Music Scholarship for Year 9 (see information above).

Expectations

- To demonstrate commitment to instrumental learning and a desire to build on potential.
- To be an ambassador for music within the school.
- To be committed to taking part in the major ensembles and chamber groups, as required.



Application procedure for Music Scholarships (Year 9 and Year 12 entry) and Music Lesson Assistance Scheme (Year 7 entry)

1. Enquiry

Prospective candidates and their families are welcome to visit the school at any time, especially on one of the termly Open Days, when the Director of Music and his team will be available to meet prospective candidates and to discuss the Music Scholarship or Music Lesson Assistance Scheme (MLAS) process.

Prospective candidates and their families are also advised to discuss the possibility of a Music Scholarship or the MLAS at Christ's Hospital with the pupil's current music teacher and school Head.

2. Pre-audition

Prospective candidates are very welcome to an informal pre-audition in advance of the Music Scholarship / MLAS application deadline, in order to meet with, talk, and play/sing to the Director of Music. The Director of Music will offer feedback as to the suitability of the candidate.

3. Application

When completing the school's registration form, tick the box that indicates interest in a music scholarship. All scholars / recipients of the MLAS have to meet our academic criteria, so we only invite those who pass our academic assessments in October (Year 7 & 9 entry) or November (Year 12 entry) to attend a subsequent Scholarship / MLAS audition. After the academic assessments, parents/carers should complete the Music Scholarship Application Form, and the prospective Music Scholar should complete the Short Music Resume. Once all the applications have been received, the school will invite some applicants forward for an audition. Not every prospective pupil who has expressed an interest and passed the academic assessment will be invited for a Scholarship/MLAS audition.

4. Auditions

Scholarship auditions take place in November (Year 12 entry) and January (Year 7 & 9 entry).

We aim to make the audition process as relaxed and straightforward as possible, creating an atmosphere that is more like a lesson with a supportive teacher than a test or an exam. We like to hear prospective scholars play a piece or two on their principal instrument, and they are welcome to demonstrate their abilities on a second and third instrument too. We know that some prospective scholars will have had more musical opportunities and greater access to teaching and ensembles than others, so we place as high an emphasis on potential as attainment. A piano accompanist will be provided when required. Candidates will also be asked to play scales and will be given sight reading and aural tests appropriate to the standard they have reached. The Director of Music and Head of Section will conduct a short, friendly interview.

5. Notification

Scholarship/MLAS applicants are notified by the end of February at the latest. Scholarships are awarded only to those applicants who have also met the school's academic and other selection criteria (further academic and Residential Assessment for Year 7 & 9 entry, and interview for Year 12 entry).