



WOODBIDGE
SCHOOL

Scholarship

/'skɒləʃɪp/

noun: scholarship; plural noun: scholarships

1. study or achievement; learning at a high level



A guide to
Scholarships at
Woodbridge School



WOODBIDGE
SCHOOL



At Woodbridge School we define Scholarship as a means of enriching learning and advancing achievement at a high level. Be it Academic, Art, Chess, Drama, Music or Sport, our Scholarship programmes support students to stretch and extend their natural talent under the encouragement, enthusiasm and direction of our inspirational teachers.

Our Scholars are role models to others around them, living by the School values, and showing sustained commitment to their progression and development; they are indeed an inspiration themselves.

In line with the original ethos of our School we broaden the access to our education and Scholarships with top up bursaries for those who require additional financial support.

As a Head I am always positive about the future when I see our students forging their paths, and there is no better measure of a school than the young adults it sends out into the world to play their part.

Shona Norman
Head of Woodbridge School

Scholarship overview

We offer Scholarships in the following areas: Academic, Art, Chess, Drama, Music and Sport. There is also a Head's Award which is for outstanding talent or ongoing achievement in any area not covered by the other Scholarships. Our Scholarships offer students access to a tailored programme and some disciplines will include a fee remission of between 5 to 20%.

After the assessment process all Scholarship decisions are made by the Head in consultation with our Heads of Department and outcome letters are sent to all candidates. Unfortunately we are unable to give any feedback from the assessment process.

Expectations of our Scholars are outlined in each section and reiterated in our Scholarship terms and conditions. Ongoing reviews of Scholars, led by Heads of Department, are held to ensure our Scholars continue to meet the standards required to retain their Scholar status.

All applicants must first be registered for entry to Woodbridge School before applying for a Scholarship or Bursary support. Students wishing to apply for Scholarship complete an application form and we recommend that nominations for no more than two scholarship disciplines are submitted. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted with further information and invited to assessments.



Admissions dates

Deadlines

Year 12 entry

Application, Scholarship and Bursary Deadline
Monday 27 October 2025

Acceptance Deadline

Midday Monday 12 January 2026

Year 7 and 9 entry

Application, Scholarship and Bursary Deadline
Monday 24 November 2025

Acceptance Deadline

Monday 2 March 2026

Entrance Exams

Year 12 Entrance Exam and Academic Scholarship Exam day
Thursday 13 November 2025

Year 7 Entrance Exam and Academic Scholarship Exam day
Monday 12 January 2026

Year 9 Entrance Exam and Academic Scholarship Exam day
Tuesday 13 January 2026

Scholarship Assessments (by invitation)

Year 12 entry

Sport, Drama
Tuesday 18 November 2025

Music, Art, Chess

Wednesday 19 November 2025

Shortlisted Academic Scholarship Interviews
Friday 21 November 2025

Year 7 and 9 entry

Sport

Monday 19 January 2026

Music, Art, Chess

Tuesday 20 January 2026

Shortlisted Academic Scholarship Interviews
Thursday 22 January 2026

Drama

Friday 23 January 2026



For more information please contact our Admissions team on 01394 615041 or email admissions@woodbridgeschool.org.uk



Academic

Curious, endlessly inquisitive and with a genuine love of learning, our Academic Scholars are deep thinkers with a sharp mind who can express their ideas clearly in a range of fields. They are role models who celebrate the joy of learning and inspire others around them to have the same enjoyment.

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR ACADEMIC SCHOLARS

Our academic scholars benefit from an all-through programme from our Junior Scholars right up to support for Oxbridge applications. It is a calibrated, stimulating and collaborative programme built into the academic timetable that is designed to drive intellectual growth, promote original thinking and retain academic hunger. Academic enrichment sessions span a wide range of topics including Archaeology, Engineering, Cryptography, Music and Art appreciation, logic problems, debating and much more. Amongst the scholars there are also other students who attend the sessions on an invitation-only basis based on their achievement and effort in class.

Academic Scholars' progress and achievement will be reviewed on a continual basis.

EXPECTATIONS OF ACADEMIC SCHOLARS

- > Attendance at all Scholarship sessions is compulsory
- > Active contribution in lessons
- > Keeping of a regular reading diary with notes against each book read
- > Continued commitment to academic pursuits throughout the duration of the Scholarship, seeking to expand their knowledge and improving their attainment in the classroom
- > High standards of effort and achievement in all academic studies
- > Sharing the love of learning with others
- > Regular contribution to academic clubs and societies

ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Scholarship application forms are sent out once a student is [registered](#) for a place.

For **Year 7** applicants, Scholarships are awarded on the basis of a Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4), English paper and a Thinking Skills Paper. Up to ten successful candidates will then be invited for a follow up interview, after which Scholarships will be awarded.

For **Year 9** applicants, Scholarships are awarded on the basis of a Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) and a Thinking Skills Paper. Successful candidates will then be invited for a follow up interview, after which Academic Scholarships will be awarded.

For **Year 12** applicants, Scholarships are awarded on the basis of a Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) and a Thinking Skills Paper. Successful candidates will then be invited for a follow up assessment, where they will sit two subject specific papers and an interview. Up to ten successful candidates are invited to this shortlist stage. Subject specific entrance papers will be offered in: Maths, Economics, English, Latin, French, Spanish, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, History, RS, Classical Greek and Computing.

Offers of a place and conditional scholarship offers in the Sixth Form are subject to students achieving the minimum entry requirements of four GCSE grade 6s and two GCSE grade 5s. This should include grade 6s in subjects to be studied at A level.

Year 12 applicants will be asked to verify their GCSE results in the August prior to their entry in September.

A potential scholar is likely to score grades 8 and 9 in their GCSE subjects, and be an academic leader at their current school, with excellent report grades.

KEY INFORMATION

There are up to four academic Scholarships awarded per year, at each entry point. Academic scholarships are awarded with a fee remission of between 5-20%.

Bursaries: Means tested bursaries can be applied for concurrently with a scholarship application - please see [here](#) for detailed information.

References:

References and/or School Reports containing predicted grades and effort grades from the current school are required. Please send these to admissions@woodbridgeschool.org.uk when you have completed your application form.

What to bring to the assessment? Complete pencil case and calculator (only if taking Maths).



Innovative, persistent and undeniably imaginative, our Art Scholars' area of excellence is of their own choosing, particularly as they get older. They are creative role models, both introvert and extrovert who champion the value of art to others.

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR ART SCHOLARS

Art Scholars will benefit from:

- > Priority access to the Peri Project which includes a selection of termly peripatetic courses. It covers several disciplines including studio photography, ceramics, textiles and printing.
- > Access to all art co-curricular opportunities (The Stretch and Invest Projects and the free form clubs)
- > The Art Forms yearly public exhibition in the Lent term. This opportunity also involves fortnightly meetings with sixth form A level Art mentors
- > Summer Exhibition (Year 11 and above) – invaluable experience for preparing for and being part of an exhibition
- > Yearly review meetings

EXPECTATIONS OF ART SCHOLARS

We ask our scholars to be themselves; and in being the best version of whomever they want to be they become an inspiration to others. Some opt to set the work rate and tone of lessons silently, others want to coach, publicly promote the arts and even stand up in assemblies to champion the Arts.

We ask each scholar to be involved in a Lent term public exhibition called, Art Forms, in Woodbridge town centre, by generating artwork made outside of the curriculum. In this way the work is most personal. The process of creating the work takes approximately 12 weeks as it is done incrementally. It is the ideal environment for younger makers to grow in confidence and skill.

Art Scholars must study GCSE or A level Art as appropriate.

ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Year 7, 9 and 12 Art Applications

Applicants are required to submit a digital portfolio containing examples of their artworks created over the last School year. This should be a pdf document with no more than 20 pages. The images should be photographed in good light and formatted to give an optimum preview of the applicant's abilities. The photographed artwork should fill the page for ease of viewing.

The presented portfolio should contain evidence of the following:

- > The first ten pages of the pdf should focus on drawing. We want to see an ability to draw for different purposes. This might be observational, design based, comic format, fashion, plans for sculptures and any other relevant innovative reason. In this selection, please include two pencil representational observational drawings and two pen representational drawings. The other six pages are for you to show off your ability and personality within the realm of drawing
- > The second ten pages should show off your passion, interest and motivation as a young artist. Where appropriate show evidence of sculptural work, textiles, photography, animation, film, photography, painting, collage, print and ceramics or and any other medium which helps us understand you. At least seven of these images should be from work made in the last 12 months either in or out of school

Year 12 Photography Applications

Please submit your best 20 photographs taken within the last 12 months, with one image per page.

Initial selection will be made by looking through the portfolios after which a small shortlist of successful Year 7 and Year 9 applicants will be invited to attend a Scholarship Workshop in the Art Department. Shortlisted candidates will also have an informal talk with the Head of Art in which they will be asked to discuss their work.

We are looking for applicants who not only love art but have or aspire to have a strong desire to use art to understand the world around them, to use art as a way to communicate with others, to in some measure be defined by their creativity and to ultimately use these skills and attributes in their further education and career.

KEY INFORMATION

There are up to four art Scholarships awarded per year at each entry point. Art scholarships are awarded with a fee remission of between 5-20%.

Bursaries: Means tested bursaries can be applied for concurrently with a scholarship application - please see [here](#) for detailed information.

Portfolios: Please email your portfolio to admissions@woodbridgeschool.org.uk when you submit your scholarship application.

What to bring to the assessment?

Year 7 and Year 9 do not need to bring anything but for Year 12 please bring a physical version of your portfolio.



Chess

Passionate, patient and innate problem solvers our Chess Scholars are analytical thinkers committed to improving their level. They are proud representatives of the range of strategic skills that all expert chess players develop.

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR CHESS SCHOLARS

Chess Scholars will benefit from:

- > A free weekly Chess lesson
- > Mentoring from our teacher of Chess and International Chess Master, Dagne Ciuksyte
- > Entry and participation in a wide range of internal and external tournaments

EXPECTATIONS OF CHESS SCHOLARS

- > Attendance at weekly after school training sessions
- > Continued commitment to Chess and improving level throughout the duration of the Scholarship
- > Dedicated independent study to broaden the scholars' repertoire
- > Participation in internal, regional and national tournaments
- > Inspire and promote Chess to others

ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants will be required to attend an assessment which will be structured as follows:

- > Tactical ability test where applicants will be asked to solve a series of puzzles on various tactical themes, ranging from basic pins and forks to more complex combinations
- > Demonstration of expertise in an opening where applicants will be asked to evidence a deep understanding and knowledge of a named opening of their choice. This is an excellent opportunity for independent study and broadening a pupil's opening repertoire
- > Endgame understanding for applicants to demonstrate knowledge of a number of basic endings, including king and pawn and rook and pawn endings. A sound knowledge of the principle of Zugzwang will be essential

We are looking for applicants who have considerable ability who have played in rapid or longplay chess tournaments previously and in doing so will have already obtained an English Chess Federation (ECF) grade or FIDE rating.

KEY INFORMATION

There are up to four Chess Scholarships awarded per year at each entry point. There is no fee remission given for Chess Scholarships - Chess scholars receive lessons as part of their award.

Bursaries: Means tested bursaries can be applied for concurrently with a scholarship application - please see [here](#) for detailed information.

References: Confirmation of ECF grade or FIDE rating, as indicated on your scholarship application form.



Drama

Creative, communicative and with considerable dramatic ability, our Drama Scholars commit enthusiastically to everything our Drama department has to offer. They are School ambassadors whose passion for the subject is outstanding.

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR DRAMA SCHOLARS

Drama Scholars will benefit from:

- > A free weekly individual LAMDA lesson
- > Internal masterclasses
- > Professional workshops
- > Watching and discussing live theatre
- > Drama club (Years 7-8)
- > Co-Curricular productions
- > Two review meetings per year

EXPECTATIONS OF DRAMA SCHOLARS

- > Full involvement in the co-curricular Drama programme
- > Acting as ambassadors for the department, sharing, championing, and reporting on what we do
- > Opting for academic Drama at GCSE level and, if appropriate, at A level post Year 11.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR YEAR 7 AND YEAR 9

The assessment comprises a Personal Statement and an Audition. Please see details below for each.

Personal Statement

This statement of no more than 500 words should be written by the applicant and emailed to admissions@woodbridgeschool.org.uk before the application deadline. It must include the below:

- > What you will bring to Drama at Woodbridge
- > What you wish to gain from the Scholarship Programme
- > Details of your previous drama experience (this is of secondary importance to the points above)

Audition Assessment

which will consist of two equally weighted components:

A group workshop: Led by the Head of Drama and Head of LAMDA. During this workshop candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- > Collaborate with others
- > Demonstrate creative flair and aspiration
- > Discuss their own ideas and the work of others

One prepared audition piece: This piece should be taken from a published play or a piece which has been performed on the professional stage. It should be a monologue or a speech from a play (not a poem or other reading) and last between one and two minutes in performance. All candidates are expected to have read the whole play as they will be questioned about their role in context. All candidates will watch each other performing their prepared solo piece. During this performance candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- > Use vocal, physical, and spatial skills to create a convincing character
 - > Engage the audience
 - > Reflect upon the creative decisions made and adapt these on direction from the panel.
 - > Be a focused and supportive audience
- We will also review an applicant's involvement in projects and performances, both inside and outside school.

ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATION PROCESS FOR YEAR 12

The assessment process is similar to the above with an additional interview for Sixth Form applicants and different audition components below. Year 12 applicants also submit the Personal Statement, but there is no group workshop.

Audition: two pieces; one Classical and one Contemporary:

Classical - The classical piece should be from Shakespeare or an Elizabethan/Jacobean playwright (Jonson, Marlowe, Webster, etc.).

Contemporary - The contemporary piece should provide a clear contrast to the classical pieces and be written after 1960.

Interview: with Head of Drama and Head of LAMDA

KEY INFORMATION

There are up to four Drama Scholarships awarded per year at each entry point.

Drama scholarships are awarded with a fee remission of between 5-20%, and may also include LAMDA lessons as part of the award.

Bursaries: Means tested bursaries can be applied for concurrently with a scholarship application - please see [here](#) for detailed information.

What to bring to the assessment?

Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a copy of your prepared piece(s).



Music

Innately musical, committed and enthusiastic, our Music Scholars play one or more instruments and/or sing with exceptional ability or potential. They are School ambassadors for the wonderful world of music.

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR MUSIC SCHOLARS

Music Scholars will benefit from:

- > A yearly meeting with the Director of Music to jointly set targets and where students can share outside school achievements and interests
- > Free music theory and aural training on a weekly basis
- > Guidance from the Director of Music around suitable external extension musical activities (e.g. SYO, NYC, AYM, Summer Schools, Pro Corda, Britten Arts, Junior Conservatoires etc.)
- > A talk/discussion for all ('why practice?' 2021) and parent forum ('external extension' 2021)
- > Priority for masterclasses and workshops (*Tom Poster, Emily Sun, Miranda Wright, Carol Jarvis etc. in 2020-22*)
- > Regular concert trip invitations to Snape Maltings with opportunities to meet soloists or attend pre-concert talks where possible.
- > Composition and creativity club for Years 7-8 to enhance classroom provision
- > Various in-house workshops (e.g. improvisation, composition, music technology etc)
- > Support and encouragement to enter relevant competitions (e.g. composition competitions, Pro Corda chamber competitions, Suffolk Festival etc.
- > Suffolk Choristers Competition (March) or similar, extension for singers
- > High-profile outside school performance opportunities where appropriate (e.g. soloists for Beethoven's Choral Fantasia with Woodbridge Choral Societies performance at Snape).

EXPECTATIONS OF MUSIC SCHOLARS

All music scholars are expected to strive to develop their individual music skills with commitment and a disciplined approach to practice.

Scholars also make a significant contribution to our extensive ensemble and performance programme throughout their time at Woodbridge School. Scholars are required to perform regularly as soloists (at least once per year) and perform in ensembles (a minimum of twice a year) over our comprehensive concert calendar.

Additionally, it is a requirement of the Scholarship that Music is studied to at least GCSE level.

ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants will be required to perform two pieces on their main instrument and one piece on their second instrument or sing. Year 7 applicants will also be required to prepare and sing a short song. We may also assess a candidate's aural ability and/or sight-reading skills. There will be an informal interview with the Director of Music and audition panel, where we will get to know the students and their individual musical experiences and aspirations.

Assessment auditions will be structured as follows:

- > Performance on main instrument of two pieces which the applicant knows and has studied well, and which contrast with each other in style and character
- > Performance on second instrument of one piece is required which shows command of the instrument
- > Singing a short song which should be prepared in advance if singing is a particular passion or if there is no second instrument (not compulsory)
- > Aural tests of varying difficulty to assess: pitch sense, rhythmic strength and musical perception
- > Musical knowledge and interests questions will be asked during the interview on musical matters and the hobbies and interests of the candidate
- > Improvisation on a short melodic phrase or over a chord sequence
- > Compositions can be shared as relevant

We are looking for applicants who have a genuine enthusiasm for, and commitment to, their music making and most importantly who display potential. A general level of expertise on musical instruments is important, however, it is not the overriding factor in selecting scholars. We also look for musical awareness, personality and the potential of the candidate. No specific instrument grade is necessary in order to be considered however grade 4+ (Year 7), grade 6+ (Year 9) and grade 8+ (Year 12) are a good guide when considering an application.

KEY INFORMATION

There are up to four Music Scholarships awarded per year at each entry point. Music scholarships are awarded with a fee remission of between 5-20% and may include instrumental music lessons as part of the award.

Bursaries: Means tested bursaries can be applied for concurrently with a scholarship application - please see [here](#) for detailed information.

References: Music references are obtained from current instrumental/vocal teachers about current musical ability and involvement in the musical activity in addition to a musical reference from their School.

What to bring to the assessment?

Relevant instrument(s), Music and Piano accompaniments to songs and pieces to be played on an orchestral instrument. Music must be provided no later than a week in advance of the assessment date.



Sport

Ambitious and dedicated, our Sports Scholars excel in at least one of our key sports. They are School representatives of sportsmanship on and off the pitch, field, track or court, with an excellent attitude.

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR SPORTS SCHOLARS

Sports Scholars will benefit from our Sports Performance Programme which includes:

- > One-to-one and group mentoring to support balancing sporting commitments and School life, ensuring academic achievement is maintained
- > Bespoke fitness plans created by our Strength and Conditioning coach with specific advice on how to improve identified areas of focus
- > Personalised one-to-one and small group coaching sessions with experienced, highly qualified, specialist staff
- > Termly Scholar events, visits, and talks on topics such as recovery, nutrition, and psychology
- > Progress tracking and monitoring with individual development plans
- > Access to weekly physiotherapy clinic

EXPECTATIONS OF SPORTS SCHOLARS

- > To be a model of sportsmanship, consistently showing an outstanding attitude in all they do
- > Remain aspirational for the duration of the scholarship
- > Taking pride in representing the School at every opportunity
- > Full engagement in all aspects of the Sports Performance Programme
- > Always be prepared and timely
- > Maintain fitness

ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Sports Scholarships are offered with a specialism in one or more of our key sports. Applicants will be required to take part in a sports assessment day where there will be specific assessment activities for Cricket, Football, Hockey, Netball, and Rugby. All candidates will participate in a run as well as an informal one-to-one talk with the Head of Sport.



KEY INFORMATION

A Sports Scholarship gives access to the Sports Performance Programme and fee remission can be given in exceptional circumstances.

Bursaries: Means tested bursaries can be applied for concurrently with a scholarship application - please see [here](#) for detailed information.

What to bring to the assessment?
Sports kit and water bottle.



Head's Award

This Scholarship is awarded entirely at the discretion of the Head for applicants who can demonstrate an exceptional level of talent or achievement in a discipline that is not covered by our other Scholarships. During the admissions application process please contact the admissions team for an initial discussion.

ANY QUESTIONS?

For more information about applying for any of these Scholarships please contact the Admissions team on 01394 615041 or email admissions@woodbridgeschool.org.uk.