ST GABRIEL'S
NEWBURY

13+ Scholarship Prospectus
2027

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the St Gabriel's Scholarship Programme. We hope this guide provides all the information you need as you consider whether a scholarship application is right for your child.

St Gabriel's offers Academic, Art, Performing Arts (Dance, Drama & Music) and Sports Scholarships to pupils entering Year 9. The awarding of a scholarship carries both privilege and responsibility. All scholars are expected to be role models for other pupils and support our culture of ambitious endeavour, embracing opportunity and striving success.

Our scholarships are awarded to pupils who demonstrate exceptional talent, enthusiasm and potential within their chosen discipline. More than a recognition of achievement, a scholarship at St Gabriel's is an opportunity to develop your interests further, challenge yourself and make the most of the opportunities available throughout your school journey.

Scholars benefit from regular personalised mentoring and are encouraged to participate in, and often lead, a wide range of weekly, termly and annual activities, events and trips. Through our scholarship programme, we aim to nurture ambition, inspire curiosity and help every scholar reach their full potential.

Most scholars retain their award until the end of Year 11, when they can apply for a Sixth Form scholarship. However, scholarships are reviewed annually to ensure that scholars continue to meet the expectations of the programme and engage fully with the opportunities provided.

Our scholarships are awarded in recognition of achievement and are honorary in nature. They do not carry a financial award or reduction in fees.

Scholarship Opportunities & Support

Scholarship awards are supported through a range of enrichment opportunities, most notably our **Challenge & Extension Programme**, which is designed to nurture curiosity, develop individual strengths and inspire pupils to achieve their very best.

The programme:

- Provides gifted and talented pupils with appropriately challenging and differentiated learning opportunities within the classroom, helping them to develop confidence, deepen their understanding and fulfil their potential.
- Offers a stimulating programme of co-curricular experiences throughout the year, including Scholars' Breakfasts, guest speakers, workshops, lunchtime seminars, departmental activities and educational visits that extend learning beyond the curriculum.
- Supports scholars through a mentoring programme. Academic Scholars are paired with a member of staff who will meet with them regularly to encourage intellectual exploration and enrichment beyond the classroom. Art, Performing Arts and Sport Scholars benefit from regular opportunities to work closely with their Head of Department and fellow scholars within their chosen discipline.
- Encourages Academic Scholars to develop a lifelong love of learning through wider reading.

Applications

Application forms and further information are available from the **Director of Marketing & Admissions**. Completed application forms must be received by the Admissions Office no later than **Friday, 23 October 2026**.

Scholarship Assessment & Audition Days

Candidates whose application demonstrate the qualities and potential outlined within this guide will be invited to attend a scholarship assessment or audition.

These sessions are designed to provide pupils with the opportunity to showcase their talents, enthusiasm and aptitude within their chosen discipline, while also giving them a taste of the enrichment opportunities available through the St Gabriel's Scholarship Programme.

24 November	**Academic Scholarship Morning**
30 November	**Art, Performing Arts (Dance, Drama & Music) and Sport Scholarship Day**

How To Apply

- Scholarship applicants must be either a current pupil at St Gabriel's or registered to join the school
- All candidates are expected to meet the school's academic entrance requirements and successfully complete the Senior School entrance examinations
- Pupils applying for Art, Performing Arts (Dance, Drama and Music) or Sport Scholarships may apply for more than one award, where appropriate
- Candidates who meet the published selection criteria will be invited to attend a scholarship assessment or audition
- Following the assessment process, candidates will be notified in writing of the outcome within two weeks
- The deadline for accepting both a place at the school and any scholarship award offered is **Monday 1 March 2027**
- Scholarship application forms and further information are available from the **Admissions Office**.

We encourage all applicants to approach the process with confidence, enthusiasm and a willingness to embrace new challenges. Our scholarships are designed not only to recognise existing achievement, but also to support and inspire future success.

13+ Montagu Awards

We believe that a talented and ambitious pupil should never miss out on the opportunities a St Gabriel's education can offer because of financial circumstances.

Montagu Awards are means-tested financial awards available to pupils joining the Senior School in Year 7, Year 9 or Year 12. Their purpose is to make a St Gabriel's education accessible to families for whom an independent school education might not otherwise be possible.

A limited number of awards are made, at the discretion of the Principal, to pupils who demonstrate exceptional promise, whether through outstanding academic achievement or remarkable skill and potential in Art, the Performing Arts or Sport.

Who Can Apply?

All applicants for a Montagu Award are required to sit the Senior School entrance examinations.

Applications should be supported by the candidate's current Head Teacher, who can provide valuable insight into the pupil's strengths, character and potential.

The Selection Process

Following the Senior School entrance examinations and the Academic, Art, Performing Arts and Sport Scholarship assessments and auditions, the bursar will consider bursary applications on an individual basis.

We are proud to support able and ambitious pupils from a diverse range of backgrounds and welcome applications from candidates who will make a positive contribution to the life of our school community.

13+ Academic Scholarships

Academic Scholarships are awarded to pupils who demonstrate exceptional intellectual curiosity, academic promise and a genuine enthusiasm for learning. These awards recognise not only high levels of attainment, but also the confidence to think independently, embrace challenge and engage actively with the opportunities offered by school life.

At St Gabriel's, scholarship is about more than examination success. We seek pupils who are eager to ask questions, explore ideas and pursue knowledge beyond the classroom. Our Academic Scholars play an important role within the intellectual life of the school and are encouraged to develop their interests, broaden their horizons and strive for excellence across a wide range of disciplines.

What We Look For

Successful candidates will typically demonstrate:

- Strong performance across a broad range of subjects
- Intellectual curiosity and a love of learning beyond the classroom
- The ability to think critically, creatively and independently
- Excellent communication skills and a willingness to contribute to discussion and debate
- Enthusiasm for embracing new opportunities and academic challenges
- A positive attitude, resilience and a commitment to personal growth.

Supporting Our Scholars

Academic Scholars benefit from a range of opportunities designed to extend and enrich their learning, including:

- Participation in the school's Challenge & Extension Programme
- Completion of the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) in Year 9, equivalent to a short-course GCSE, giving scholars the opportunity to explore a subject of particular interest in greater depth. A dedicated mentor provides individual guidance and support throughout the project.
- Termly Academic Scholars' Breakfasts with the Principal and Deputy Head (Academic)
- Access to lectures, workshops, visiting speakers, seminars and educational visits
- Opportunities to undertake independent research and pursue areas of personal interest in greater depth.

Scholarship Assessment

Candidates sit a general paper for which no preparation is required.

Candidates will also meet with the Principal and Head of Upper School for an individual interview.

Expectations of an Academic Scholars

Academic Scholars are expected to be enthusiastic, committed and engaged members of the school community. They should lead by example, demonstrating resilience, integrity and a genuine passion for intellectual enquiry. Scholars are encouraged to make the most of the opportunities available to them and to contribute positively to the academic life of the school through their attitude, effort and engagement.

At St Gabriel's, an Academic Scholarship is more than an award. It is an invitation to join a community of curious, ambitious learners who are supported, challenged and inspired to fulfil their potential and make a meaningful contribution to the world around them.

13+ Art Scholarships

Art Scholarships are awarded to pupils who demonstrate exceptional creativity, imagination and artistic potential. We seek young artists who are passionate about visual expression, eager to experiment with ideas and materials, and motivated to develop their skills through curiosity, dedication and creative exploration.

We believe art has the power to inspire, challenge and transform. Our Art Scholars are encouraged to cultivate their individual artistic voice, engage with a wide range of creative influences and contribute actively to the cultural life of the school. Through access to specialist guidance, enrichment opportunities and creative experiences, scholars are supported in developing both their technical abilities and their confidence as emerging artists.

What We Look For

Successful candidates will typically demonstrate:

- A strong foundation of artistic skill and creative ability
- Originality, imagination and a willingness to explore new ideas
- Curiosity about art, artists and the creative process
- Commitment to developing their practice both inside and beyond the classroom
- Enthusiasm for participating in the artistic life of the school
- The capacity to reflect on, discuss and evaluate their own work.

Supporting Our Scholars

Art Scholars benefit from a range of opportunities designed to extend and enrich their creative development, including:

- Specialist mentoring and guidance from experienced art staff
- Opportunities to develop a personal portfolio and independent projects
- Participation in exhibitions, competitions and collaborative creative initiatives
- Access to workshops, visiting artists, galleries and cultural visits
- Opportunities to explore a broad range of media, techniques and artistic disciplines
- Encouragement to engage with the wider creative community and pursue areas of personal artistic interest.

Scholarship Assessment

Candidates are invited to submit an electronic portfolio of their work a week before the scholarship assessment. The portfolio should demonstrates both technical skill and creative potential., showcasing a range of media, approaches and interests, providing insight into the applicant's artistic journey and enthusiasm for the visual arts.

Portfolios should be submitted to **admissions@stgabriels.co.uk** by **Monday, 23 November**.

Candidates will attend an assessment session, during which they will complete a practical art activity and have an interview with the Principal and Head of Art to discuss their work, influences and creative interests.

The assessment is designed not simply to identify accomplished young artists, but to recognise those with the imagination, curiosity and commitment to flourish within the vibrant creative environment at St Gabriel's.

Expectations of an Art Scholar

Art Scholars are expected to play an active role in the creative life of the school. They should demonstrate enthusiasm, commitment and a willingness to embrace new artistic challenges, while inspiring others through their creativity and engagement.

At St Gabriel's, an Art Scholarship is more than recognition of artistic achievement. It is an invitation to join a community of creative thinkers who are encouraged to explore, innovate and develop their unique artistic vision with confidence and ambition.

13+ Dance Scholarships

Dance Scholarships are awarded to pupils who demonstrate exceptional promise, commitment and artistry in dance. Designed to celebrate and nurture emerging talent, these awards recognise young dancers who combine technical ability with creativity, performance quality and a genuine passion for the art form.

Dance plays a vibrant role in life at St Gabriel's, and our Dance Scholars are at the heart of this thriving creative community. Through high-quality training, performance opportunities and specialist support, scholars are encouraged to develop their skills, broaden their artistic horizons and grow in confidence as performers, choreographers and creative thinkers.

Scholars are expected to make a positive contribution to the dance life of the school, participating fully in performances, workshops and enrichment activities, while acting as enthusiastic ambassadors for dance at St Gabriel's.

What We Look For

- A strong commitment to dance and a genuine enthusiasm for performance and artistic development
- A minimum of two years' experience training or performing in dance outside school
- A high level of technical skill and expressive performance in their chosen dance style
- Creativity, musicality and the ability to communicate through movement
- A willingness to embrace challenge and contribute actively to the school's dance community
- Curiosity, dedication and the potential to flourish within a busy and ambitious dance programme.

Experience in ballet, tap, modern or contemporary dance is welcomed, but not essential. Syllabus or graded examinations are not a requirement.

Applications should be supported by a written reference from the candidate's dance teacher, together with a personal statement outlining their experience, achievements and enthusiasm for dance.

Supporting Our Scholars

Dance Scholars benefit from a range of opportunities designed to challenge, inspire and develop their talents, including:

- Participation in school productions and performance projects
- Workshops and masterclasses led by dance professionals and visiting practitioners
- Individual mentoring and guidance from the Head of Dance
- Opportunities to develop choreography and creative performance skills
- Theatre visits and exposure to a wide range of dance styles and genres
- Encouragement to participate in dance festivals, competitions and enrichment activities
- Opportunities to take on leadership roles within the performing arts community

Scholarship Assessment

Candidates will be invited to attend a Dance Scholarship Audition, which includes:

- Participation in a short dance class, providing an opportunity to demonstrate technical ability, performance quality and creative skills
- Performance of a prepared one-minute solo in a chosen dance style, choreographed by the candidate
- A short interview with the Principal and Head of Dance

The assessment process is designed not only to identify technical accomplishment but also to recognise creativity, commitment, enthusiasm and future potential.

Expectations of a Dance Scholar

Dance Scholars are expected to be active and engaged members of the school's artistic community. They should demonstrate commitment, resilience and a positive attitude, embracing opportunities to perform, create and collaborate.

At St Gabriel's, a Dance Scholarship is more than recognition of achievement. It is an invitation to join a vibrant community of performers, where talented young dancers are supported, challenged and inspired to realise their full artistic potential.

13+ Drama Scholarships

Drama Scholarships are awarded to pupils who demonstrate exceptional promise, creativity and commitment in drama and performance. We seek young performers who are passionate about theatre, eager to develop their craft and excited by the opportunity to engage fully in the creative life of the school.

At St Gabriel's, drama is about much more than performance. It is a powerful means of developing confidence, communication, collaboration and self-expression. Drama Scholars play a leading role within the school's vibrant performing arts community and are encouraged to explore a wide range of theatrical styles, genres and performance opportunities.

What We Look For

- A genuine passion for drama, theatre and performance
- Strong performance and communication skills
- Creativity, imagination and a willingness to take creative risks
- Confidence, commitment and enthusiasm for participating in productions and performances
- The ability to work collaboratively and contribute positively to an ensemble
- Curiosity about theatre and a desire to develop their skills beyond the classroom
- Potential for further growth and artistic development.

Previous experience through school productions, youth theatre groups, drama classes or performance opportunities is advantageous but not essential.

All applications should be supported by a written reference from the candidate's drama teacher, together with a personal statement outlining their experience, achievements and enthusiasm for drama.

Supporting Our Scholars

Drama Scholars benefit from a range of opportunities designed to challenge, inspire and develop their talents, including:

- Participation in school productions and performance projects
- Workshops and masterclasses led by theatre professionals and visiting practitioners
- Individual mentoring and guidance from the Head of Drama
- Opportunities to explore acting, devising, directing and theatre -making
- Theatre visits and exposure to a wide range of performance styles and genres
- Encouragement to participate in drama festivals, competitions and enrichment activities
- Opportunities to take on leadership roles within the performing arts community.

Scholarship Assessment

Candidates will be invited to attend a Drama Scholarship Assessment, which will include:

- The performance of a prepared monologue (maximum 2 minutes in length)
- Participation in a practical workshop designed to explore creativity, collaboration and performance skills
- A short interview with the Principal and Head of Drama.

The assessment process is designed not simply to identify accomplished performers, but to recognise those with the enthusiasm, imagination and potential to flourish within the dynamic and supportive environment at St Gabriel's.

Expectations of a Drama Scholar

Drama Scholars are expected to be enthusiastic and committed participants in the performing arts life of the school. They should embrace opportunities to perform, create and collaborate, while demonstrating resilience, professionalism and acting as positive role models within the school community.

At St Gabriel's, a Drama Scholarship is more than recognition of achievement. It is an invitation to join a thriving community of performers and creative thinkers, where young people are supported, challenged and inspired to realise their full artistic potential.

13+ Music Scholarships

Music Scholarships are awarded to pupils who demonstrate exceptional musical promise and who will make a significant contribution to the musical life of the school. The scholarship seeks to foster and strengthen the school's rich musical tradition, recognising talented young musicians who combine ability with enthusiasm, commitment and a genuine love of music.

What We Look For

- A high standard of performance on their principal instrument or voice, appropriate to their age and length of study. While many candidates may have completed formal music examinations, this is not a requirement
- Strong potential on a second instrument or voice
- A genuine enjoyment of music-making and a willingness to engage fully in the school's musical programme
- Musical curiosity, enthusiasm and the capacity for continued development
- Commitment to participating in ensembles, concerts, productions and other musical activities
- A positive attitude and appreciation of the role music plays within the broader school community.

All applications should be supported by:

- A written report from the teacher of their principal instrument or voice
- A reference from their current Head of Music
- A personal statement outlining their musical interests, achievements and suitability for a Music Scholarship.

Supporting Our Scholars

The Director of Music works closely with Music Scholars to nurture their musical development and realise their full potential.

Music Scholars benefit from a wide range of opportunities:

- Participation in high-quality ensembles and choirs
- Performance opportunities in concerts, recitals and school productions
- Guidance and mentoring from the Director of Music and specialist music staff
- Opportunities to develop leadership, accompaniment and ensemble skills
- Encouragement to explore a broad range of musical styles and experiences

The school is committed to providing an environment in which talented musicians can thrive, both individually and collaboratively.

Scholarship Assessment

Candidates attend a Scholarship Assessment, which includes:

- Performance of two contrasting pieces on the candidate's principal instrument or voice
- One piece performed on a second instrument or voice
- Candidates who play additional instruments are welcome to perform a further piece if they wish
- Aural tests appropriate to the candidate's age and standard.
- A short interview with the Principal and Director of Music to discuss the candidate's musical interests, experience and aspirations.

Piano accompaniment can be provided. Copies of accompanying music should be submitted in advance of the audition.

Expectations of a Music Scholar

Music Scholars are ambassadors for music within the school and are expected to make a positive and active contribution to its musical life. Scholars will be expected to:

- Participate fully in musical activities, ensembles and performances as reasonably required by the Director of Music.
- Maintain a high level of commitment to their musical studies and personal practice.
- Demonstrate enthusiasm, reliability and a positive attitude towards music-making.
- Support and encourage the wider musical community within the school.
- Embrace opportunities for personal growth and musical development.

Through their talent, dedication and contribution, Music Scholars play a vital role in enriching the musical culture of the school.

13+ Sport Scholarships

Our Sport Scholarship Programme celebrates talented and committed young athletes across a wide range of sporting disciplines. While many scholars excel in the school's major sports, we also recognise pupils who compete at a high level in sports pursued outside of school. This ensures talented athletes receive the support they need to balance an outstanding education with performance and competition at the highest level.

Sport Scholarships are awarded on the basis of current performance, playing standard and sporting achievements, while also taking into account an applicant's future potential, commitment and attitude towards their sport.

What We Look For & When To Apply

To be considered for a Sport Scholarship, applicants should meet one of the following criteria:

Criteria 1: Train and compete as a county, regional, national or international athlete, or at high club level (Autumn Term assessment)
Criteria 2: Demonstrate A Team standard in at least two of St Gabriel's competitive sports (Summer Term assessment)

Criteria 1 Sport Scholarship applications should be received by **Friday, 23 October 2026.** All applicants who meet the scholarship criteria will be invited to the Sport Scholarship Assessment on **Monday, 30 November 2026**.

Criteria 2 Sport Scholarship assessments will take place during the Summer Term after pupils have had the opportunity to take part in sports fixtures. Further information on how to apply will be sent out at the start of the Summer Term 2028.

Supporting Our Scholars

As part of the Sport Scholarship Programme, scholars benefit from a range of opportunities designed to support their athletic development alongside their academic studies.

Scholars have access to:

- Performance workshops throughout the year
- Strength and conditioning programmes
- Sport-specific skills development sessions
- Physical profiling and performance monitoring
- Personal guidance from experienced staff and coaches

Our aim is to help scholars develop not only as athletes, but also as confident, resilient and well-rounded individuals.

Scholarship Assessment

Applicants who successfully meet the scholarship criteria will be invited to attend a Scholarship Assessment Day. During the assessment, candidates will:

- Complete a fitness profiling assessment
- Participate in a team sport activity
- Attend an interview with the Principal and Director of Sport

When assessing candidates, the panel considers current sporting achievements and competitive level; technical ability and athletic potential; performance during the practical assessments and attitude, commitment and coachability

Expectations of a Sport Scholar

Sport Scholars are expected to make a positive contribution to the sporting life of the school and to act as role models within the community.

Commitment to the Sport Scholarship Programme
Sport Scholars are expected to:

- Attend all performance workshops throughout the year
- Take part fully in required strength and conditioning sessions
- Attend all physical profiling and monitoring sessions
- Engage positively with coaching and development opportunities

Leadership & Ambassadorship
Sport Scholars are ambassadors for sport within the school and are expected to:

- Lead by example in both attitude and behaviour
- Arrive punctually for PE lessons, games sessions and fixtures
- Wear the correct school sports kit at all times
- Represent the school regularly in fixtures, alongside external sporting commitments
- Volunteer at sporting events, tournaments, open mornings and other school activities where appropriate

Personal Qualities
Successful Sport Scholars will:

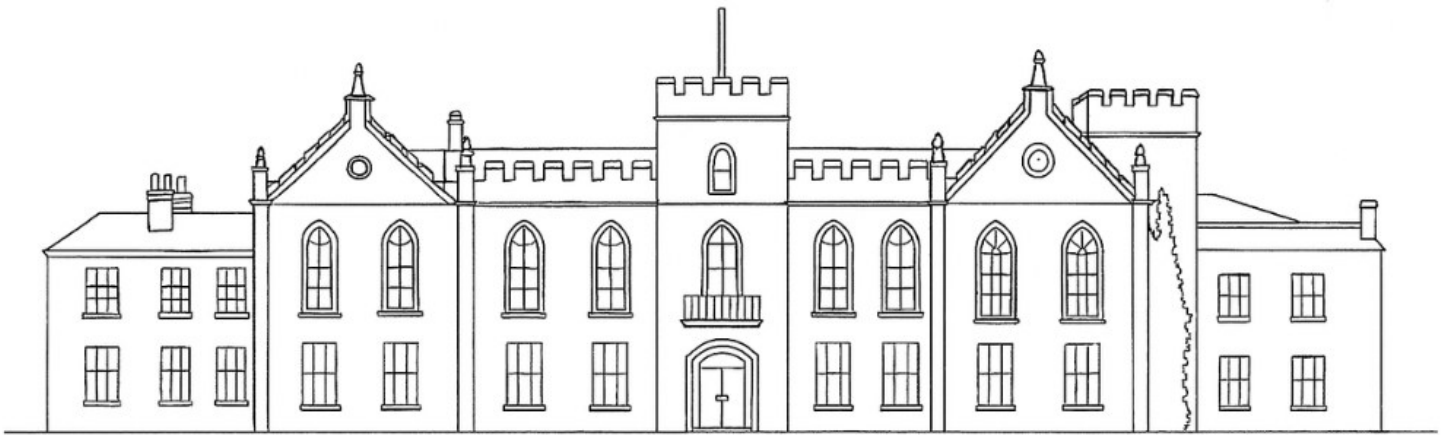
- Be coachable and open to feedback
- Demonstrate leadership qualities and exemplary conduct
- Show exceptional effort and commitment in all areas of school life
- Display ambition, determination and a desire to achieve personal and team goals
- Meet the school's academic expectations and maintain high standards of scholarship

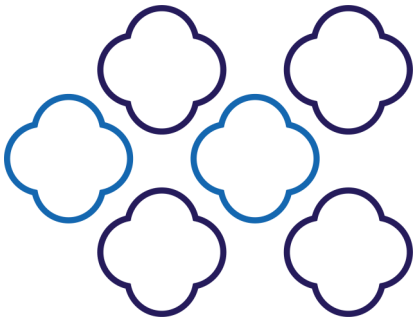
Through these expectations, Sport Scholars play an important role in inspiring others and contributing to a culture of excellence both on and off the field.

Criteria 1
Scholarship Assessment: Monday, 30 November 2026
The pupil competes at the highest level of club sport or to a National/regional/county standard in a given sport and achieves above average on their fitness profile.
Sport Performance Workshops
Weekly Strength & Conditioning
Physical Profiling
Criteria 2
Scholarship Assessment: Summer Term 2028
The pupil competes to A team standard in at least two of St Gabriel's major sports and achieves above average on their fitness profile.
Sport Performance Workshops
Weekly Strength & Conditioning
Physical Profiling

Please contact the Admissions Office or visit our website, www.stgabriels.co.uk, if you require any of the following:

- St Gabriel's Prospectus
- Registration Form
- Open Morning Dates
- School Visit
- Appointment with the Principal
- Further Information Regarding Entrance Examinations
- Scholarship Application Form





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