ST GABRIEL'S
NEWBURY

13+ Scholarship Prospectus
2026

AWARDS AT ST GABRIEL'S

Awards at St Gabriel's recognise the pursuit of learning at a level of excellence.

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.

These awards are recognised by a number of schemes within the school, primarily the Challenge & Extension Programme, which

- Offers our gifted and talented pupils extended and differentiated work in lessons to ensure that they reach their full potential
- Runs an exciting programme of co-curricular events throughout the year, including termly scholars' breakfasts, guest speakers, workshops and lunchtime seminars as well as departmental activities and trips, that are additional to the curriculum
- Provides a mentor scheme for Academic Scholars, whereby a chosen member of staff meets regularly with their mentee to extend their learning outside of the curriculum in a variety of different ways. For Art, Performing Arts and Sport Scholars there are regular opportunities to work with the appropriate Head of Department alongside other scholars in their discipline
- Academic Scholars will be encouraged to read widely beyond the curriculum and the school will provide them with a subscription to a publication of their choice to support them in this.

Requirement of Entry
It is a requirement of entry that all scholarship candidates are a current pupil or have passed the 13+ entrance examinations.

Scholarship Assessments & Auditions
Scholarship candidates are invited to attend a scholarship morning or afternoon at the school.

Applications
Application forms and further information are available from the Admissions Office. Completed applications must reach the Admissions Office by **Monday, 3 November.**

Annual Review
13+ scholarships are tenable until the end of Year 11 when pupils may then apply for Sixth Form scholarships.

All awards are subject to a satisfactory annual review of progress based on the candidate's continued suitability for the award.

How To Apply

- All candidates who would like to be considered for an award must be a current pupil or be registered to join the school
- Applicants for 13+ Academic Scholarships and awards in Art, the Performing Arts (Dance, Drama & Music) and Sport may apply for one or more award
- Candidates who meet the selection criteria listed in this prospectus will be invited to attend a scholarship morning or afternoon
- Candidates will be informed, in writing, within a fortnight of the scholarship assessment whether they have been successful
- The closing date for accepting a place and a scholarship award is Monday, 2 March 2026.
- Scholarship application forms are available from the Admissions Office.

Admissions Calendar For Entry To Year 9 In September 2026

2025

4 October	Open Morning
3 November — 14 November	Candidate Interviews (Teams)
8 November	Senior School Entrance Examination Morning
25 November	Academic Scholarship Morning
26 November	Art, Performing Arts (Dance, Drama & Music) and Sport Scholarship Day

2026

2 March	Closing Date for Acceptances
16 June	Year 9 Induction Day

13+ Montagu Awards

The Award

Montagu Awards are monetary awards made available at 11+ and 13+ with the specific aim of making St Gabriel's accessible to pupils who would otherwise not be able to enjoy the unique education we offer.

The awards, made at the Principal's discretion, are offered to candidates who show particular academic ability or to Art, Performing Arts or Sports Scholars. Montagu Awards are subject to financial means-testing.

Requirements for Entry

All candidates are required to sit the 13+ Senior School entrance examinations.

Applications for Montagu Awards should be supported by the student's current head teacher.

Montagu Award candidates who perform particularly well in the entrance examinations will be invited to the 13+ Academic Scholarship Morning, where they will sit a general paper for which no preparation is required and have an interview with the Principal and Head of Upper School.

In light of the addition of VAT on fees, we do not anticipate allocating any bursaries for Year 7 - Year 9 2026 entry. The next point at which we will welcome bursary applications is for 2027 entry.

13+ Academic Scholarships

The Award

Academic Scholarships are honorary and are awarded by the Principal on a discretionary basis according to a candidate's performance in the entrance examinations (external candidates only) and on the scholarship morning.

Academic Scholars are fully involved in our Challenge & Extension Programme, which includes a termly Academic Scholars' Breakfast with the Principal and Director of Studies, a year's subscription to a publication of their choice (up to £100.00) and a programme of talks and seminars to promote a love of learning.

Each half term, Academic Scholars attend an Academic Lunchtime Seminar, which is designed to encourage them to explore a range of topics outside of their usual curriculum.

Academic Scholars complete the Higher Project Qualification in Year 9, which is equivalent to a short course GCSE. They are given a mentor to support them with this project.

Requirements for Entry

Whilst applications are open to all Senior School pupils, for those joining the school in Year 9, they are by invitation only from the Principal. Candidates who have performed particularly well in the entrance examinations will be invited to the Academic Scholarship Morning.

Academic scholarships are awarded to pupils who possess academic excellence, intellectual curiosity and excel across a broad range of subjects.

Scholarship Morning

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

Candidates attend a joint interview with the Principal and Head of Upper School, where they will be asked about their school life, interests and aptitudes.

13+ Art Scholarships

The Art Department at St Gabriel's is set in an exciting and stimulating environment. Students work with a wide variety of mediums, including fine art, ceramics, textiles and photography. Standards achieved are very high and exam results are outstanding. Art Scholars meet with the Head of Art half-termly to review progress and set creative extension tasks to encourage scholars to expand their creative skills and maximise their potential.

The Award

Art scholarships are honorary and are awarded to outstanding candidates. The scholarship is offered on the strength of the candidate's portfolio and a practical assessment and interview.

Requirements for Entry

- Candidates must submit a portfolio of their own work a week in advance of the scholarship morning
- Candidates should provide a written report on their suitability for scholarship from their art teacher (external applications only)
- Candidates should have a desire to self-develop as an artist by learning and mastering a range of techniques
- Candidates should have a willingness to become an ambassador for art through helping others
- The Head of Art is looking for proof of the candidate's enjoyment, passion and enthusiasm for art and their potential for progress.

Scholarship Morning

- Candidates complete a practical task that involves an observational study and a short written task, where they will be asked to analyse an artwork. Candidates will have approximately 30 minutes to complete each task.
- Candidates attend a 15 minute interview with the Principal and the Head of Art, where they discuss their portfolio, evidence their passion for art and demonstrate their suitability as an Art Scholar.

The Portfolio

Candidates must submit examples of their work as a PowerPoint or electronic presentation a week before the scholarship day. The electronic portfolio should demonstrate the development of the candidate's work as far back as possible, and reflect a genuine interest and passion for art with pieces produced in school, in art clubs and at home.

The portfolio should include:

- An outline/brief of the work contained in the portfolio
- A demonstration of work in a variety of different mediums including, if possible, three dimensional art eg sculpture, ceramics or papier mâché
- Other work eg drawings, paintings, collage, mixed media work
- Evidence of the use of other artists' work to influence the candidate's own
- Evidence that the candidate is interested in art as well as skilled (contents should include work from previous years which was carried out at home as well as in school)
- Work should include pieces produced for pleasure, showing spontaneity and a passion for the subject, rather than specially produced for this portfolio
- Portfolios should be submitted to admissions@stgabriels.co.uk

13+ Dance Scholarships

Dance scholarships are awarded to foster and enhance the strong tradition of dance within the whole school. Dance Scholars are expected to contribute in as many aspects of the school's dance and performance activities as the Head of Dance can reasonably require.

There are numerous opportunities for Dance Scholars to perform in front of an audience at a professional venue, including the biennial dance show and external performance events. In addition, Dance Scholars are invited to join Viva!, the St Gabriel's elite dance company.

The Award

Dance scholarships are honorary and are awarded to outstanding candidates. The scholarship is offered on the strength of the audition and interview.

Requirements for Entry

Candidates should have a good level of knowledge and understanding of dance as a whole as well as:

- A minimum of two years dance experience in a group outside of school
- Display an outstanding level of technical and artistic ability in their chosen dance style
- Experience in ballet, tap, modern or contemporary dance preferred, **but not essential**
- Syllabus or grade examinations **not essential**
- A written report on the candidate's suitability for scholarship from their dance teacher (external candidates only)
- Enjoyment, enthusiasm and appreciation for dance is paramount and should be demonstrated in a personal statement detailing their suitability for the role.

Scholarship Morning

Candidates attend an audition, which will include:

- The participation in a short class in which the candidate will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their technical ability and creative skills
- The performance of a prepared one minute solo, choreographed by the candidate in their own chosen style. In advance of the audition, please email admissions@stgabriels.co.uk with the details of the music your child will be dancing to.
- A short interview conducted by the Principal and the Head of Dance.

Dance Scholars are supported by highly qualified and experienced dance practitioners who will provide guidance, advice and support, enabling them to achieve their true potential.

13+ Drama Scholarships

Drama scholarships are awarded to foster and enhance the strong tradition of drama within the whole school. Drama Scholars are expected to contribute in as many aspects of the school's drama and performance activities as the Head of Drama can reasonably require.

There are numerous opportunities to perform in front of an audience in a professional theatre; Drama Scholars take part in a range of competitions and professional workshops as well as the biennial Senior School production.

The Award
Drama scholarships are honorary and are awarded to outstanding candidates. The scholarship is offered on the strength of the audition and interview.

Requirements for Entry
Candidates should have a good level of knowledge and understanding of drama, as a whole, as well as:

- A high level of natural ability and aptitude for drama
- Drama experience in a group outside of school
- A written report on the their suitability for scholarship from their drama teacher (external candidates only)
- Enjoyment, enthusiasm and appreciation for drama is paramount and should be demonstrated in a personal statement detailing their suitability for the role.

Scholarship Morning
Candidates attend an audition, which will include:

- Participation in a short class in which the candidate will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their technical ability and creative skills
- The performance of a prepared monologue, maximum 2 minutes in length
- A short interview conducted by the Principal and the Head of Drama.

Drama Scholars are supported by highly qualified and experienced drama practitioners who will provide guidance, advice and support, enabling them to achieve their true potential.

13+ Music Scholarships

Music scholarships are awarded to foster and enhance the strong tradition of music within the whole school.

The Director of Music will work closely with Music Scholars to provide a range of opportunities to develop their individual talents. Music Scholars are expected to contribute in as many aspects of the school's musical activities as the Director of Music can reasonably require.

The Award

Music scholarships are honorary and are awarded to outstanding candidates. The scholarship is offered on the strength of the audition and interview.

Requirements for Entry

- **First Instrument (or voice):** Candidates should demonstrate a high level of achievement for the length of time learning (many scholars may have taken a formal examination but this is not essential)
  Second instrument (or voice): No minimum requirement but demonstrate strong potential
- Enjoyment and enthusiasm for making-music and potential for progress are strong considerations of the Director of Music, as is commitment to music-making activities in school
- A written report from the candidate's music teacher for their principal instrument
- A reference from the candidate's current Head of Music (external candidates only)
- Enjoyment, enthusiasm and appreciation for music is paramount and should be demonstrated in a personal statement detailing their suitability for the role.

Scholarship Morning

Candidates attend a 30 minute audition, which will include:

- The performance of two pieces on the candidate's first instrument (or voice). Piano accompaniment can be provided and copies of music will be requested prior to the audition
- The performance of one piece on the candidate's second choice instrument (or voice). If a candidate plays more than two instruments they may perform a further piece on another instrument, if they wish
- Aural tests appropriate to the candidate's standard
- A short interview conducted by the Principal and the Director of Music

13+ Sport Scholarships

Our sport scholarship programme does not just focus on the school's major sports. Pupils can be awarded a sport scholarship for a sport played externally, ensuring they receive the level of support they require to combine an outstanding education with competing at the highest level.

Scholarships are awarded on current performance and playing standard as well as individual potential.

The Award

Sports Scholarships are honorary and are awarded to outstanding candidates. When assessing candidates, the sporting level and achievements of the applicant are taken in to consideration alongside their performance in the practical assessment and interview.

Expectations of a Sport Scholar

Sports scholars are fully engaged in the Sport Scholarship Programme:

- Attending all performance workshops throughout the year
- Taking part in all required strength & conditioning or skills sessions
- Attending all physical profiling sessions throughout the year

Sports scholars lead by example, act as a role model and are school ambassadors for sport:

- Always being on time for PE and Games
- Wearing correct kit
- Volunteering their time regularly at school sporting events. For example, marshalling at a cross-country event or helping with running a tournament or at Open Morning
- Representing the school regularly in sporting fixtures alongside external commitments

Sports scholars should:

- Be coachable
- Demonstrate behaviour expected of a leader
- Show exceptional attitude and effort in all lessons
- Have ambition and drive to achieve a personal or team goal
- Meet the academic requirements of the school

Requirements for Entry

- Criteria 02 and Criteria 03 Sport Scholarship applicants should be playing high level club sport or train and compete regularly in a sport as a county, regional, national or international athlete
- Criteria 01 Sport Scholarship applicants should compete to A team standard in at least two of St Gabriel's competitive sports

When to Apply

Applications for Criteria 02 and Criteria 03 Sport Scholarships should be received by **Friday, 24 October 2025**. All applicants who meet the scholarship criteria will be invited to the Sport Scholarship Assessment on **Wednesday, 26 November 2025**.

Criteria 01 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 emailed to all Year 8 pupils at the start of the Summer Term.

Scholarship Assessment

Candidates successful in their application will be invited to an assessment day, where they will

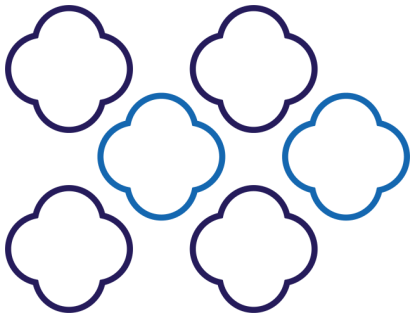
- Complete a fitness profile
- Take part in a team sport and the candidates individual sport (where possible)
- Be interviewed with the Principal and Director of Sport

Sport Scholarship Tiers

Criteria 01	Criteria 02	Criteria 03
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.	The pupil is competing at the highest level of club sport or to a regional/county standard in a given sport and achieves above average on their fitness profile.	The pupil is competing to at least National standard in a given sport and achieves above average on their fitness profile.
Sport Performance Workshops	Sport Performance Workshops	Sport Performance Workshops
Weekly Skills Session	Weekly Strength & Conditioning	Weekly Strength & Conditioning
Physical Profiling	Physical Profiling	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
- Information on how to apply for a Montagu Award
- Scholarship Application Form



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