

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS 2026

General information

Music Scholarships are available from Year 7 through to the Sixth Form. They are currently awarded to pupils showing a combination of ability, potential and passion for music, and they entitle the recipient to a percentage reduction in school fees for the period of tenure. Scholarships are intended to assist with the cost of individual music lessons. The number of lessons per year will be an average of 30 forty-five minute lessons (10 per term). Recipients are welcome to continue learning with a teacher outside of school should they wish to.

What are the expectations of Royal Russell Music Scholars:

- Scholars are expected to play an active role in musical events organised by the Music Department. All instrumentalists should be members of relevant school instrumental ensembles, and those who are specialists in piano or singing should be part of at least one of the school choirs.
- Rehearsals and performances should be regarded as a priority.
- Scholars should be prepared to perform solos or small ensembles in school concerts and assemblies.
- Scholars should be involved in a continuous regular programme of instrumental/vocal lessons, normally with a member of the Royal Russell Senior School Visiting Music Staff or unless prior arrangements have been agreed upon with the Director of Music.
- Scholars should be making constructive use of the lessons provided and a significant level of practice between lessons should be apparent.
- Scholars should have a passion for music. They should be spending time in the department creating music, setting the mood and driving the energy of the department. There must be more than just an ability to play an instrument well.

Pupils holding Music Scholarships will be encouraged to maintain their commitment to music throughout their time in the school. We offer a programme of annual reviews with the Director of Music to reflect on musical progress in the past year and to set challenges for the year ahead, based on the points above.

What is the criteria to apply for a Royal Russell Music Scholarship:

- All candidates should offer one main 'first' instrument. Ideally, candidates will have an additional 'second study', though this is not compulsory to receive the scholarship.
- The preference is for the first instrument to be one that will contribute to a Royal Russell instrumental ensemble (Orchestra/Swing Band etc), but we are happy also to audition pianists and singers and other disciplines too.
- By the time of the audition, our normal minimum expectations for candidates for a Music Scholarship will be at the following grades (or playing music to this level) on their chosen first musical instrument:
 - **for entry in Year 7** **Grade 3**
 - **for entry in Year 9** **Grade 4**
 - **for entry in Year 12** **Grade 5**

How to apply for a Music Scholarship:

- Complete the Scholarship application form which can be found on our website or requested from the Admissions Office.
- Candidates are asked to supply copies of mark sheets/certificates that support any achievements on their musical instruments.

- Completed applications must be received by **Friday 31 October 2025** and candidates must be available, if called for audition, on **Tuesday 25 November 2025** at any time.
- Attendance at audition will not guarantee a successful application; feedback on an audition is available on request.
- Following the auditions, successful candidates will receive a scholarship offer conditional upon their performance in the academic entrance exam in January 2026.
- Pupils who are not awarded a scholarship may be encouraged to reapply when appropriate, at a later stage during their time at Royal Russell.

What to expect at a Music Scholarship audition:

- Candidates should be prepared to perform one piece per instrument (or voice) they play, for which music should be sent to the school at least a week before audition.
- Sight reading test (appropriate to year of entry level - see above) on first instrument.
- Aural Tests (appropriate to year of entry level - see above)
- A brief discussion about the candidate's current music making and musical passions.
- Accompaniments
 - Any piece that has an accompaniment should be performed with that accompaniment.
 - The School will provide an accompanist on the day, who will be able to have a brief meeting with the candidate before the audition.
 - Resources for backing tracks (CD players/mobile device leads etc) will be available upon prior request of the audition.

Mr C.J Hutchinson
Headmaster

Mr J Franklin
Director of Music