

# NOTRE DAME 11+ SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

FOR ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2026

A limited number of scholarships are awarded to those candidates who excel in the scholarship subject areas applied for. Our scholars are expected to also positively contribute to the life of the School.

Details on our academic, art, drama, music and sports scholarships are detailed in this guide.

All candidates, internal and external, are welcome to apply and should review the application criteria listed with each subject.

NOTRE  
DAME  
SCHOOL







GENERAL  
INFORMATION



ACADEMIC  
SCHOLARSHIPS



ART  
SCHOLARSHIPS



DRAMA  
SCHOLARSHIPS



MUSIC  
SCHOLARSHIPS



SPORTS  
SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLICATION PROCESS





# GENERAL INFORMATION

Scholarship applications are open to all candidates, internal and external, who consider their skills and talents would positively contribute to the life of the School, would be a credit to the School and would set a good example to other pupils.

Scholarships awarded in Year 7 (11+) are tenable until the end of Year 11 and are subject to annual review.

The Scholarship award is valued at 10 per cent of tuition fees per annum, spread equally across the three terms. Scholarship awards are subject to certain conditions, which are set out in the Conditions of Award document and parents' signed acceptance is taken as acceptance of those conditions.

We would like you to note that a pupil may be awarded more than one scholarship; however, the 10 per cent scholarship fee discount can be applied only once.







# ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Every academic scholar is offered opportunities for challenge and extension both in lessons and in the co-curricular programme, including through our Above and Beyond the Curriculum programme (ABC). This includes an extended investigation and staff mentoring.

Students who engage effectively will be rewarded with achievement points and rewards. All activities are on Firefly (our online pupil/parent portal) in the **Above and Beyond the Curriculum** section, but students are also encouraged to find their own activities. Families are encouraged to engage in activities and debates together to develop their child's skills, knowledge and cognitive abilities and help them to meet their full academic and personal potential.

## 11+ academic scholarship application criteria

### External candidates – those applying to join Year 7

All candidates who sit the 11+ exam are automatically considered for an academic scholarship. Parents are notified along with their offer of a place if their daughter is successful. External candidates do not pay any additional fees to be considered for a scholarship.

### Internal candidates – our Year 6 students

Our Year 6 parents will apply for their daughter to sit the 11+ exam and students will join our external candidates on exam day. There is an assessment fee to sit the academic scholarship which is completed at the time of application.







# ART SCHOLARSHIPS

Art scholars are expected to proactively participate in art and textiles activities. They will represent the School in art and textiles events internally, locally and nationally. Most importantly, our art scholars are role models for art and textiles in the younger year groups.

One of the many benefits of the art scholarship is being mentored by the Head of Department and the art and textiles team. Art scholars are given opportunities to discuss with their teacher the type of artist they aspire to be and together work towards developing and honing their skills. They are invited to take part in Notre Dame and national art and textiles competitions, widening their experience in the art world. There are also dedicated extracurricular activities available for students to attend to receive personalised advice and guidance.

Art scholars will be invited to join school trips to galleries and, if appropriate, to our art and textiles trip abroad. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to visit galleries and museums and to learn about the artists and designers who have come before them. All these experiences help to shape and inspire our young scholars as they develop as artists.

## 11+ art scholarship criteria

Notre Dame's art department is seeking scholars who have potential in and a genuine passion for art and design. In order to

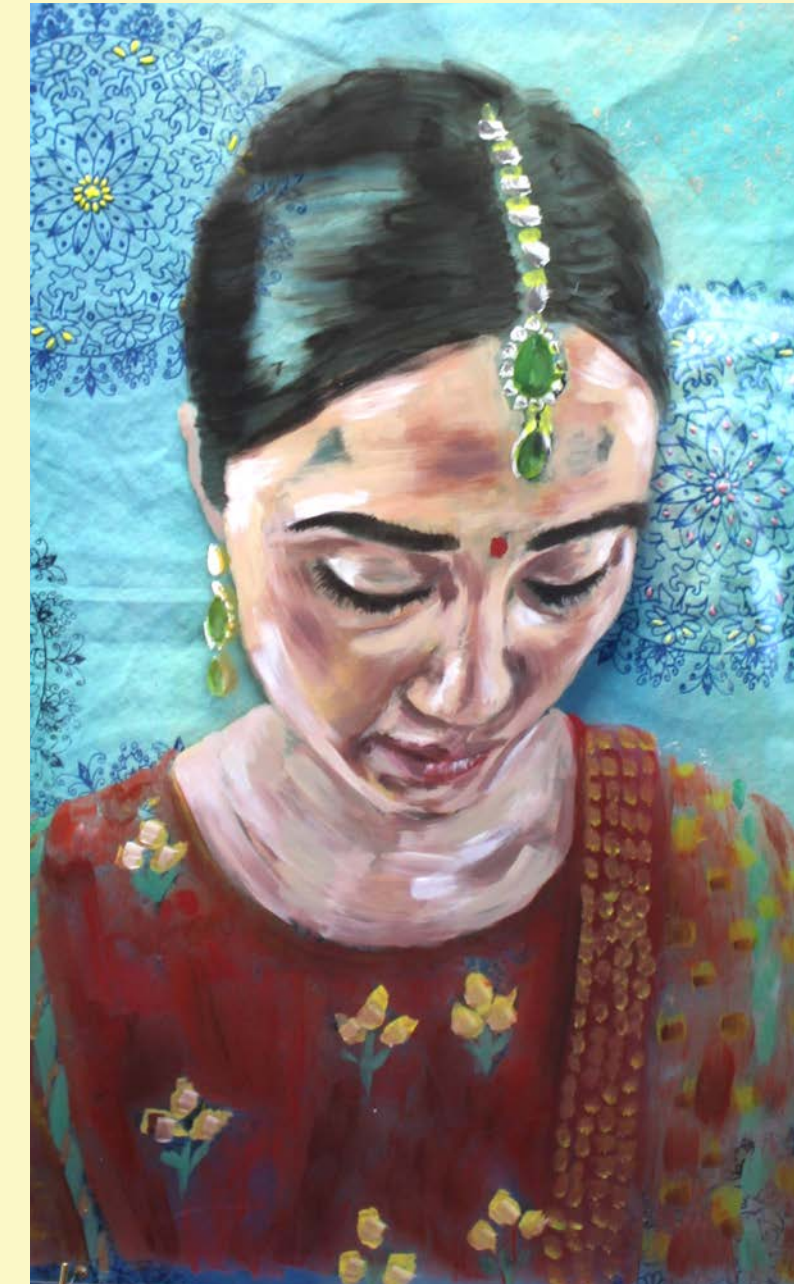
demonstrate this, candidates are requested to submit a creative set of work of up to 10 slides.

**Candidates wishing to be considered for an 11+ art scholarship will complete the online scholarship form and include their digital portfolio submission.**

- The portfolio could include photos of original paintings, drawings, collage, print-making, textiles, photographs and other craft work.
- The work can include art ideas produced at home as well and at school.
- The work should demonstrate the candidate's knowledge of observational drawing, painting and design ideas.
- It should also demonstrate the use of colour and ability to work with a variety of materials.

## Practical assessment

Following an evaluation of all submissions, candidates may be invited to the practical assessment. During this assessment, candidates will be required to produce an observational drawing within one hour. They will also have one hour to respond to a piece of artwork in colour. This will be explained in full on the day and all materials and subject matter will be provided.







# DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Expectations of drama scholars are that they lead by example both in curriculum and co-curricular drama. In lessons, scholars are expected to model an open-minded and enthusiastic approach to learning new techniques and ideas.

In co-curricular activities such as clubs, the Inter-House Drama and School Productions, scholars are expected to be creatively ambitious, aiming to fulfil roles that are more artistically demanding and be available to attend all scheduled rehearsals. All roles for school productions are nevertheless cast on the strength of auditions and we look to scholars to prepare fully for the audition process to showcase their ability and commitment to drama at Notre Dame.

Benefits include being invited to attend theatre trips that are running for any of our year groups so that scholars can broaden their appreciation and experience of a wide range of theatrical styles and genres. Additionally, there are events specifically for scholars, such as audition workshops and acting masterclasses to support and accelerate practical performance skills.

## 11+ drama scholarship application criteria

Candidates wishing to be considered for an 11+ drama scholarship will complete the online scholarship form and include their digital submission, which should demonstrate the candidate's abilities and experience.

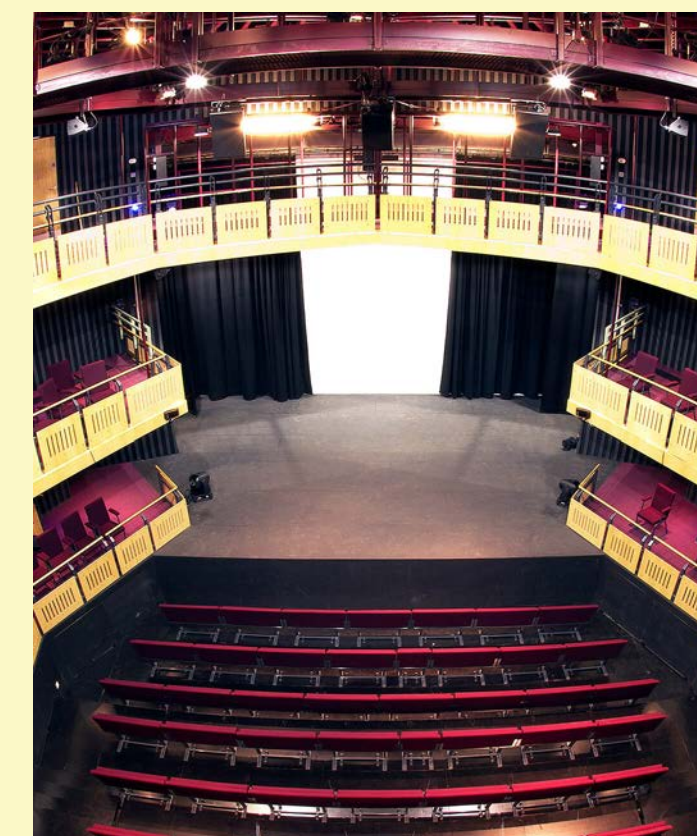
### The following should be included:

- A list of drama activities and productions in which the candidate has participated.
- Any LAMDA/Guildhall/Festival comments sheets, if applicable.
- A short review written by the candidate of no more than 500 words evaluating a drama production they have seen.

This will form the basis for an informal discussion.

## Auditions

Following an evaluation of all submissions, candidates may be invited to audition. The audition process is informal and relaxed as we want candidates to enjoy the experience and perform at their best. Candidates will need to have prepared a short character monologue from a play of no more than two minutes in length and be prepared to participate in a group drama workshop. Regrettably, due to the group-work undertaken, alternative assessment dates are not available.







# MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Music scholars are appointed after completing an audition. In the audition, a potential scholar must perform on their instrument/voice, complete some aural tests, some sight-reading, and answer questions in an interview with the Director of Music.

Music scholars are expected to take on an active role within the Senior Music Department. All scholars must attend at least one ensemble each week and be ready to perform in concerts, assemblies or other school events at the request of the Director of Music.

Benefits of the music scholarship are threefold:

- Firstly, it is hoped that music scholars will take GCSE music. The countless opportunities to perform at Notre Dame will ensure a very high mark in the performance aspect of GCSE music.
- Secondly, as a scholar, there are ample opportunities to perform and improve musicianship. Annually there are two scholars' concerts, two teatime concerts, an Easter concert, masses, prize giving, and assemblies, all of which offer the opportunity to perform.
- And finally, the value of social interactions experienced by being involved in activities that involve a blend of all year groups cannot be underestimated. The Senior Music Department is a great place to make lifelong friends.

## 11+ music scholarship application criteria

Candidates wishing to be considered for an 11+ music scholarship will complete the online scholarship form and include their accompaniment scores required for their audition. We do not require further submissions such as certificates prior to audition.

## Auditions

All candidates will be invited to audition. The audition process is informal and relaxed, as we want candidates to enjoy the experience and perform at their best. As part of the audition, the Director of Music will talk to the candidate about her music interests and activities as well as general interests and involvement in life inside and outside school.

**Students will be asked to perform unaccompanied or use their submitted accompaniment score. For the audition, each candidate should be prepared to:**

- Perform two contrasting solo pieces on her **first** instrument.
- If more than one instrument, perform a solo on her **second** instrument/voice.
- Undertake some simple aural tests.
- Provide information on her level of skill (for example, grade exams) and involvement in music in or out of school.







# SPORT SCHOLARSHIPS

Our sport scholars are expected to take part in training and to compete for the School. They are also part of our elite sports development programme, with a specialist sports mentor from our staff who will support and advise individually. They are expected to attend weekly tailored strength and fitness sessions.

Candidates are expected to offer at least one sport to a high standard and must demonstrate a flair for acquiring new skills as well as a passion and commitment to sport in general. It is expected that sport scholars will play a full role in the sporting life of the School.

## 11+ sport scholarship application criteria

Sport scholarships are awarded to students with a proven high level of sporting ability and potential.

Candidates wishing to be considered for an 11+ sport scholarship will complete the online scholarship form and include their supporting evidence. All candidates must submit a written record of their sporting achievements.

## The written record could include:

- How long the candidate has been participating in her chosen sport or sports.
- School/Club/County or National participation and level.
- Courses attended, awards gained (along with awarding body/level/year achieved).
- Details of positions of responsibility (eg captain).
- References from sports club coaches.
- Candidate's aspirations.
- Candidate's other interests, sporting or otherwise, in and out of school.
- Scanned or photographed awards and certificates, and details of any cups or medals received. *Please do not submit cups, medals, DVDs or original certificates or awards.*
- Any other relevant information to support the candidate's application.

## Practical assessment

Candidates will be assessed in a variety of fundamental motor skills as well as their ability in a selection of activities and sports, including swimming. Further instructions will be provided to the candidates on the day.







# APPLICATION PROCESS

## How to apply

Applications are completed online through our admissions portal, OpenApply; external candidates can complete this at time of registration. Internal candidates will be invited to apply for scholarships through SchoolPost.

## When to apply

Applications for all scholarships will open on 1st September, when an invitation and link to apply will be shared. The form will require the submission of supporting evidence as referenced in this document; **therefore please do have these to hand before starting the form.** Regrettably, where a student is unable to attend a scholarship assessment, we will not be able to offer a second date.

## Key dates

Scholarship applications open:	Monday 1st September 2025
Exam registration & scholarship application deadline:	Thursday 16th October 2025
11+ Assessment Day (academic scholarships):	Friday 21st November 2025
Art scholarship assessment:	w/c 24th November 2025
Drama scholarship assessment:	w/c 24th November 2025
Music scholarship assessment:	w/c 24th November 2025
Sport scholarship assessment:	w/c 24th November 2025
Year 7 place & scholarship offers:	January 2026
Offer & scholarship acceptance deadline:	March 2026



Please contact our Registrar,  
Mrs Jenny Slaymaker  
with any questions.

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