

NOTRE DAME 13+ SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

FOR YEAR 9 ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2026

A limited number of scholarships are awarded to those candidates who excel in the scholarship subject areas applied for. Notre Dame scholars make a positive contribution to life at our School and provide wonderful role models for other students.

Details on our academic, art, drama, music, sport and brand-new STEM scholarships are included in this guide.

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

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Scholarship applications are open to all candidates, internal and external, who believe their skills and talents would positively contribute to and credit our School. All scholars are ambassadors for Notre Dame and set a good example to other students.

Scholarships awarded to Year 9 (13+) candidates are tenable until the end of Year 11 and are subject to annual review.

The Scholarship Award is valued at 10% 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, which parents are expected to agree to and sign, in order to accept.

Please note that students can apply for and be awarded more than one scholarship, however, the 10% fee discount will only be applied 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 awarded with achievement points and rewards. All activities are on Firefly (our online parent/student portal) in the Academic Enrichment section, but students are also free to add in their own activities. Families are encouraged to engage in wider academic enrichment, with regular suggestions for activities and plenty of discussion topics provided by the School. This will result in developing the student's skills, knowledge and cognitive abilities and help them to meet their full academic potential.

13+ academic scholarship application criteria

External Candidates – applying to join in Year 9

All candidates who wish to apply for an academic scholarship, must sit the 13+ exam alongside our internal candidates in February 2026. Candidates may already have an offer in place or awaiting an offer following registration. Parents will be notified in March 2026 of the outcome of the scholarship application. The registration fee for external candidates covers the assessment cost for the academic scholarship.

Internal Candidates – Our current Year 8 Students

An invitation and form to apply for all scholarships will be sent out via SchoolPost, which can be filled in to indicate if students would like to apply for an academic scholarship. Internal students applying for academic scholarships will join external students to sit the 13+ exam on exam day. There is an assessment fee of £50 for internal students to sit this exam, which will be automatically added to the Summer term's bill.





ART SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Benefits of the art scholarship include being mentored by the Art and Textiles team. This provides the opportunity to discuss the type of artist they aspire to be. Scholars and staff work closely together to develop and hone skills and technique.

Art scholars are invited to take part in Notre Dame and national art and textiles competitions, widening their experience in the art world. There is also a dedicated activities lesson available for students to obtain personalised advice and guidance. If appropriate, art scholars are invited to attend school trips to galleries and our art and textiles trip abroad. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to visit galleries and museums, learning about the artists and designers who have come before them.

These experiences all help to shape and inspire our scholars as they develop as artists.

13+ art scholarship application 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. Candidates wishing to be considered for a 13+ art scholarship will complete the online scholarship form and include their digital portfolio submission.

The portfolio should include a mix of:

- Photos of original paintings, drawings, collage, print-making, textiles, photographs and other craft work
- Art ideas produced at home and at school
- A demonstration of the candidate's knowledge of observational drawing, painting and design ideas
- An illustration of the use of colour and ability to work with a variety of materials

The digital portfolio should be no longer than 10 slides and can be submitted in PowerPoint, PDF or JPEG file format.

The Admissions Team will send an invitation to apply for a Scholarship, which will include a link to a personal file. This is where the above supporting evidence should be uploaded to.

Practical assessment

Following the submission of the digital portfolio, candidates will be invited to the practical assessment. During the assessment, candidates will be required to produce an observational drawing within one hour. They will then have a further 30 minutes to respond to a detail from their artwork using watercolours. This will be explained in full on the day and all materials and subject matter will be provided.





DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Drama scholars are expected to lead by example in both 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 for a variety of mixed year groups. Scholars are able to 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.

13+ drama scholarship application criteria

Candidates applying for a 13+ drama scholarship should complete the online scholarship form. They should also 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 the candidate has participated in
- Any LAMDA/Guildhall/Festival comments sheets, if applicable
- A short essay/review written by the candidate of no more than 750 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 need to prepare 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, that all offer the opportunity to perform. Finally, the value of social interaction experienced by being involved in mixed year group activities, cannot be underestimated.

13+ music scholarship application criteria

Candidates applying for a 13+ music scholarship should 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

Following an evaluation of submissions, candidates may be offered an 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 both inside and out of school life.

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 regular training to compete and represent our School in sport. Our ‘Elite Sports Development’ programme provides sport scholars with a dedicated specialist mentor from our sports staff, who individually supports and advises scholars. Weekly tailored strength and fitness sessions are delivered by these mentors who track development and monitor progress.

13+ sport scholarship application criteria

Sport scholarships are awarded to students with a proven high level of sporting ability and potential. 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. Sports scholars are expected to play a full role in the sporting life of our School.

Candidates applying for a 13+ sport scholarship will complete the online scholarship form and include the following supporting evidence.

All candidates must submit a written record of their sporting achievements and may include scanned or photographed awards and certificates and any cups or medals received. Please do not submit cups, medals, DVDs or original certificates or awards.

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 (e.g. captain)
- References from sports club coaches
- Candidate’s aspirations
- Candidate’s other interests, sporting or otherwise, in and out of school
- Any other relevant information to support the candidate’s application

Interview

Candidates will be interviewed by the Head of Senior Sports in February 2026 to discuss their submission and sporting achievements.





STEM SCHOLARSHIPS

We are delighted to announce that from September 2026, we will be offering a limited number of STEM scholarships to Year 9 pupils.

The STEM scholarship is designed to recognise and nurture exceptional ability, commitment, and potential in the STEM subjects—Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Our vision for STEM Scholars is that they will represent the very best of STEM both inside and outside School. They will be expected to act as STEM ambassadors at a variety of school events and activities, but also inspire others by serving as positive role models for younger students. By demonstrating enthusiasm, curiosity, and leadership within STEM learning, our scholars contribute to the development of a vibrant, innovative STEM culture within the School.

Successful applicants will enjoy opportunities to take part in STEM competitions and masterclasses. They will also be invited to attend STEM trips and in-school events, as well as leading STEM clubs for younger pupils. Participation in STEM promotion events both in School and externally will also be expected.

STEM Scholarships are awarded to students who have a proven track record in STEM areas, with a sustained passion for Science and Mathematics. There is an expectation of involvement with STEM both inside and outside the classroom and candidates should show the potential to take full advantage of enrichment opportunities and to contribute meaningfully to our STEM community.

Students applying for STEM Scholarships must provide digital evidence of the following criteria:

- Demonstration of school participation in co-curricular STEM activities
- Letter of application setting out STEM engagement over time (could be from in school activities or outside)
- High attainment in maths and science during Years 7 and 8

Those applying for a STEM scholarship will be invited to a practical engineering assessment and an interview with a member of our Senior Leadership Team.



APPLICATION PROCESS

How to Apply

An invitation to apply for 13+ scholarships will be sent out via School Post (our communication system) and applications will open at the start of the Spring term. This invitation will include a link to a personalised folder where all supporting evidence can be uploaded to, so please do this before the given deadline. Assessment arrangements will be sent out following an application and review of any supporting evidence.

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:	Friday 2nd January 2026
Scholarship application deadline:	Friday 13th February 2026
Supporting evidence upload deadline:	Friday 20th February 2026
13+ Academic Assessment:	Friday 13th March 2026
Art scholarship assessment:	Wednesday 11th March 2026
Drama scholarship assessment:	Monday 9th March 2026
Music scholarship assessment:	Thursday 12th March 2026
Sport scholarship assessment:	Tuesday 17th March 2026
13+ Scholarship Offers:	Friday 20th March 2026
Offer & scholarship acceptance deadline:	Friday 27th March 2026



Please contact **Mrs Jenny Slaymaker** in our Admissions Team with any questions.

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