



SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES	
Reviewed by:	Andrew McCleave, Headmaster Rebecca Munro – Bursar Victoria Gray – Deputy Head Co-Curricular and Operations
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Next Review due:	September 2026

Scholarships and Bursaries Policy

INTRODUCTION

The Headmaster may award a limited number of scholarships to children who excel academically or in another field such as Art, Music, Performing Arts (Dance, Drama, Musical Theatre), Design Technology or Sport. (Further details may be obtained from the Headmaster). Scholarships are normally awarded in the year of entry, from Years 7 to 10, and assessments are in late January/early February prior to the September entry.

Scholarships are reviewed annually in relation to established criteria to ensure the scholar is reaching his or her potential and may be removed if a pupil does not continue to make satisfactory progress in their chosen scholarship or if the pupil fails to participate in the expected activities associated with the scholarship concerned, e.g., Music / Sport / Art activities / Academic enrichment.

Successful Candidates

The successful candidate will be required to satisfy the general standards of admission to Ballard School, that being a satisfactory School Report and reference, taster day, together with a parental meeting with the Headmaster.

Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded annually.

Scholarships take into account performance in a single discipline from the following options:

- Academic
- Art
- Design Technology
- Music
- Performing Arts (Dance, Drama, Musical Theatre)
- Sport

A candidate who is able to demonstrate an exceptional level of performance across two or more of the disciplines listed may be considered for an All-Round Scholarship.

Clear criteria for Scholarships, set by the relevant Heads of Department in conjunction with the Deputy Head Co-Curricular and Operations, are published on the website and reviewed annually. Scholarship awards may carry a small financial award, at the discretion of the Headmaster.

The Scholarship application process can be viewed in Appendix 1.

Senior Scholarship Terms and Conditions

Information regarding the requirements and application process is outlined on the school website and in the Assessment requirements and subject information section of the Scholarship policy.

The nature and amount of the Scholarship awarded are at the discretion of the Headmaster.

In exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the Headmaster together with the Deputy Head Co-Curricular and Operations and the Bursar, a Scholarship may be awarded outside of the normal assessment period but would still require the application process to be followed.

Successful Scholarship candidates will be required to participate in their specialism(s) to the highest level appropriate for their age at School. For example, a Sports Scholar will be expected to participate in school matches and Music, Drama and Dance Scholars will be expected to participate in appropriate school productions. Failure to do so may lead to the removal of the Scholarship.

Scholars are expected to model exemplary behaviour and attitude to learning in all areas of school life. Scholars are enrolled into the Laureate Programme and are expected to maintain an engagement score in line with the expectations for this (see separate policy). Failure to do so may lead to the removal of the Scholarship.

Scholars will also enter fully into the co-curricular life of the School, through appropriate clubs and activities, setting high standards for themselves and others, and acting as a mentor to younger pupils.

Scholars are expected to represent the School on appropriate occasions, such as Open Mornings, Admissions Days and at regional or national competitions, festivals and events.

It is expected that successful Scholars will continue their education at Ballard School all the way through to Year 11 and GCSE.

It is anticipated that pupils will opt to take GCSE subjects in the chosen specialisms, and this will usually be the case for Scholars with a single specialism, such as DT. Where there are exceptional circumstances preventing this, or pupils have multiple specialisms, the GCSE programme will be agreed in conjunction with the Headmaster, Deputy Head Co-Curricular and Operations and the Director of Teaching and Learning,

Reviews

A review takes place at the end of each academic year, to ensure the Scholar is reaching their potential.

A Scholarship may be removed if the Scholar does not continue to make satisfactory progress in their chosen Scholarship, or if the Scholar fails to participate in the expected activities associated with the Scholarship.

The School will communicate with the Scholar and their parents if the Scholar is not maintaining expected standards and is in jeopardy of losing the Scholarship. In most cases, Scholars will be given an opportunity and timescale to meet these standards before a further review.

In rare circumstances, such as serious behavioural issues, the School reserves the right to remove a Scholarship with immediate effect.

Unsuccessful candidates

Candidates who are not successful in their application may re-apply but should be aware that they are unlikely to be shortlisted unless they are meeting the criteria set out, more fully than in their previous application.

Unsuccessful candidates will still be eligible for entry into The Laureate Pathway if they are meeting the required criteria (see separate document).

Bursaries

Means-tested bursaries are available. Parents should note that bursaries are reviewed annually. All details are available from the Bursar. Pupils may be in receipt of both a Scholarship and a bursary at the same time.

Andrew McCleave, Headmaster

Rebecca Munro, Bursar

Victoria Gray, Deputy Head Co-Curricular and Operations

September 2025

Policy Log:

August 2021 updated

August 2022 updated

August 2023 updated

August 2024 updated

Appendix 1:

Ballard School Scholarship Assessment requirements and Subject information

Introduction

Scholarships are open to pupils entering the School between Years 7-10. We are looking for **exceptional** talent; our Scholarships will reward passion, dedication and resilience as well as skill, knowledge and aptitude in the chosen disciplines. Scholars will demonstrate an overall commitment to engaging positively in School life. If successful, candidates may receive a small discretionary discount on School fees, alongside entry into the Laureate Programme. They may also benefit from additional Scholarship opportunities.

On application, potential Scholars opt to apply for single discipline Scholarship awards in one of the following specialisms: Academic, Art, DT, Music, Performing Arts (Dance, Drama, Musical Theatre), Sport. Pupils with a breadth of interests and aptitudes can opt to demonstrate their strength in two specialisms for the Ballardian All-round Scholarship.

“The principle behind our Scholarship awards is that they enable Ballard to attract and reward exceptional candidates who have a talent and on-going passion for particular areas of School life. Our Scholarships reflect our holistic approach to education and allow us to celebrate pupils’ outstanding abilities in a variety of subject areas. This approach is reflected in the design of our Laureate Programme.

Understandably, we do expect the best from our Scholars and look to them to act as role models and remain committed to their specialist disciplines throughout their time at Ballard. We continually monitor and evaluate our Scholars’ performance and enjoy watching them thrive at Ballard.” Andrew McCleave – Headmaster.

Ballard Scholarships: Assessment requirements and subject information

During the application window, all candidates will be required to:

- Submit an application form, including a letter of application from the candidate and supporting evidence for the chosen specialist discipline(s). This will all be submitted in electronic form.
- Candidates must select one specialism from the following list: Academic, Art, DT, Music, Performing Arts (Dance, Musical Theatre and Drama), Sport. Candidates applying for a single discipline Scholarship are expected to be performing at an exceptional level for their age.
- Candidates applying for the Ballardian All-round Scholarship must select two specialisms from the following list: Academic, Art, DT, Music, Performing Arts (Dance, Musical Theatre and Drama), Sport. Candidates selecting this option are expected to have a passion and strength in their chosen areas but are not expected to be performing at the same exceptional level across both disciplines.

The deadline for submitting applications and supporting evidence is Friday December 12th, 2025, for entry in September 2026. There will then be a shortlisting process. If successful in reaching the shortlist, applicants will be invited to attend a practical assessment day in February 2026 which will consist of the following:

- An interview with the Headmaster and Deputy Head Co-Curricular and Operations.
- A series of assessments where candidates will be required to demonstrate strength in their chosen specialism(s). Details of these assessments are set out below.
- References from current school (external candidates).

Please note that there are only a limited number of Scholarships available each year and candidates will only be invited to the practical assessment days if it is clear from their application that they meet the minimum criteria set out for each discipline.

Internal candidates may apply for a Scholarship if they have not previously applied. We also welcome applications from previously unsuccessful candidates, where the minimum criteria set out can now be met. Please note that from January 2026, internal applications will only be considered if pupils have met the criteria to be selected for the Laureate Programme.

The Scholarship application is a rigorous selection process and highly competitive, involving a large amount of work and preparation on the part of the candidate. In most cases, Scholarship applications are unsuccessful, so please consider this carefully before applying.

Please contact our friendly [Registrar team](#) to find out more.

What to include in the application:

Application form (this should be completed by a parent)

Supporting information:

A letter of application written by the candidate outlining why they would like to be considered for a Scholarship at Ballard. This should include some information about themselves, their chosen Scholarship disciplines and their hobbies. The letter may be handwritten or word processed.

Supporting evidence for your application in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. This may include photos of certificates, references from activity leaders or teachers (**please note, internal candidates do not need to ask existing Ballard staff for these**), photos of programmes or prizes, examples of work or any other information that you feel may be relevant to the candidates' application. The supporting evidence should include examples of how the specific criteria for the chosen discipline are met.

Academic Scholarship

Why Ballard?

At Ballard we focus on a broad curriculum where pupils are encouraged to enhance their academic achievement through our co-curricular provision, balancing academic learning with life-skills and good citizenship. Through extensive enrichment opportunities, including trips and workshops, learning is brought to life. By developing our pupils' critical thinking, resilience, creativity, and ability to work independently and collaboratively, we are preparing them for the jobs of tomorrow.

What we are looking for (minimum requirements)

We are looking for pupils who have a love of learning and achieve exceptional results across a range of academic subjects. Curious and engaging, they will embrace all the opportunities available to them at Ballard. Through their application, and portfolio they should demonstrate academic excellence, a pattern of high performance and evidence of subject mastery in their chosen subject(s) for their age. They should include evidence of academic enrichment such as competitions, external courses and independent research projects.

Pupils are required to submit three examples of assessed work as part of their supporting evidence on application, either from one discipline, if this is their particular strength, or from different areas of the curriculum to showcase their abilities. This work will be discussed in an interview with our Director of Teaching and Learning and Director of Curriculum and Assessment.

Format for the Assessment Day

In addition to the general assessment requirements, the Academic assessment includes:

- **GL Assessments:** External candidates are assessed in verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning.
- **Subject-specific paper:** (e.g. Science, History, Maths, etc.).
- **Interview:** Discussion of submitted work, academic interests and future goals. Exploration of critical thinking, problem-solving and intellectual curiosity (competency-based questions aligned with Age Related Expectations).

Performing Arts Scholarship (Drama, Dance or Musical Theatre)

Why Ballard?

Ballard is an award-winning School which celebrates curiosity, drive and independence. We have recently been finalists in the ISOTY for Performing Arts and the MTI Award for Musical Theatre Provision. Our Performing Arts Centre, where all our productions take place, houses a full auditorium, green room, foyer and sound and lighting box. In addition, our facilities include a spacious, dedicated dance studio, which is equipped with full-length mirrors, ballet barres and the provision of IT to facilitate teaching and learning.

Ballard offers a wide range of productions for Scholars to be involved in, including musicals and plays. Recent and current productions include *'Footloose'*, *'The Lion King'*, *'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'* and *'Guys and Dolls'*. In addition, we frequently participate in external festivals and competitions and host workshops for our Scholars and other keen performers.

"The Drama is fabulous. The Performing Arts Centre is fabulous. It's better than the theatre his previous school used to rent for shows." (Ballard Parent)

What we are looking for (minimum requirements):

We are looking for candidates who demonstrate a talent and love for performing and an interest in different theatrical genres. They will be creative and curious, eager to learn and improve. Ballard Performing Arts Scholars thrive on the many opportunities on offer for them and a busy and varied schedule of performance opportunities. They are keen to share their experiences with their peers and to mentor others.

On application, candidates will be expected to demonstrate their strength in Performing Arts by submitting examples of involvement in previous productions, theatre/dance schools or workshops, individual exam successes and experience of live performances. We expect that applicants will be a minimum of Grade 4 standard by Year 7, and Grade 5 by Year 9. Candidates must ensure they have attended a recent live performance, on which they can base their review for the Assessment Day.

Successful candidates are expected to play an active role in the Performing Arts department, participating in School productions, choosing relevant Performing Arts subjects at GCSE where appropriate and mentoring younger pupils.

Format for the Assessment Day:

In addition to the general assessment requirements, the Performing Arts assessment includes:

- An audition where candidates will perform at least one piece of their own choice of around 2 minutes. This could be:
 - A monologue (suggestions are available on request)
 - A solo dance
 - A musical theatre piece, combining singing with movement / acting
 - Candidates may choose to offer more than one of the above options

All candidates will participate in one of the following, as appropriate to their chosen specialism:

- A contemporary dance style workshop, in which candidates will learn and perform a set sequence and creative task
- An improvisation workshop in which candidates will collaborate and perform
- A musical theatre singing workshop
- All candidates are required to complete a written review of a recently seen production during the assessment day

Music Scholarship

Why Ballard?

Ballard is an award-winning School which celebrates curiosity, drive and independence. Ballard has its own Performing Arts Centre, complete with auditorium, green room, foyer and sound and lighting box, where all our productions take place. We are fully equipped with a Yamaha TF5 sound desk, FLX lighting desk, iMac, remote app access and a Dante network.

In addition to the PAC, The Music Department houses a variety of practice and teaching rooms, alongside ensemble rehearsal rooms and a music technology suite which houses 18 iMacs (Logic Pro X and Musescore). We also have a fully equipped 'on the road' sound stage solution set up in our Live Room.

The Music Department runs a full calendar of annual concerts, gigs, festivals and recitals. A highlight of our school year is the School Carol Service, held each year at Christchurch Priory and we are also regularly involved in both community and charity events outside School. From time to time, we undertake European and UK tours, and we look to provide the best opportunities for our pupils at events on a local and national stage. GCSE results in the department are outstanding. Many of our pupils go on to study Music or Music Technology after Ballard, returning as Alumni to continue their involvement within the Department, supporting, and mentoring. In addition, the Music Department is heavily involved in the School's busy programme of musical productions. Recently these have included; *'Footloose'*, *'Wizard of Oz'*, *'Guys and Dolls'*, *'Lion King'* and many more.

VMT music lessons are delivered by a team of professional musicians. A high percentage of pupils take individual music lessons, and our staff cover exam syllabi from a range of boards including ABRSM, Trinity and Rock School.

What we are looking for (minimum requirements):

Candidates should be passionate about their music-making and committed to challenging and improving their musical understanding and skills. They must be able to demonstrate a confident and secure level of performance on at least one instrument or voice and have an understanding of Music Theory and Practice, appropriate to their specialism. Candidates may demonstrate their ability across more than one genre of music making; classical, jazz, pop, rock etc.

On application, candidates will be expected to demonstrate their strength in Music by submitting evidence that they are of an appropriate standard on their first instrument or voice (minimum Grade 4 by Year 7 and Grade 6 by Year 9). This could be in the form of exam certificates, or references from teachers, if grades have not been taken. We will also be looking for evidence of a candidates' passion and commitment to music, which could be demonstrated in evidence of performances and concerts, competitions or festivals.

Successful candidates will be expected to play an active role in the Music Department and will be committed to participating in a range of musical ensembles as appropriate to their instrument or voice, performing in regular concerts and mentoring younger pupils.

Format for the Assessment Day:

In addition to the general assessment requirements, the Music assessment includes:

- An audition, which will require the candidate to perform two contrasting pieces of their own choice. These may be on different instruments, if applicable.

Candidates will then be required to demonstrate ability in supporting tests. These may include:

- Scales and arpeggios from the expected standard of grade.
- Play / sing at sight
- Complete ear tests (aural)
- Sit a theory paper

- Improvisation as appropriate

Art Scholarship

Why Ballard?

Art at Ballard is renowned for its diversity, talent, quality and achievement. Our vibrant department covers a wide-range of activities; from drawing and painting, using a variety of different media, such as mixed-media, 3D works using cardboard construction, wire and clay, textiles incorporating weaving, ceramics, silk painting and Batik. We also teach lino, mono, etching and poly printing.

Ballard is an award-winning School, and we celebrate curiosity, drive and independence. We encourage pupils to push themselves out of their comfort zone. As a result, they produce exceptional and varied work and consistently excellent GCSE results.

Our scholars are invited to join our GCSE pupils on any gallery trips and artist workshops. They are also invited to join an art enrichment activity which runs alongside our GCSE pupils' activity, encouraging familiarity with the pupils and the techniques used and standard of their work.

"The Art is brilliant." (Independent Research Company)

"She loves Art. The things they are being taught are brilliant." (Ballard Parent)

What we are looking for:

Candidates should be passionate about their Art, showing enjoyment of the subject and having fun with it through experimentation. They must be able to demonstrate a high level of creativity and technical skill in at least two areas such as drawing/painting, 3D works, clay or wire. Candidates should be committed to challenging and improving their technical ability and knowledge of artists.

On application, candidates will be expected to demonstrate their strength in Art by submitting evidence of work in the form of photos. They may also be able to submit references from activity leaders, certificates for any prizes or achievements and demonstrate participation in activities outside School.

Successful candidates are expected to study Art with passion and be positive role models, becoming ambassadors for the school and mentoring younger pupils.

Format for the Assessment Day:

In addition to the general assessment requirements, the Art assessment includes:

- A practical assessment where candidates will undertake an observational drawing (any media can be used to shade or colour it.)

In addition, artists are required to bring in an Art portfolio on the day of the assessment which should demonstrate their love for the subject and may include:

- Work from school
- Work from any outside art clubs or home
- Notes on gallery visits alongside evidence of the visit: postcards, pictures of artists/paintings/sculptures in the gallery and, where possible, work inspired by the visit
- Photographs of any out-sized 3D work
- Examples of any smaller scale 3D work

There will be an opportunity to discuss their portfolio and achievements with the Head of Art.

Design & Technology (DT) Scholarships

Why Ballard?

Ballard is an award-winning School which celebrates curiosity, drive and independence. With specialist facilities for designing and making in both traditional and computer-aided design/manufacture techniques, our CAD suite is equipped with seven 3D printers, two laser cutters and a vinyl cutter, along with a fully equipped workshop.

Ballard's specialist, dedicated staff have a wealth of knowledge and expertise in Design and Technology and CAD/CAM, incorporating personal tutoring, guidance and activities for scholars relevant to their interests. Ballard has a highly successful record of developing pupils' love of design, not only within the School, but also through our links with industry and universities. The department has a strong history of its pupils' achieving success in national and regional STEM awards.

There is an array of opportunities on offer, including participating in a variety co-curricular activities and competitions. DT Scholars will be given specialist training on all workshop machinery and CAD/CAM facilities. During all projects the DT scholars are given an opportunity to incorporate all elements of DT into their projects and push their design ideas into realisation.

"The teachers are inspirational." (Ballard Parent)

"Design is not just what it looks like and feels like, It's the way it works." (Steve Jobs)

What we are looking for:

Talented and creative individuals with an exceptional flair for designing and making products and artefacts to a high standard in a variety of materials. Such individuals will demonstrate a love of design in all its facets including individual research and analysis leading to creative and original design solutions. Successful candidates will display highly intuitive and logical problem-solving skills combined with the ability to practically realise their designs using traditional construction methods and/or computer-aided design and manufacture.

On application, candidates will be expected to demonstrate their strength in DT by submitting evidence of work in the form of photos. They may also be able to submit references from activity leaders, certificates for any prizes or achievements and demonstrate participation in activities outside School.

Scholars will be expected to contribute to the department throughout their time at Ballard and become peer leaders and mentors for pupils with interests in similar aspects of Design and Technology. DT Scholars are expected to take an active role in the support of prop making and set design for school production and events.

Format for the Assessment Day:

In addition to the general assessment requirements, the DT assessment includes:

- A practical assessment where candidates will undertake a short focused based practical task
- Completion of annotations on a design sheet or a chosen product or design

DT candidates are required to bring in a Design portfolio on the day of the assessment which should demonstrate their love for the subject and may include:

- A wide range of design sketches
- Examples of any technical drawing methods such as Isometric, 1 and 2 point perspective
- Work from any outside art clubs or home
- Screen shots of any CAD/ CAM work- including TinkerCAD, google sketch up, Fusion 360 or even Minecraft
- Photographs of any projects made at home

Each candidate will have an informal interview with the Head of Design & Technology where they will be asked to go through their portfolio and explain their work and passion for designing and making. They should explain their thoughts about their successes, probable failures and how they wish to develop in future. They could choose a designer, engineer or technologist they admire and explain why.

Sports Scholarships

Why Ballard?

Ballard is an award-winning School which balances an ethos of sport for all with National and Regional success for both teams and individuals. Our specialist staff have expertise across a range of sports, as well as in fitness, psychology and nutrition, thus helping our Scholars reach their full potential. We also work with local physios, strength and conditioning coaches and professional clubs to support a pupil's holistic growth. We have pupils who compete at an international level for horse-riding, karate and sailing as well as alumni who play hockey, row, sail and windsurf at the highest level, including Olympic and world medalists.

“The opportunities to participate in sporting activities are extensive and ensure that all pupils achieve personal success, as seen in the numerous successes achieved by School teams and individuals, at local and national level. Pupils who compete in sports such as swimming and skiing for local clubs or at county or higher level are well supported by the School. Individual programmes are provided by the School if extended leave of absence is required to enable high level competition!” (ISI)

There are many opportunities for scholars to gain international and national experience, not only playing in local and national tournaments but on sports tours too. As well as participating in competitions, we also support pupils in their success out of School across a wide range of representative sports.

What we are looking for:

Candidates with exceptional sporting talent, competing or playing, at least, at a county, pathway, regional or national level. Candidates are welcome to show expertise in all sports and not just what is covered within our core curriculum.

On application, candidates will be expected to demonstrate their strength in Sport by submitting evidence of their level of performance. This could be in the form of photos of certificates for competitions, prizes or gradings, references from activity leaders, and evidence of participation in clubs and organisations outside School. This could be through testimonials from club leaders, or videos, or other forms of evidence.

Successful candidates are expected to be fully involved in our PE and Games curriculum and activities programme. As well as demonstrating a growth mindset and the character to be the best they can be (linked to our PRIDE values; Positivity, Respect, Inclusion, Determination and Enjoyment), Scholars should inspire those around them.

Format for the Assessment Day:

In addition to the general assessment requirements, the Sport assessment includes:

- A practical assessment where candidates will take part in a range of activities that demonstrate an ability to play games with a variety of different skills. They will be assessed for the following: ball skills, fitness, endurance, agility, co-ordination, teamwork and leadership qualities.

Candidates will undergo a series of physical tests to measure current fitness and to try to establish their future potential for physical development.