



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

MUSIC AWARDS

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

GENERAL GUIDANCE

1. Music Awards are available for entry at 13+ and 16+.

Music Scholarships carry free tuition on two instruments (and, if appropriate, singing).

Music Exhibitions carry free tuition on one or two instruments (including singing).

Music Scholars of Grade 7 or above will receive lessons of 60 minutes' duration on their first instrument; other lessons are of not less than 35 minutes' duration.

In addition, up to three **Choral Scholarships** and one **Organ Scholarship** are available for 16+ entrants only. These carry free tuition in two instruments, one of which must be singing or organ.

Where awarded, free tuition is given by Winchester College teachers only.

2. Consistent with the School's commitment to proper use of its charitable funds, music awards carry no *prima facie* remission of school fees. However, eligible parents may apply for means-tested financial support with the payment of school fees in cases of financial need, in the form of bursaries. Please see page 7 of this document for further details.
- 3a. Parents of candidates for Music Awards should also read the information regarding admission to the school on the school website. In brief, applications for entry at 13+ are made to boarding houses before the end of Year 5 (9+ to 10+), and interested parents are strongly advised to register before this date. However, candidates for Music Awards will be considered even if they have not registered and do not have a place in a House. All places at Winchester College are offered subject to a satisfactory showing in the Entrance Examination or Scholarship Examination (Election). This includes those boys offered a Music Award.
- 3b. Applications for entry at 16+ are made during the year before entry. 16+ candidates must already be in receipt of a confirmed offer of a place before applying for a Music Award.
4. Candidates should offer at least two instruments, one of which can be singing, and no more than four instruments in total. Candidates who offer only one instrument will be rejected without audition, unless their first instrument is of Diploma standard. The maximum performance time available in the audition is 15 minutes. The school reserves the right to reject an application without audition, based on information supplied by parents and teachers.
5. In making awards, we are looking for general promise of musicianship and commitment as much as actual achievement. Generally, however, the successful candidates will be at least Grade 6 (or an equivalent level) at 13+ on their first instrument. Some importance will be attached to aural training, sight-reading and points of general music interest. Any other evidence of musicianship (composition, singing, a second or third instrument etc.) will be taken into account. Experience of music-making at a high level (e.g. cathedral or collegiate chorister, or membership of the National Children's Orchestra) will be regarded very positively.

6a. Candidates for 13+ entry

Candidates for 13+ entry must be under fourteen years of age on 31 August following the audition. They will need to be at Winchester College for a music audition which will be held towards the end of January in the year of admission. The dates of the auditions will be published on the school website. Arrangements will be made to enable candidates to enter for awards at both Winchester and Eton College. Unless they are taking Election (the academic scholarship examination) in May, candidates must take the Entrance examination at their own schools the term before entering Winchester.

6b. Candidates for 16+ entry

Candidates for 16+ entry must be under seventeen years of age on 31 August following the audition. **They must already be in receipt of a confirmed offer of a 16+ place at Winchester College before applying for a Music Award.** They will need to be at Winchester College for a music audition which will be held towards the end of January in the year of admission. The dates of the auditions will be published on the school website.

7. The successful candidates will normally enter the school in the September of the year in which the examinations take place, though 13+ awards are open to boys already in the school providing that they are under fourteen on 1 September. It is not possible to reapply in order to enhance the value of an award already given. The Headmaster reserves the right to allocate holders of Music Awards to any boarding house in the school, but will of course take parental preference into account.
8. Successful candidates, on entering the school, will be allowed to make a special study of music to such an extent as the Headmaster (in consultation with the Master of Music) may think desirable, and they will be expected to play a full and positive part in the musical life of the school. The continuation of awards is subject to satisfactory progress and commitment. Parents and successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement which commits Music Scholars and Exhibitioners to fulfilling their obligations.
9. It is helpful to the school, and to potential candidates, if contact is made with the Master of Music, Mr David Thomas, after a boy is nine (for 13+ entry) or during the year preceding application (for 16+ entry). Advice can be given and a boy's progress can be assessed at an informal pre-audition. However, parents of potential candidates should not feel that such contact is essential. Mr Thomas is also happy to give advice over the telephone. Please contact the Music Administrator on 01962 621122 or jma@wincoll.ac.uk.
10. Forms of entry may be obtained from the Music Administrator (as above) and should be returned, accompanied by a photocopy of the candidate's birth certificate, by the closing date given on the school website.

THE AUDITION

The audition is designed to give an all-round view of the musical ability of the candidate, and in order that they can give their best, we try to make the day as relaxed as possible. Candidates will be met at the Music School and will be given time to warm-up and rehearse before the audition.

The audition is in two parts:

a) Performance (15 minutes)

Candidates should play/sing two contrasting pieces on their first instrument.

Candidates may also offer one piece on any other instrument(s), and/or singing. Please be aware that we may not have time to hear all of these pieces.

Performances will be heard in the Recital Room of the Music School by members of the Music staff. Candidates will be asked to submit their audition programme in advance. An accompanist will be provided, and candidates are not permitted to bring their own accompanist.

A Yamaha grand piano is provided for the use of all candidates. Organists will perform on the two manual organ in the Director of Chapel Music's study. (There will be an opportunity to practise the instrument before the audition). The school can also provide percussion instruments, harp and harpsichord if required. Please contact the Music Administrator well in advance if this service is required.

b) Practical tests (10 mins)

Aural and sight-reading tests (on the candidate's first instrument only) will be given in a separate room.

There is no written paper.

In the event that Covid restrictions prevent the school from conducting these auditions in person, candidates will be asked to supply videoed performances in advance (on DVD or online), to be followed by tests and an interview over Zoom. Full details will be sent to all applicants in due course.

PROCEDURE FOR ACCEPTING 13+ MUSIC AWARDS

Winchester College follows the procedure for 13+ Music Awards published by the Music Masters' and Mistresses' Association (MMA). This can be summarised as follows:

- Schools must be placed in order of preference on each application form. Once applications have been submitted, the order of procedure may not be altered. Candidates must declare to all schools their intentions. Winchester will give full consideration to all candidates irrespective of the order of preference. The order of preference must be identical on the application form to each school.
- Parents should complete the application form(s) then pass all the paperwork, including the Instrumental Report sheets, to the boy's current school for confidential testimonials to be added. The boy's current school (not the parent) should then return the completed application form(s) (together with a confidential reference) to each school at which a music award is being sought.
- No school will make offers or intimations of awards before the award auditions.
- The boy's current school will be notified promptly following the auditions by the school of first choice.
- When applications are made to more than one school, the second choice school will wait to hear from the first choice school whether or not an offer is being made. If an offer is being made by the first choice school, the second choice school should not make an offer. If the first choice is not going to make an offer, then the second choice school is able to make an offer if they wish.
- An identical procedure follows for the school of third choice.
- Parents who place Winchester as their first choice will be asked to signify their intention to accept a Music Award at Winchester if it is offered.

CONDITIONS OF MUSIC AWARDS

In addition to the general terms and conditions applicable to all pupils set out in the Parent Contract, all Music Award holders are required to:

- play a full and active part in the musical life of the school, including membership of school and house instrumental and vocal ensembles, and performances in concerts. The minimum expectation is that all Award holders will perform in an Informal or Chamber Concert once per year, and will take part in two ensembles each week as directed by the Master of Music. This will usually include singing in Glee Club, the School's Choral Society.
- attend all instrumental and/or singing lessons, and maintain progress in their instrumental and/or vocal studies through a commitment to regular practice and preparation for lessons.
- set an example to other boys through their commitment, regular attendance and demeanour at rehearsals for the ensembles in which they play or sing.
- regularly attend school concerts, and assist with the organisation of concerts when requested.
- prioritise their musical commitments ahead of other activities, other than academic work.
- understand that their award will be subject to annual review.

The school will provide all Award holders with:

- instrumental/vocal teaching of a high standard that enables each award holder to make appropriate progress. This may on occasions include masterclasses, workshops or consultation lessons.
- advice and guidance on appropriate repertoire, performance opportunities, and on choral/organ scholarships, university or music college entry, if appropriate.
- a range of musical opportunities appropriate to the needs of each Award holder. Award holders will normally be given priority when selections are made for key ensembles or performances, although other factors (such as seniority in the school) will also be taken into account.
- encouragement and support, including guidance on maintaining a balance between their musical studies, academic studies and other activities, through a personal Music Tutor, who will be one of the Music Dons.
- opportunities for musical leadership, for example through leading one of the orchestras, directing a performance or organising a concert.

The school values its Music Award holders and encourages them to build strong relationships within the Music Department to ensure the highest possible musical standards, for the benefit of all.

BURSARIES

Bursaries are available on entry to the School and can be for up to 100% of the fees. The full boarding fee for the year can be found on the school website. Fees are payable in advance of each term.

Parents/guardians of music scholars or music exhibitioners who will need bursary assistance with fees must submit a Bursary Application Form at the same time as the Music Award Entry Form, the closing date for which can be found on the school website. The School will adhere strictly to this closing date.

The Bursar will notify parents/guardians of the value of any award in good time. Where practicable, the school will endeavour to notify parents of the level of the award, if any, at the same time as the results of their audition/assessment. This enables parents to make an informed decision in full possession of all the facts.

More information and guidance about bursaries can be found on the School's website at: <http://www.winchestercollege.org/bursaries>.

Details of the Bursary Scheme and application forms can be obtained from:

Mrs W A Neville

Tel: 01962 621271

Email: bursaries@wincoll.ac.uk

The Bursar, Mr Paresh Thakrar, maintains contact with a wide range of Educational Trusts, from which additional funding is occasionally available, and can offer advice about these on request. Please contact Mrs Neville as above to enquire.

David Thomas

Master of Music

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