



OUNDLE
School



SCHOLARSHIPS
— MUSIC —





“One of the most considerable contributing factors to our musical excellence and enthusiasm is the number of formidable

Scholars who ignite and raise the game in others around them. Quite simply, our best Scholars are those who love their music, for they will radiate long-lasting enjoyment for this incredible pursuit and travel the journey to accomplish great things. The sheer scale of Oundle’s music operation offers extraordinary diversity and scope beyond expectation. ‘Music for all’ is a fundamental principle at Oundle School and our Music Scholars are behind that principle every step of the way, leading from the front.”

Quentin Thomas
Director of Music

OUR APPROACH

Ultimately, our aim is to ignite a life-long love and appreciation for cultural excellence and, for those performing, artistic endeavour. We place great value on our Music Scholars and give them every opportunity to hone their skills and excel in their art. We currently have around one hundred Music Scholars at Oundle and we are fuelled by their musical leadership to ensure our programme radiates quality for all. The Music department focuses on three main areas:

- **One-to-one lessons.** Around 950 music lessons are delivered every week, and this one-to-one teaching offers tailor-making to suit the aspirations and rate of progress of every individual musician, from beginners to accomplished Diploma holders. Our programme encompasses competitions, masterclasses and solo concert performances.
- **Ensembles.** Over forty in number, our ensembles are as diverse as possible to cater for all genres, tastes and abilities. Each has concert opportunities carefully designed across the academic year, with many ensembles performing outside of Oundle in our extended communities.
- **The academic dimension.** Our Music Scholars embrace our academic provision as much as they do performance, be it GCSE, A level, Grades 5-8 Theory or our popular Music Production programme that can be studied and graded like any other instrument.



“Each October, we run a training day for potential Scholars, offering support and guidance in various musical skills and masterclasses. Performance is assessed informally and advice given for greater confidence at the Scholarship auditions in January.”



COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT MUSIC SCHOLAR?

At 13+

We are looking for able musicians who can usually offer two instruments, with at least one at around Grade 6 level or higher, although it is not necessary to have taken the exam. We are always pleased to have applications from Cathedral Choristers. We host a popular and useful Training Day for potential Scholars (and their parents!) on the first Thursday in October, that offers training in various musical skills and masterclasses, when performance is assessed and advice is given for greater confidence at the auditions in January. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of audition and interview at the end of January in the year of entry; there is no written paper.

At 16+

We are looking for talented and dedicated musicians who can usually offer two instruments, with at least one at Grade 8 level or higher, although it is not necessary to have taken the examination. Awards are made on the basis of an audition and interview in November; there is only a written paper for those wishing to take up A level music.

All awards are made on the basis of audition and interview; there is no written paper. Scholarship candidates are asked to perform two contrasting pieces on their first instrument and one on any other instrument(s).

Whilst it is not necessary to have taken the examination, the first instrument is usually at Grade 5 level or higher for 11+, Grade 6 or higher for 13+ and Grade 8 for 16+. Candidates will be given sight-reading on the principal instrument, aural tests to assess pitch, tonality and rhythm, and will be asked to sing a verse of an unaccompanied folk song.

The audition is designed to discover signs of natural ability and interest as much as to test actual performance; based more on potential than on actual attainment. Special encouragement is given to Choristers as we aim to offer one or more Scholarships each year to a Chorister from a Cathedral or Collegiate school.



“Guitar Madness is a sell-out annual gig with good reason. I love that night for what it offers our bands and for the fact we can devise and develop our own concert programme.”

Brandon Ingle, Lower Sixth

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR SCHOLARS

- Free individual musical tuition, including Alexander Technique lessons, throughout your time as an Oundle Music Scholar
- Individual mentoring by the Heads of Instruments who are also Tutors in Houses
- Peer mentoring by a Sixth Form Music Scholar
- Bespoke guidance and preparation for National Youth Orchestras, choirs and ensembles
- Long-term guidance from Professors in conjunction with our unique and formal partnership with the Royal College of Music
- Dedicated Scholars' Concerts and other tailored performance opportunities amidst our packed and vibrant concert series
- An annual funded Scholars' Away Day, as well as trips, masterclasses and external concerts with the wider Music department
- For Fifth Form Scholars upwards, an opportunity to dedicate Wednesday afternoons entirely to Music
- At Sixth Form, a Diploma performance extension course to focus on developing individual skills and musicianship
- Bespoke guidance and preparation for Organ and Choral Scholarships to Cambridge and Oxford University, the former with the renowned Oundle for Organists week in conjunction with the Oundle International Festival.



MUSIC AT OUNDLE SCHOOL

Our Music department employs around fifty music teachers who are employed to offer bespoke learning programmes on a one-to-one basis, including Music Production and Composition. We are supremely well resourced, including some forty teaching and practice rooms, as well as a separate recital room, rehearsal room, technology studio and library, a rolling stock of fifty-four new pianos, a Steinway model D grand piano housed in Great Hall, three organs in the Chapel alone, a five-octave marimba, two harps, six drum kits and more. Each boarding House has two pianos and a dedicated music room. We enjoy a packed and vibrant concert series that caters for soloists and the many ensembles alike, as well as masterclasses, recordings, stage productions and tours both in the UK and abroad.



UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP WITH RCM

We enjoy a unique and formal partnership with the Royal College of Music, whereby our Music Scholars work with RCM professors and students for the mutual benefit of both institutions.

BURSARIES

All Scholarship applicants are encouraged to apply for means-tested bursaries should they need financial support. We are proud that over one hundred pupils at Oundle are supported with bursaries and we are continually working to increase our Bursary Endowment Fund.

THE OUNDLE SCHOLARSHIP

Talented candidates who have a genuine interest and ability in two or more of our Scholarship disciplines are invited to consider applying for an Oundle Scholarship. An Oundle Scholarship recognises and celebrates the qualities we look for in all our pupils: high academic standards together with significant commitment to the wider life of the School.

Assessment includes social and communication skills, mental dexterity and the ability to influence and lead others positively by argument and example. Oundle Scholars are offered access to elements of the Academic Scholarship Programme, as well as to many of the enrichment opportunities provided for Scholars in their two areas of particular interest.

CONTACT DETAILS

Quentin Thomas, Director of Music
qpt@oundleschool.org.uk

The Admissions Office

For any general questions or Scholarship assessment related queries, please contact the Admissions Office:

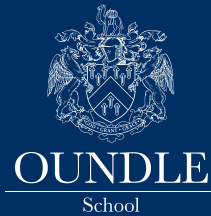
Tel: 01832 277125

admissions@oundleschool.org.uk



“The opportunities to accompany the choir and to play for services in Chapel week in, week out has enhanced my musicianship no end.”

Marcus McDevitt, Lower Sixth



The Worshipful Company of Grocers

Oundle has its origin in a grammar school founded in 1556 by Sir William Laxton, who was Master of the Worshipful Company of Grocers eight times between 1536 and 1552 and Lord Mayor of London in 1544.

The Grocers' Company is one of the oldest Livery Companies of the City of London and ranks second in the order of precedence. Under the terms of the will of Sir William Laxton, the Grocers' Company gives generously to charity when its means allow and continues to demonstrate its support for the School through the provision of bursaries and grants. The School's Governing Body consists of seventeen members, including eight Governors nominated by the Court of the Grocers' Company.