



QEH Year 9 Scholarships for September 2026 Entry



Rupert Heathcote

Queen Elizabeth's Hospital is no ordinary school.

Our overarching aim is: "to educate and inspire our pupils to take on the challenges of the modern world and to live by their school motto 'whilst we have time – let us do good.'"

In order to realise our aim, we are committed to inspiring our pupils to achieve more than they imagined possible – both in and out of the classroom.

With more pupils than ever before, the school continues to go from strength to strength. There are over 670 pupils in the Senior School, of which 230 are in the thriving co-educational Sixth Form. In our most recent inspection QEH was rated 'Excellent' in all areas by the Independent School Inspectorate (ISI) in December 2022.

Scholarships are available at QEH for entry into Year 9 (13+) each year to recognise your child's talents and dedication in Academics, Music and Sport.

Scholarships at QEH are awarded to recognise a child's talents in academia, music, sport, and all-round passion for learning. In line with other top independent schools, scholarships at QEH do not carry an automatic fee remission. Means-tested financial support continues to be available to families in the form of funding for up to 100% of the fees. For more information on our financial assistance process please view our website.

Pupils awarded a scholarship may apply for an annual grant for their musical, sporting, or academic enrichment once they have started at QEH.

As well as the prestige of being a scholar, our Scholars' Programmes offer wide ranging enrichment (from a scholars celebratory evening to day trips to galleries and museums), an extension to the curriculum and scholars play a significant role in school life. In return all scholars are expected to work hard, show a passion for their chosen subject, contribute fully to QEH life and be an ambassador for their department and role model in future years to younger pupils.

Candidates need to demonstrate outstanding qualities in their chosen discipline and meet the criteria and procedures for each award entered as set out in the following pages. Scholarships are open to applicants from any school.

Four core characteristics are at the heart of the QEH community, guide all aspects of school life and are characteristics we look for in our scholars too. We want to provide pupils with the skills and confidence to meet the challenges of the modern world and nurture them to be:



Curious

We inspire curiosity by encouraging lifelong learning that is creative, thoughtful and ambitious. Curiosity not only develops our minds but also enriches our interactions and experiences, strengthening our relationships with others.

Kind

We emphasise the importance of being kind to others, as well as ourselves. With a focus on emotional intelligence, we value empathy, courtesy and integrity. Every act of kindness, no matter how small, has a positive impact.

Positive

Positivity inspires and uplifts others, fuelling motivation and creativity. Life's challenges often also present opportunities to build resilience and to focus on potential solutions. We encourage this positive outlook on life, knowing that optimism and perseverance support personal growth.

Collaborative

We believe in the power of working collaboratively, bringing together diverse skills, knowledge and perspectives. Partnerships foster trust, mutual respect and understanding. We understand the importance of working alongside others to benefit wider communities.

I look forward to meeting you.

Rupert Heathcote
Head





SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

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We always recommend contacting our Admissions Team as the first step. They will be delighted to speak with you about your son and the scholarship of interest.

STEP 1

The scholarship box on the registration form will ask for more information in support of your son's scholarship application.

For sport, you will need to provide the current main sports played and current teams your son is playing for. The form will ask you to outline sporting achievements to date. It is necessary for you to provide supporting documentation, at least two references from coaches or teachers.

For music, you will need to provide evidence of your son's musical ability. All applicants should offer at least two instruments or voice and one instrument. It is not essential for applicants to have taken music examinations but the guide is Grade 5 or above for the principal instrument. The form will ask for your son's principal instrument, length of learning, grade examination with mark and date together with the name of the examination board.

STEP 3

The next step is to register for a place by completing our [online application form](#). When you complete the registration form, please tick the scholarship box for either a music or sport scholarship (or both).

Academic scholarships are awarded based on our entrance test results. There is no need to do anything else apart from registering your son for the entrance examination.

STEP 2

The application for either a sport or a music scholarship should be completed in full and be with the school by the closing date of Friday 14 November 2025. All applications go to the Director of Sport or Director of Music for their consideration. If your son is selected to be assessed (sport scholarship) or to come into school for an audition (music scholarship), the Admissions Team will email you with an invitation. The sport assessment is on Wednesday 26 November 2025 and the music audition on Wednesday 7 January 2026.

STEP 4

STEP 5

Our Year 9 entrance examination for September 2026 entry will be on Saturday 17 January 2026. The last step will be the offer stage and scholarship decisions will be communicated in our offer letter, which will be emailed in February 2026.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS



ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

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Why QEHS for the most academically able pupils?

Because...

We challenge and inspire all our pupils. Here is what they can look forward to:

- Enrichment tasks in different subject areas, including local and overseas trips.
- Lunchtime clubs so pupils can follow a particular area of interest.
- The chance to compete in local and national academic competitions.
- Notification of external workshops, lectures and summer camps.

QEHS is a selective school and so all our pupils are academically able. However, some of our pupils are exceptionally gifted and we believe they deserve specific provision to stretch and challenge them to achieve their full potential.

The QEHS Catalyst Programme encompasses two tailored enrichment programmes:

- Our Scholars Programme – this is aimed at the top 10% of pupils in each year group
- Our Gifted and Talented Programme – this is aimed at the next 10% of pupils in each year group

Why Catalyst?

The QEHS Catalyst programme builds and enhances the abilities of our pupils, helping them achieve greater success as they move through the school. The programme aims to prepare and empower them through a combination of advanced super-curricular activities, in-depth knowledge and essential skills. It is intended to support their successful admission to top universities and future career paths.

It has 6 key strands:

- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Teamwork & Collaboration
- Creativity & Innovation
- Learning & Knowledge
- Inquisitiveness



The Catalyst Gifted and Talented Programme

The QEHS Catalyst Gifted and Talented Programme involves enrichment and extension activities. These include:

- Twilight Enrichment Sessions on a variety of topics are run by teaching staff from a range of departments in the school
- Extension activities for school activities and trips
- Participation in an Enrichment Reading Programme to stretch and challenge pupils' reading abilities



- Further selection for specific higher level academic competitions
- Creation of a digital record of achievement through the school for super-curricular activities, knowledge and skills

The Catalyst Scholars' Programme

The Catalyst Scholars' Programme is designed to stretch and challenge our pupils of very high academic ability with a programme of extra-curricular activities, maintaining their enthusiasm and engagement in their learning. This includes:

- Academic Enrichment Afternoons for Year 9 based off site
- A stretch and challenge Catalyst Conference with external speakers
- Cultural trips
- The opportunity for our Year 10 scholars to complete the AQA Level 2 Project Qualification Programme
- Enrichment tutorials for Year 11 pupils on a range of current issues in politics, arts and science

Our Scholars also benefit from everything offered under our Gifted and Talented part of the Catalyst Programme.

Criteria for entry

Pupils are identified for membership into the Catalyst programme through a combination of:

- Entrance Exam scores
- MidYIS achievement
- Teacher recommendations and assessments

Entry into the Catalyst Scholars' Programme will be for exceptional learners with high intellectual aptitude and consistent strengths across a wide range of academic subjects. Overall, they represent the top 10% of pupils from each year group across all subject areas. However, not all the highest achieving pupils in a given subject will be QEH Scholars. Some of our top pupils excel in only one or two subjects and hence their learning needs are best met by specific parts of the wider Catalyst Programme.

Catalyst Programme membership is fluid through Years 9 and 10 to ensure that each pupil's learning needs are being best served by the additional academic provision we offer.

At the end of each academic year, the Catalyst Programme Director and Deputy Head (Academic) review each pupil's academic results and engagement with the programme. Following this, and consultation with subject teachers, some may leave and some new pupils may join.

Scholarship decisions will be communicated in offer letters which will be emailed out in February 2026.





SPORT SCHOLARSHIP

Applicants who can demonstrate exceptional ability and potential in at least one of the main QEH sports, in addition to demonstrating sound academic performance in the entrance examination are encouraged to apply. As a guide we would expect potential sports scholars to be playing regularly for a club, academy or county level.

We look for the best all-round sports people assessed at the time of the entrance examination, sports applicants will be shortlisted by the Director of Sport. Candidates will be assessed on their performance undertaking drills, practices and small sided games designed to assess their skills, cooperation within a team, awareness of teammates, their tactical understanding and their leadership skills.

Awards will be made to the best all-round candidate(s) who are able to demonstrate high levels of skill and achievement in at least one of the main QEH sports (rugby, football or cricket). We would expect candidates to have a 'preferred' sport and contribute to several sports.

A sport scholar will be expected to represent the school regularly across all three terms throughout their school career and show a commitment to attend and participate in sporting events and the wider sporting life of their House and school.

External sports opportunities may sometimes compromise a scholar's availability to play for the school, but we still expect them to represent the school when not required for a more important (and previously agreed) non-school commitment (participating in a minimum of 75% of all fixtures).

The scholarship will be reviewed annually, though it is our hope and expectation that the award will continue throughout a pupil's school career. Their conduct in sport, in competition and around the school, must be of the highest order. Scholars must lead by example, being ambassadors for QEH in all areas.

Benefits of being a Sport Scholar

A sport scholar at QEH will benefit from -

- A highly qualified and dedicated sports department which includes ex-professional and semi-professional sports people
- Extensive sports facilities at our £3m sports campus at Failand
- A termly one-to-one meeting with our Director of Sport and Assistant Director of Sport to chat through development and areas of focus
- Being given an individual development programme related to their principal sport. The program will include targets to aim for with specialist coaching offered
- Specialised trips, in the past these have included trips to Bath University Sports Village and Bristol professional sports teams
- Termly seminars that include professional sports nutrition, sports psychology, performance analysis, recovery techniques, time management and injury prevention
- Guidance with goal setting and reviews



- A personalised strength and conditioning programme as part of a wider fitness programme (age appropriate)
- Strong links with Bristol City and Bristol Bears academies and Firebrands Hockey club
- Before school strength and conditioning sessions with one of our qualified coaches
- Regular supervised visits to the gym
- Being an ambassador for sport at QEH. As scholars move through the year groups you would be a mentor for younger sports people and help represent sport at QEH Open Mornings and events

Sport Scholarship Assessment Dates

After the application deadline of 14 November 2025 has passed, families will be contacted by the Admission Team to update them if their son has been shortlisted for assessment.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to the QEH Sports Ground at Failand on 26 November 2025 for practical assessments in the QEH team sports and interview with the Director of Sport, Mr Albon.

Scholarship decisions will be communicated in offer letters which will be emailed out in February 2026.





MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

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Applicants for awards must demonstrate exceptional ability in music, in addition to demonstrating sound academic performance in the entrance examination.

We seek all-round musical talent and potential (not just grades achieved) though, as a rough guide, we would expect applicants to be at a minimum of Grade 5 standard.

Holders of a music scholarship will be required to learn two instruments and to take music as a GCSE subject.

Music applicants will be shortlisted and those of appropriate standard invited for an interview and audition with the Director of Music. They will be requested to perform a piece of their choice on their first and second instrument (or voice), a sight-reading test and aural test.

Successful candidates will also be expected to contribute fully to the musical life of the school. It is our hope that the award will continue throughout a pupil's school career.

Benefits of being a Music Scholar

A music scholar at QEH will benefit from –

- Dedicated and highly skilled staff who all share a passion for music. The music department is thriving and a central part of the school
- Ability to use the extensive music facilities
- The opportunity to be part of orchestras, choirs, bands and ensembles
- An extensive calendar of music concerts each term
- A programme of activities throughout the year, aimed to support their musical talent and widen their musical horizons. These include:
 - Music Awareness Seminars. Scholars will listen, explore and analyse pieces of music. These seminars will be informal presentations and discussions where scholars widen their understanding and appreciation of the musical language, the composers and the musical context.
 - Introduction to Conducting and Rehearsing Workshops. Scholars will discuss the role and attributes of a successful conductor. Baton technique will be introduced, including foundation to stance, production of beat and beat patterns. Using this learning, the scholars will conduct a piece of music with a chamber ensemble. Progressively pupils will direct and collectively evaluate the most effective ways of improving the ensemble; developing a rehearsal technique.
 - Improvisation Workshops. Scholars will explore the fundamentals of improvisation on their chosen instrument or piano. A variety of genres will be explored ranging from jazz, blues and folk. After an introduction into the different scales and modes the pupils will take their instruments and bring it all together, creating their own improvisations.
 - Performance Workshops. These sessions are to compliment the one-to-one lessons given by our specialist Visiting Music Teachers. The performance workshops are an opportunity to look at all areas of performing including topics such as; talking to an audience, stage craft, tuning with a piano or in an ensemble, how to create an effective programme and much more!



- Composition Projects. Scholars can opt for a composition project instead of or as well as the performance workshops listed above. This includes producing a brief with a portfolio (agreed with members of the music department) and then working on this portfolio throughout the academic year. Performances of compositions can be included in the summer term concert that is put on by music scholars.
- Support with Competition Entries. Competitions are a great place to practise performing. You will have the opportunity to perform in front of unfamiliar people in venues you don't know. You will gain valuable feedback from the adjudicator, have a goal to work towards outside of school and your exams and, if you're lucky, may even win a prize!
- Performance Opportunities. Music Scholars have their own performance opportunities at both lunchtime and evenings. They go out into the community to share their talents. Most recently, we have been attending sessions at Trinity Lunch Club in Hotwells.
- Trips to Local Concerts. With St. Georges Hall just down the road from school we're extremely lucky to have fostered great links with the education department at the venue. Each term we regularly attend lunchtime concerts at St. Georges Hall as well as special events such as Q & A sessions with the performers. These are inspirational events.

Music Scholarship Assessment Dates

After the application deadline of 14 November 2025 has passed, families will be contacted by the Admissions Team to update them if their son has been shortlisted for an audition.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to QEH on Wednesday 7 January 2026 to perform on their primary and secondary instruments or voice and interview with the Director of Music, Mr Gent.

Scholarship decisions will be communicated in offer letters which will be emailed out in February 2026.

The assessment includes:

- Performance on primary / secondary instrument / voice
- Sight reading on chosen instrument
- Aural tests
- Interview with the Director of Music



KEY DATES

KEY DATES FOR YEAR 9 ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026



Senior School Open Morning:

Saturday 4 October 2025 to book your place [click here](#)



Music & Sport Scholarship Application Deadline:

14 November 2025



Taster Mornings:

Held in January 2026 for Year 8 pupils. An invitation is sent for a taster morning once an application has been received.



Year 9 Scholarship Assessment Dates:

Sport: 26 November 2025 | Music: 7 January 2026



Entrance Examination:

17 January 2026



Entrance Exams Application Deadline:

13 January 2026



September 2026 Offer & Scholarship Letters emailed to Families:

February 2026



FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Please do not hesitate to contact our Admissions Team who will be happy to answer any questions.

Email admissions@qehbristol.co.uk or by telephone on:
0117 930 3068 or **0117 930 3078**.



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