

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS



MUSIC

St Catherine's

St Catherine's enjoys a strong reputation for excellence, inclusivity and the variety of its music. All girls are encouraged to get involved, and there are performing opportunities - solo and ensemble - to cater for all abilities and tastes. Academic Music lessons focus on listening and appraising skills as well as composition and performance.

Music Scholars and Award Holders at St Catherine's have long enjoyed a particularly close and successful working relationship with the Music Department. They tend to be found in the Music School at regular intervals, either practising, rehearsing or taking part in activities which promote the Department and encourage other musicians. They can actively share in the success of the Music Department and take pride in it alongside the staff, with whom they have traditionally tended to form strong working relationships. This is in keeping with music-making at the highest level. In return for this loyalty and leadership by example, the Music Department offers lots of personal support and encouragement to its Scholars and Award Holders, respects that they have a busy programme, and offers advice, guidance and support over time-planning whenever it is needed.

OPPORTUNITIES ON OFFER

As beacons of excellence, all Music Scholars are expected to make a full, active, and willing contribution to music-making at St Catherine's. Scholars are expected to make music-making their primary extra-curricular activity and to give priority to it, leading other pupils by their example. (This does not mean that they should not take part in other extra-curricular activities - indeed, this is encouraged - but Music Scholars are expected to be proactive in discussing any clashes with the Director of Music in the first instance). Specifically, they are expected to take part first and foremost in appropriate core activities, those being:

- String Orchestra, progressing in due course to Symphony Orchestra
- Wind Band, progressing in due course to Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra
- U3 Choir, Fourth Form Choir and Senior Choir (progressing through the School).

Dependent upon the specialisms (i.e. voice/instruments etc) of the individual Scholars, they will be expected to audition for, or be invited to take part in, a selection of ensembles throughout their time at St Catherine's, including (but not limited to):

- Camerata (the School's Senior String Ensemble)
- Jazz Band
- auditioned Middle School choirs: Middle Chamber Choir and Middle Cantores



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- auditioned Senior School choirs:
Senior Chamber Choir and Cantores
 - Specialist ensembles such as Brass Band, Flute Choir, Cello Ensemble and other small groups as appropriate, as part of our extensive Chamber Music programme.
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MUSIC AWARDS

Further Music Awards which cover music tuition, exam fees and sheet music on a range of musical instruments including organ and voice are available to pupils in the Senior School. Some are specifically for those wanting to learn instruments which tend not to have so great an uptake, yet which contribute greatly to the impact and success of the School's musical ensembles e.g.: Viola, Double Bass, Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium, Trombone, Tuba. These particularly suit musical girls who want to make a strong contribution to school music. Auditions for Awards take place at the same time as Music Scholarship auditions and Award Holders are expected to take part in the ensembles and choirs mentioned above, as applicable to their specialism.

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOLARS AND AWARD HOLDERS

Scholars and Award Holders are typically keen to take part in the Chamber Music programme with girls of similar ability; they usually gain great musical camaraderie from these ensembles. Scholars and Award Holders may be encouraged to take part in local Music Festivals to help them develop their performance skills, but this is not mandatory.

Scholars will be given the opportunity to perform an appropriate concerto movement during their time at the School. This normally takes place in their Upper Sixth year and is accompanied by one of the large ensembles such as Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band or Camerata. Should their performance level be outstanding from a young age, it is likely that there would be other opportunities for solo work. The Music Department balances this programme of solo work in order to distribute it fairly at appropriate times and for appropriate venues. In addition, all Music Scholars and Award Holders perform on rotation in whole school assemblies at least once per year. There is also an annual Scholars and Award Holders Concert and Reception each Autumn Term, to which parents of Scholars and Award Holders are also invited, as well as an annual Scholars and Award Holders lunch for the girls.

Scholars and Award Holders will periodically meet formally with the Director of Music to discuss their extracurricular commitments, and how they should best dovetail these with their individual music lessons, practice and academic and other commitments. The Director of Music will also liaise with the Scholars' Mentor, to whom Music Scholars also have access, to help them with balancing their academic and musical commitments.





11+ MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

St Catherine's offers 11+ Music Scholarships annually. Music Scholarships include one weekly period of free instrumental tuition, sheet music for that instrument, and exam entries (up to and including Grade 8) on the same instrument.

The 11+ Music Scholarships are awarded to girls entering the School at 11+ who demonstrate not only a good standard already reached in an instrument or voice (approximately Grade 5 is a reasonable expectation) but also high potential and lively interest, both in their instrument and in music generally. Ability in a second instrument /voice would also be an advantage. The holders are expected to take a full and active part in School music, and it is expected that they will choose Music as a subject option for GCSE and A Level in due course. Offer of a Scholarship at 11+ is subject to the candidates obtaining satisfactory marks in the Entrance Examination.

The audition takes place in November of the academic year before 11+ entry, and will comprise performance of two contrasting pieces on the principal instrument/voice, and (where applicable) one piece on each of a second and third instrument/voice offered; scales on the principal instrument (or on the second instrument where voice is the principal instrument); sight-reading and sight-singing; aural tests; and an interview with the Director of Music.

11+ MUSIC AWARDS

Auditions for the following Awards are held on the same day as Scholarship auditions in November of the academic year before 11+ entry. It is possible to apply for both the Scholarship and an Award, but they may not be held concurrently. While not essential, candidates who can offer a second or third instrument/voice at audition are encouraged to do so, to demonstrate the breadth of their musicianship.

INSTRUMENTAL AWARD 1

This Award is to encourage girls to take up less familiar or more expensive instruments. It might also be used where, for instance, a girl who has started on the violin may now be showing potential on the viola. Whilst this is intended for beginners, girls who have already started learning the instrument at the time of audition, and who have made good progress in their studies in a relatively short period of time, are also eligible.

Instruments: Viola, Double Bass, Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium, Trombone, Tuba

Duration: 3 years

Award: Free tuition (one period weekly), free hire of instrument (when available), free music and free examination entry up to and including Grade 8 in that instrument

Entry: by open competition; either, for a beginner, based initially on a trial lesson, aural tests and an interview with the Director of Music, followed by three trial lessons; or if a girl has already started the instrument, by performance of two contrasting pieces, scales, sight-reading and sight-singing, aural tests, and an interview with the Director of Music.

INSTRUMENTAL AWARD 2

This Award is intended for girls who have been learning an orchestral or band instrument (not voice, piano or organ) for a relatively short period of time, and who have already made considerable progress. This Award enables girls to receive recognition of their achievements so far as well as their potential, and to encourage them towards higher levels of achievement.

Instruments: Any (except voice, piano or organ)

Duration: 3 years

Award: Free tuition (one period weekly), free music and free examination entry up to and including Grade 8 in that instrument

Entry: by open competition on a single day annually, based on performance of two contrasting pieces, scales, sight-reading, sight-singing, aural tests, and an interview with the Director of Music. Candidates will need to demonstrate rapid progress over a relatively short period; Grade 3-4 in two years is a good guide, but not a definite requirement. Examination evidence is not essential.

CONDITIONS OF INSTRUMENTAL AWARD 1 & 2:

- Holders must take an Associated Board or Trinity practical examination when considered ready by their teacher.
- Holders must take part in any ensembles judged appropriate by the Director of Music.
- Holders should be prepared to perform in assemblies, concerts and/or competitions as requested by the Director of Music.

ORGAN AWARD

This Award is designed to encourage girls to learn the organ, and to gain experience and insight into liturgical work and accompaniment. It is also of great benefit to those who might intend to try for Organ Scholarships at universities. It should be noted that there may be Sunday duties on occasions. Whilst this is intended for beginners, girls who have been learning the instrument for less than a year at the time of audition, and who have made good progress in their studies in a relatively short period, are also eligible.

Duration: 4 years or remaining school life at St Catherine's, whichever is the shorter

Offered to: Any year group

Award: Free tuition (one period weekly), free use of instrument, free music, free examination entry up to and including Grade 8 for organ (and for piano up to and including Grade 8, provided piano is also studied at School, although NB piano tuition is not provided free)

Entry:

- Candidates must have proven ability on the piano (approximately Grade 5 standard).
- By open competition; either (for a beginner) based initially on performance of two contrasting piano pieces, scales, sight-reading, sight-singing, aural tests, a trial organ lesson, and interview with the Director of Music followed by three trial lessons; or, if a girl has already started the instrument, by performance two contrasting organ pieces, a piano piece, organ scales, sight-reading and sight-singing, aural tests, and an interview with the Director of Music.
- Where there appear to be more suitable candidates than Awards available, each will receive an agreed period of free trial lessons before the Award is finalised.

CONDITIONS OF THE ORGAN AWARD:

- Holders must take an Associated Board or Trinity practical examination when considered ready by their teacher.
- Holders must take part in any ensembles judged appropriate by the Director of Music.
- Holders should be prepared to perform in services, concerts and/or competitions as requested by the Director of Music.
- Holders must be prepared to assist at services, practices and concerts and to play occasionally for School Chapel Services and services at Holy Trinity, Bramley. The assistance may consist of playing or of helping in the organ loft.





SIXTH FORM MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

St Catherine's offers two-year Music Scholarships for this age group - the general Sixth Form Music Scholarship for those students who wish to study A Level Music; a second Sixth Form Music Scholarship for students who show a firm commitment to extra-curricular music but do not study A Level Music; and the Jennifer Bate Memorial Organ Scholarship. Applications are normally made when a student is in L5 (Yr 10) but students in U5 (Yr 11) are also eligible to apply.

The Sixth Form Music Scholarship is awarded annually, in addition to two weekly periods per instrument etc of free tuition on up to two instruments/voice, sheet music for those instruments, and exam entries (up to and including Grade 8) on those same instruments. These are awarded to a girl of proven high musical ability (approaching Grade 8 in her first instrument/voice would be expected as a minimum). Ability in a second instrument/voice would be a distinct advantage. The holders would be expected to take a full and active part in the School's music, and it is expected that they will study A Level Music.

A second Scholarship is available annually, plus two weekly periods of free instrumental tuition in the holder's principal instrument, sheet music for that instrument and exam entries (up to and including Grade 8) on that same instrument. The holder would be expected to demonstrate the same high musical ability and take a full and active part in the School's music, although it is not expected that she will study A Level Music.

The Jennifer Bate Memorial Organ Scholarship with Guildford Cathedral is offered to girls who are already advanced organists and who are intending to apply for organ scholarships, or further their organ studies, at university, conservatoire, or cathedrals post-18. Opportunities are available for the holder of this Scholarship to take masterclasses with the Organist and Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral, and, by invitation, to play for services at Guildford Cathedral and at Holy Trinity, Bramley as well as within St Catherine's. The Organ Scholar also gains conducting and accompanying experience with the Chapel Choir at their weekly services and on other special festival occasions, working closely alongside the Head of Organ Studies. The Organ Scholar would ideally hold a boarding place at St Catherine's, but opportunities also exist for day girls.

St Catherine's enjoyed a long association with the late Dr Jennifer Bate OBE, patron of our Organ Scholarship and Academy for 16 years, who sadly lost her battle with cancer in March 2020. A leading expert on Olivier Messiaen, Jennifer's remarkable career as an international recitalist spanned over 50 years, during which she also made a number of recordings including the complete works of Messiaen, Franck and Mendelssohn. She was very proud of her association with St Catherine's and was a dear friend to us. Always generous with her time, she gave so much encouragement to young women organists: her legacy lives on in them.

In addition to the St Catherine's Sixth Form Music Scholarships, funds are available through the Jennifer Bates Memorial Scholarship to support a bursary for the right applicant. This would be means-tested and interested applicants should see the Governors' Bursary and Hardship Awards Policy and application form on the School website: www.stcatherines.info/bursaries-and-scholarships This Award includes two weekly periods per instrument of free tuition on organ and one other instrument/voice, sheet music for those instruments, and exam entries (up to and including Grade 8) on those same instruments. As with the Sixth Form Music Scholarship, the holder would be expected to take a full and active part in the School's music, including the Jennifer Bate Organ Academy, and it is expected that she will study A Level Music although exceptions to this can be discussed with the Director of Music. Ability in a second instrument/voice would be a distinct advantage.

The audition for these three scholarships will comprise performance of two contrasting pieces on the principal instrument/voice, and (where applicable) one piece on each of a second and third instrument/voice offered; scales on the principal instrument (or on the second instrument where voice is the principal instrument); sight-reading and sight-singing; aural tests; and an interview with the Director of Music. Organ Scholarship applicants will also have the opportunity to demonstrate their transposition and improvisation skills.



14+ AND 16+ MUSIC AWARDS

The following Music Awards are generally available to current U4 (Yr 9) pupils about to enter the L5 (Yr 10), or current U5 (Yr 11) pupils about to enter the L6 (Yr 12) – or those entering the School into these year groups – but those from other year groups may be considered, and should seek the Director of Music’s advice. Auditions for internal candidates are held in the June of the academic year before the awards commence. Auditions for external candidates are held by arrangement upon application to the School in November. It is possible to apply for both the Scholarship and an Award, but they may not be held concurrently. While not essential, candidates who can offer a second or third instrument/voice at audition are encouraged to do so, to demonstrate the breadth of their musicianship.

INSTRUMENTAL AWARD 3

This Award is to encourage girls of proven ability who have already made considerable progress towards higher levels of achievement.

Instrument: Any (except voice)

Duration: Up to the end of the Spring Term of the student’s Upper Sixth year (although this can be extended by a further term upon application to the Director of Music)

Offered to: L5 or L6 (see above)

Award: Free tuition (one period weekly), free music and free examination entry up to and including Grade 8 in that instrument

Entry: by open competition on a single day annually, based on performance of two contrasting pieces, scales, sight-reading and sight-singing, aural tests, and an interview with the Director of Music. Candidates are generally expected to be at least Grade 6 Merit standard. Examination evidence is not essential.

CONDITIONS OF INSTRUMENTAL AWARD 3:

- Holders must take an Associated Board or Trinity practical examination when considered ready by their teacher, generally studying towards Grade 8 and beyond.
- Holders must take part in any ensembles judged appropriate by the Director of Music.
- Holders should be prepared to perform in assemblies, concerts and/or competitions as requested by the Director of Music.
- Holders must have firm intentions to stay on into the Sixth Form at St Catherine’s.
- Holders are expected to set high standards for other musicians in School to emulate.



CHORAL AWARD

This Award is to encourage high standards of singing in both solo and choir work. It is also of great benefit to those intending to try for Choral Scholarships at universities.

Duration: 2 years

Offered to: L5 or L6 (see above)

Award: Free vocal tuition (one period weekly), free vocal music and free examination entry up to and including Grade 8 in that instrument

Entry: by open competition on a single day annually, based on performance of two contrasting pieces, sight-reading, aural tests, and an interview with the Director of Music.

CONDITIONS OF CHORAL AWARD:

- Holders must take an Associated Board or Trinity practical examination when considered ready by their teacher, generally studying towards Grade 8 and beyond.
- Holders must be members of Senior Choir and Senior Chamber Choir and, in the case of boarders, Chapel Choir. For a girl who has been at St Catherine's in U4, she should ordinarily have been a member of Fourth Form Choir and Middle Chamber Choir.
- Holders should be prepared to perform in assemblies, concerts, services and/or competitions as requested by the Director of Music.
- Holders must have firm intentions to stay on into the Sixth Form at St Catherine's.
- Holders are expected to set high standards for other musicians in School to emulate.

ORGAN AWARD AND INSTRUMENTAL AWARD 1

These Awards are occasionally available at 14+ and 16+ - please discuss with the Director of Music before applying. Details of these Awards can be found on p 4-5.



The Jennifer Bate Memorial Organ Scholarship is a wonderful opportunity to gain experience as a young organist. It has provided me with a plethora of opportunities to play, accompany and conduct the Chapel Choir in weekly Boarders' Chapel and special school services, as well as inspirational masterclasses with Katherine Dienes-Williams, the Organist and Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral, which have really brought me on as a player.

■ Ginny, Year of 2023



The Organ Scholarship allowed me to develop my organ playing skills over my two years in the Sixth Form. In the second year, I took a more prominent role in main services and also frequently played for Evensong at Guildford Cathedral.

During my time at St Catherine's, I was given opportunities to hone my solo and accompaniment playing techniques as well as gaining experience of choral conducting and playing for a wide variety of services.

I would recommend the Jennifer Bate Memorial Organ Scholarship to anyone interested in playing the organ; the Scholarship not only provides you with a firm grounding in organ playing, but also allows you to have a well-rounded education at St Catherine's, opening the door to many further opportunities.

■ Imogen Morgan, Year of 2017, Assistant Master of the Music, St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh





APPLICATION TIMELINE

OCTOBER

Deadline for 11+ and for new Sixth

NOVEMBER

11+ and new Sixth Form applicants

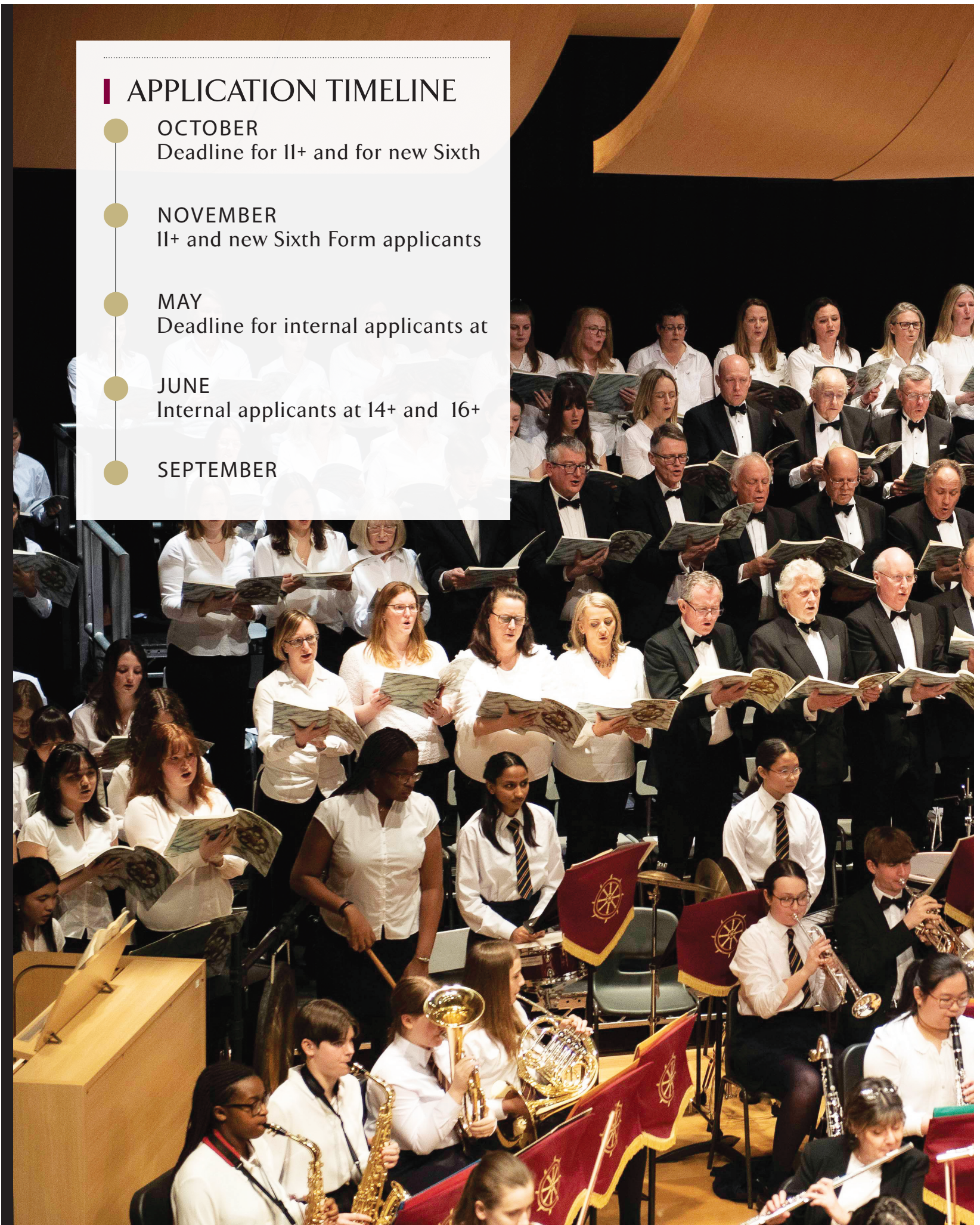
MAY

Deadline for internal applicants at

JUNE

Internal applicants at 14+ and 16+

SEPTEMBER



AUDITIONS

The Audition Panel will normally consist of the Director of Music and one other person, who may be another senior member of the Music Department or an external adjudicator. The audition will comprise the following:

- Two contrasting solo pieces on your principal instrument/voice (10 mins maximum in total)
- One solo piece on your second (and third) instrument/voice, if applicable (4 mins maximum per piece)
- Scales and arpeggios applicable to the standard you have reached on your principal instrument (or on the second instrument, for those offering voice as their principal instrument)
- Sight-reading (Quick Study): a piece of music will be provided for you to study privately for 5 minutes prior to the audition; those offering voice as their principal instrument will prepare their Quick Study during the audition with support from a pianist
- Aural tests and sight-singing of an appropriate standard
- A short interview where the members of the Panel will chat to you to get an idea about your level of general musical knowledge and musical interests, and will discuss your future aims.

The aural tests are designed to indicate the overall ability of a candidate, rather than demonstrate specific skills required. The questions in the short interview will be designed to put you at ease and to encourage you to speak passionately about your music-making.

It is important to remember throughout the audition that we are interested in what you know, rather than what you are unable to answer, and that we acknowledge that different applicants will have a variety of musical backgrounds.

A piano accompanist will be provided for the audition and, where a published accompaniment exists, all pieces should be performed with piano accompaniment. If you wish to use a recorded backing track (e.g. for a performance on drum kit) please let us know when you submit your application and we will contact you to discuss this. Please provide clear copies of piano accompaniments (by pdf or a photocopy) when you submit your application form; these will be destroyed after the audition.

Upon receipt of your application form, we will contact your daughter's instrumental/vocal teachers and Director of Music to invite them to write a reference. We regret that we cannot accept references sent to us with the application form, or references from family members.

APPLICATIONS

For General Conditions and an application form please visit:

www.stcatherines.info/admissions/bursaries-and-scholarships

For further information about the Music Department please visit

www.stcatherines.info/music or email music@stcatherines.info





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Thank you so much to you and all your team for organising such a wonderful Scholars' Concert last night. It was a joy to be treated to such a wide range of fabulous music, played with style and confidence by music scholars and award holders from across the year groups. Knowing that this was our last St Cat's Scholars' Concert is a bittersweet moment for us after so many excellent evenings over all the years that our girls have been part of this special group of musicians, but what a way to finish! This one will live long in the memory. With our thanks for your able leadership of a formidable music department chock full of exciting talent!

■ Mrs Nott, Past Parent

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St Catherine's School
BRAMLEY

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