



Orwell Park School

Part of the Benenden Family of Schools

Scholarships at Orwell Park

Year 7 - Entry for the academic year 2027-2028

Academic, All-Rounder, Art and Design, Drama, Music, Sport

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Scholarship Opportunities

Year 7 entry

**Academic • All-Rounder • Art & Design
Drama • Music • Sport**

Expectations & Responsibilities

Being an Orwell Park scholar comes with distinct opportunities and responsibilities. Scholars agree to lead by example in their field(s), represent the School, uphold its core values, and actively participate in dedicated scholars' sessions. In return, Orwell Park supports each scholar's journey with specialist teaching, personalised mentoring, and tailored guidance to ensure they achieve their goals and smoothly transition to Senior School.

Our aim is to recognise pupils' passions while making an Orwell Park education accessible to a diverse range of families. Scholarship awards of up to 10% are available, with additional bursarial support assessed individually on request.

Additional benefits, such as specialist 1-2-1 lessons may also be offered at our discretion. Further information on the process is available from our Admissions team.

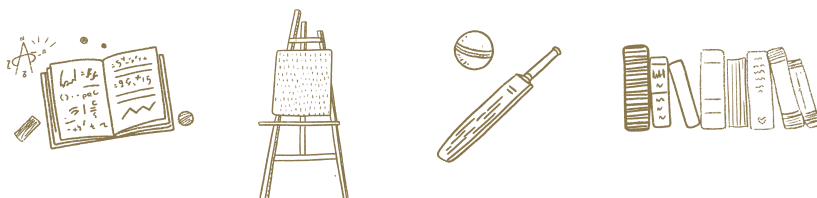
We welcome applications from existing Orwell Park pupils in Year 6 and from new pupils joining us in Year 7.

We welcome applications from UK and international applicants.

Our bespoke programmes guide every scholar on a personalised learning journey, helping them grow, challenge themselves, and excel.

In Years 7 and 8, pupils are encouraged to hone their strengths and shine as leaders at the top of the school, gaining invaluable experience in their chosen fields.

This preparation not only celebrates who they are now, but equips them successfully for senior school and all that lies beyond.



Scholarship opportunities are a hallmark of life at Orwell Park. We believe in discovering each child's unique passions, nurturing their curiosity, and developing a confident sense of independence.

- Alex McCullough, Head

Application Process

Next Steps

If this sounds like a good opportunity for your child, we warmly encourage you to apply.

Full details of the process are outlined below, and we would be thrilled to welcome your application.



Complete application form

Deadline for submitting applications Monday 23rd November

Receive scholarship assessment invitation

Successful applicants notified by Friday 27th November

Attend assessment day(s)

Assessments during week commencing 18th January
at Orwell Park School

Outcome is shared

Scholarship decisions released week commencing 25th January

International assessment is online. Our Admissions team provide further guidance on the process and they are always on hand to offer guidance and answer any questions.



Academic

What do we look for?

We seek curious, passionate learners who explore ideas beyond the classroom through wide reading, independent research, creative projects, and a genuine love of discovery.

How do we assess?

Candidates sit written English and Maths papers, followed by interviews with the Head and Deputy Head (Academic). The assessment is designed to be a relaxed environment to showcase thinking skills and subject knowledge.

How do we help scholars?

We offer weekly academic scholarship sessions with tailored, challenge-led teaching, plus opportunities to take part in academic trips and competitions to extend learning beyond the classroom.

Scholarship through to senior schools

Academic scholars receive weekly group mentorship directly from the Deputy Head (Academic). These sessions encourage critical thinking on ethical issues and current affairs, the development of research and presentation skills, and provide guidance for interviews and targeted preparation for assessment papers in senior schools.

**“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”
- William Butler Yeats**



For further information please contact

Alex Kemsley
Deputy Head (Academic)

alexkemsley@orwellpark.org
Tel: 01473 653224



All-Rounder

Applicants must demonstrate strong academic potential alongside exceptional talent in at least two co-curricular areas.

What do we look for?

We seek curious, versatile pupils who excel across multiple disciplines—academically, creatively, or athletically. All-round applicants demonstrate leadership, enthusiasm, and a genuine passion for involving themselves fully in every aspect of school life.

How do we assess?

Candidates sit written English and Maths papers, followed by interviews with the Head and Deputy Head (Academic). Alongside this, applicants are assessed in their two chosen disciplines as outlined below.

How do we help scholars?

We offer weekly academic scholarship sessions with tailored, challenge-led teaching, plus opportunities to take part in academic trips and competitions. Alongside this, scholars will have dedicated support in their chosen disciplines, outlined further below.

Scholarship through to senior schools

All-round scholars receive weekly group mentorship directly from the Deputy Head (Academic). They will also receive tailored support and guidance for their two chosen disciplines.



For further information please contact

Alex Kemsley
Deputy Head (Academic)

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Art & Design

What do we look for?

We seek curious, creative applicants with a passion for experimentation, risk-taking, and exploring new techniques. Candidates demonstrate an interest in Art or Design & Technology beyond the classroom, through personal projects or gallery visits can discuss an inspiring artist or style, and are driven by a love of creating.

How do we assess?

Candidates present a selection of recent 2D or 3D work, sketchbooks, textiles, or photos (no mounting required). The day includes an observational pencil drawing, a short colour study, and brief interviews with the Head of Art or DT and the Head.

How do we help scholars?

Art Scholars receive weekly dedicated sessions, access to a studio workspace, and portfolio guidance. They can also attend optional Saturday sessions to further refine their creative talents.

Scholarship through to senior schools

Scholars receive tailored guidance in preparing a portfolio specifically for senior school applications, along with support in interview preparation.

"Every artist was first an amateur."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson



For further information please contact

Louise Greenwood
Head of Art

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Tel: 01473 653224



Drama

What do we look for?

We seek passionate, collaborative pupils with strong dramatic potential, imagination, and a willingness to take creative risks. Prior experience is not required; we value commitment, adaptability to direction, and potential over polish.

How do we assess?

Candidates perform a short prepared monologue and participate in a practical workshop covering improvisation, and creative exercises exploring movement, voice, or devising. The day concludes with discussions with the Head of Drama and the Head to evaluate communication, creativity, and attitude.

How do we help scholars?

Drama Scholars follow a supportive and challenging programme that develops confidence, creativity, and performance skills. Pupils benefit from dedicated scholar sessions, optional extra drama lessons, enrichment opportunities such as theatre visits and workshops, and regular performance opportunities. Individual or small-group LAMDA lessons and preparation for LAMDA examinations further support each pupil's development.

Scholarship through to senior schools

Pupils build confidence through regular performance practice, text work, audition technique, and interview preparation, supported by mock scholarship workshops and individual guidance. This ensures they approach assessments with confidence, skill, and a strong creative voice.

“Drama is life with the dull bits cut out.”
- Alfred Hitchcock



For further information please contact

Darren Boddice
Head of Drama

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Music

What do we look for?

We seek musical potential, curiosity, and natural musical instinct. Candidates usually work at Grade 4 standard or above, demonstrating a love of music, commitment to their instrument or voice, and a eagerness to perform and learn from feedback.

How do we assess?

The assessment includes a short performance, simple aural activities, a brief musical discussion, and, where appropriate, a short sight-reading or quick-learning task, along with an informal conversation about musical interests and experiences with the Director of Music. This is followed by a meeting with the Head.

How do we help scholars?

Music Scholars follow an inspiring programme with weekly lessons, daily practice room access, and regular performance opportunities. They receive expert guidance in practice, repertoire, theory, and composition within a supportive musical community.

Scholarship through to senior schools

We offer tailored preparation to develop repertoire, performance, aural skills, sight-reading, and musical literacy. Mock auditions build confidence, ensuring pupils leave Year 8 prepared and excited for their next steps.

“Without music, life would be a mistake.”
- Friedrich Nietzsche



For further information please contact

Tom Stapleton
Director of Music

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Sport

What do we look for?

We look for pupils with strong athletic potential, a positive attitude, and a clear commitment to sport. This includes good coordination, balance, speed, agility, and age-appropriate sport-specific skills. We value coachable pupils who respond well to feedback, show resilience, work effectively in teams, and demonstrate enthusiasm for training, competition, and representing the school.

How do we assess?

Pupils will be given an introduction to OPS Sport, a fitness test and some sport-specific exercises, followed by an informal chat with the Head of Sports Development. This is followed by a meeting with the Head.

How do we help scholars?

Sports Scholars receive a structured programme with access to high-quality coaching and specialist support. Individual development plans are reviewed regularly, alongside opportunities to represent and lead the school teams in fixtures, festivals, and tours.

Scholarship through to senior schools

Pupils will experience scholarship-style assessments, learn how to train and reflect effectively, and understand expectations at senior schools. Support is provided with applications and references, alongside opportunities to build leadership, confidence, and sport-specific knowledge.

“Champions keep playing until they get it right.”
- Billie Jean King



For further information please contact

Sam Webb-Snowling
Head of Sports Development

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Pathway of an OPS Scholar



Get onboard

We support our Orwell Park scholars in our inspiring environment, guided by expert staff who help them fulfill their potential.



Explore

We encourage your child to discover their passions and enjoy learning, with hands-on guidance from subject experts who nurture curiosity and confidence.



Prepare

We help pupils develop their skills and showcase their talents through portfolios, CVs, performance practice, and other activities that build confidence and readiness for the next stage.



Next Steps

We guide pupils smoothly toward senior school scholarship opportunities, helping them take ownership of their journey and moving forward with confidence.



Next steps

We are delighted that you are considering Orwell Park School for Year 7 entry and the Scholarship Programme. Whether you are an existing member of our community or exploring Orwell Park for the first time, we are here to guide you through the process.

To continue your child's journey towards Year 7 entry, we encourage families to explore our scholarship opportunities, arrange a visit, and complete the registration and scholarship application forms by the published deadlines.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to our assessment day(s), after which awards will be confirmed. International applications will be assessed online.

For further information and to apply, please visit our website www.orwellpark.co.uk/scholarships



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