SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS
2026 ENTRY

RYDE SCHOOL
WITH UPPER CHINE

An island school with a global outlook

Contents

Principle

Academic Scholarship 2026 Entry Years 7-9

Academic Scholarship 2026 Entry Sixth Form

Sport Scholarship 2026 Entry Years: 7, 9 & Sixth Form

Sailing Scholarship 2026 Entry Years: 7, 9 & Sixth Form

Music Scholarship 2026 Entry Years: 7, 9 & Sixth Form

Visual Arts Scholarship 2026 Entry Years: 7, 9 & Sixth Form

Performing Arts Scholarship 2026 Entry Years: 7, 9 & Sixth Form

Other Scholarships 2026 Entry

Key Dates for Ryde School Scholarships for entry to Years 7, 9 and Sixth Form in September 2026

Principle: *Scholarships and Exhibitions provide opportunities for individuals who have developed particular skills, predominantly but not exclusively on the Isle of Wight, to attend Ryde School. Their involvement with the School will further develop their own skills and also enrich the student body in key areas of the School.*

- ***No Scholarship or Exhibition attracts a direct fee discount***
- ***There are two levels of academic awards: Scholarships and Exhibitions. Being awarded an Academic Scholarship into Years 7, 9 and the Sixth Form allows access to means-tested bursaries up to a maximum of 90% of fees. Academic Exhibitions allow access to bursaries up to a maximum of 25% of fees***
- ***There is one level of co-curricular awards: Scholarships. Being awarded Sport, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Music and Sailing Scholarships into Years 7 and 9 allows access to means-tested bursaries up to a maximum of 50% of fees and into the Sixth Form up to 90%***
- ***All Rounder (McIsaac) Scholarships may be awarded by the Head Master to a candidate showing exceptional qualities in more than one area and allow access to bursaries of up to 90% of fees***

There is a scholarship programme of support and opportunity for pupils receiving Scholarships and Exhibitions which is detailed in the booklet. All awards are subject to review: there will be a presumption of renewal but the School reserves the right to remove awards if a pupil is not showing an appropriate scholarly attitude. A warning will be issued prior to any removal of an award. All applications for Scholarships should be submitted via the online link on the Scholarships and Bursaries page of the School website: https://www.rydeschool.org.uk/scholarships-and-bursaries. The closing date for applications is Friday 31 October 2025.

If you wish to apply for a means-tested bursary you should indicate this in your scholarship application and you will be sent a link to complete the online Financial Circumstances Summary form. Once the scholarship awards have been made, should your son or daughter be successful in gaining a scholarship, you will receive a link to our online Bursary Portal to complete a detailed application. **Please note that applications for Scholarships and Financial Circumstances Summary forms must both be received by the deadline dates which are shown on the website and in this booklet, you will be informed of the deadline for the Bursary Portal application in the Scholarship Award letter.**

For applicants moving into Years 7, 9 and the Sixth Form in September 2026 it is possible to apply for both an Academic Scholarship and either a Sports, Music, Arts or Sailing Scholarship. A maximum of two scholarships can be applied for in any one year. It would, however, be extremely rare for two awards to be made to one applicant.

BACK TO CONTENTS

YEARS 7 & 9

Criteria:

- Year 6 or 8 pupil – internal and external candidates may apply
- Current school reports indicate excellent levels of academic attainment and effort

Process:

- Non Verbal Reasoning, Maths, English, Puzzle and Problem Solving, Creative Comprehension and Continuous Writing tests
- Shortlisted candidates have an interview with at least two senior members of staff

Expectation:

Pupils awarded an Academic Scholarship or Exhibition would be expected to:

- Be a role model to peers and younger pupils in all areas of School life
- Maintain high levels of academic progress and effort
- Demonstrate an enthusiasm for academic study
- Participate fully in the academic life of the School

These expectations will be reviewed on an annual basis. Removal of a scholarship award will not necessarily lead to the removal of any bursary.

Provision:

- Scholars' Mentor
- Intellectual Interests Programme

In addition to academic scholarships, exhibitions, which recognise talent but not at scholarship level, may be awarded. These awards, however, have more limited bursary support.

Timing: Entrance tests: Saturday 8 November 2025, interviews for those shortlisted 17-21 November 2025 at Ryde School.

Deadline for applications: Friday 31 October 2025

BACK TO CONTENTS

SIXTH FORM

Criteria:
- Year 11 students – internal and external candidates may apply
- Current school reports and predicted GCSE grades indicate excellent levels of attainment and effort

Process:
- Non Verbal Reasoning, Maths, English, Puzzle and Problem Solving, Creative Comprehension and General Essay tests
- Shortlisted candidates sit two written papers and interviews in their chosen subjects
- Interviews with senior staff

Expectations:
Students awarded a Sixth Form Scholarship or Exhibition will be expected to:
- Be a role model to both peers and younger pupils
- Maintain high levels of academic progress and effort
- Act as an ambassador for their subject both within the School and in a wider context
- Demonstrate an enthusiasm for academic study
- Participate fully in the life of the School

Provision:
- Book or magazine allowance
- Sixth Form Scholars' Mentor
- Intellectual Programme

How can candidates prepare for Academic Scholarships?
We recommend that all students look at the familiarisation materials provided: https://app.questassessments.com/public/taster/rswuc

BACK TO CONTENTS

YEAR 7

Criteria:

- A high level of potential in major team sports at Ryde School: rugby (boys), netball (girls), hockey and cricket (boys and girls).
- (If the above sports have yet to be accessed) Clear evidence of advanced physical literacy, athletic potential and hand-eye coordination.
- Playing at a strong school A team or high club standard in at least one of the above sports.
- (If the above sports have yet to be accessed) Outstanding and consistent performer across sports and fixtures played at primary/ prep school or club.
- The ability to perform highly and willingness to contribute consistently across multiple sports at Ryde is given particularly favourable consideration.

Process:

- Candidates will be assessed for potential in a variety of Ryde School's major sports. They are required to do a carousel of rugby, hockey and cricket activities (boys) or netball, hockey and cricket activities (girls). Pupils will be required to participate in all of them and their effort, progress and potential will be recorded. Assessors will be looking for potential rather than developed ability in each sport.
- Candidates will be given a fitness assessment and will be asked to participate in unfamiliar sports and teamwork tasks.
- If applicants have an additional sport they excel at, which is not featured on the carousel, then they should provide details of achievements.
- Sport Awards depend upon successful completion of the School entrance assessment.

Provision:

- Specialist coaching sessions
- Strength and conditioning sessions
- Annual sports-related visits
- Mentoring by specialist staff and/or senior pupils

BACK TO CONTENTS

YEAR 9

Criteria:

- A high level of skill in at least two sports, one of which must be a Ryde School major team sport: rugby (boys), netball (girls), hockey and cricket (boys, girls)
- Playing at a strong school A team or high club standard in at least one of the above sports.
- Clear evidence of advanced physical literacy, athletic potential and hand-eye coordination.
- The ability to perform highly and willingness to contribute consistently across more than one team sport at Ryde is given particularly favourable consideration.

Process:

- Candidates applying for a Sports Scholarship into Year 9 must indicate which Ryde School major sport they will be offering as a primary sport and which further sports they are able to offer.
- Candidates will be asked to participate in an assessment in their chosen sports as well as our other major sports to assess their potential to contribute more widely to the sports programme.
- Candidates will also be given a fitness assessment as well as an interview with senior staff.
- Awards depend on successful completion of School entrance assessment.

How can candidates prepare for Year 7 and 9 Sport Scholarship assessments?

Candidates will be assessed in ability and potential in a variety of Ryde School's major team sports. They are required to do a carousel of rugby, hockey and cricket activities (boys) or netball, hockey and cricket activities (girls). Having some experience in these sports will be beneficial, however assessors will always aim to identify potential rather than solely developed ability with younger pupils who may not have experienced these sports at primary school age. For those sports where candidates have little experience, we would recommend practising their skills (e.g. hockey dribbling in the garden) and training their fitness (e.g. running/cycling) so they can be as fully prepared for the day as possible.

The ability to perform well in all three major sports will strengthen a candidate's opportunity. Specific skills will be assessed within each sport and the candidate's work ethic, teamwork and adaptability will be observed. In addition candidates will be given a fitness assessment involving a range of fitness tests which will test the following components of physical fitness: Muscular endurance (eg one minute sit ups/press ups, Cardiovascular endurance (yo-yo test), Muscular Power (eg standing/vertical jump), Speed and Agility (eg 30m sprint and Illinois agility test).

The assessors will be made up of Ryde School Sports staff including the Heads of Cricket, Hockey, Netball and Rugby and the Director of Sport. There will also be an external assessor who is a Director of Sport from a mainland school to make sure fairness and impartiality are demonstrated.

BACK TO CONTENTS

SIXTH FORM

Criteria:

- Outstanding level of skill in one or more Ryde School major team sports: rugby (boys), netball (girls), hockey and cricket (boys, girls).
- Playing school or club sport to a very high standard.
- County or Academy level (or equivalent).
- The ability to perform highly and willingness to contribute consistently across more than one major sport at Ryde is given particularly favourable consideration.
- Achieve GCSE requirement for Sixth Form entry.

Process:

- Internal candidates will be assessed in their chosen sport(s) during their games lessons. External candidates will be observed in a club or school setting by a Ryde School specialist if this is practical, if not, they will be asked to submit references and video footage. Where viable candidates may be asked to complete an assessment at Ryde School.
- Completion of a fitness assessment.
- Interview with senior staff.

Expectations:

All Sports Scholars will be expected to:

- Be a role model to peers in all areas of School life, but especially in sport – this includes upholding our Ryde School Sport expectations of wearing correct kit and being on time, working hard and working together.
- Participate fully in the sporting life of the School and be available for School matches/fixtures throughout the year, even in unfamiliar or non-scholarship sports if needed.
- Attend weekly scholars' coaching and fitness sessions at School and attend guest speaker seminars or trips

In addition, Sixth Form Sport Scholars are expected to:

- Attend scholars' coaching sessions after School most weeks.
- Mentor younger sports scholars.
- Act as an ambassador for their subject both within the School and in a wider context.

Provision:

- Specialist coaching sessions
- Strength and conditioning sessions
- Annual sports-related visits
- Mentoring by specialist staff and/or senior pupils

BACK TO CONTENTS

YEAR GROUPS: 7, 9 & SIXTH FORM

Criteria:

- Competitive sailing at club level
- Experience and proven track record of successful elite racing

Process:

For the sailing assessment, candidates are asked to provide evidence from their choice of at least three of the following:

- Reference from sailing captain, Commodore or race officer from their local sailing club outlining their skills, experience and ability and specific to sailing rather than personal characteristics
- List of results from national or reputable local competitions. A range of results over several different regattas/races must be submitted to show continuity and development
- Written statement (maximum one typed page) outlining current experience and the personal goals, aims and objectives for their sailing future
- Practical assessment (to take place at Tackt-Isle). Advanced planning will be required for this assessment type and it is likely to take place on a Saturday.
- Plus successful completion of School entrance assessment.

Expectations:

- Be a role model to peers and younger pupils in all areas of School life, but especially in sailing
- Participate fully in sailing activities and clubs
- Be available for School competitions, specifically Eric Twiname TR event, BSDRA Southerns and BSDRA Finals
- Attend scholars' coaching sessions
- Demonstrate an enthusiasm for School sailing including sailing during games for a minimum of two terms
- Act as an ambassador for sailing both within the School and in a wider context

Provision:

- Opportunity to sail within School programmes – Individual coaching
- Opportunity to take part in sailing competitions (locally and internationally)

BACK TO CONTENTS

Music Scholarship 2026 Entry

YEAR 7

Criteria:

- Have the potential to be Grade 4/5 or equivalent on principal instrument by the time they start at Ryde School
- An expectation of an ability to sing or play a second instrument, but not essential

Process:

- Audition with music staff – two contrasting pieces. Followed by discussion about music and their performance
- Sight-reading test on principal instrument
- Aural tests of approximately Grade 5 standard
- General interview with music staff
- Interviews with senior staff
- Successful completion of School entrance assessment

Year 9

Criteria:

- Performing at Grade 5/6 standard on one instrument
- An expectation of an ability to sing or play a second instrument, but not essential

Process:

- Audition with music staff – two contrasting pieces. Followed by discussion about music and their performance
- Sight-reading test on main instrument
- Aural tests of approximately Grade 6 standard
- General interview with music staff
- Interviews with senior staff
- Successful completion of School entrance assessment

BACK TO CONTENTS

SIXTH FORM

Criteria:
- Performing at Grade 7/8 standard on one instrument
- An expectation of an ability to sing or play a second instrument, but not essential

Process:
- Audition with music staff – two contrasting pieces. Followed by discussion on pieces
- Sight-reading test on main instrument
- Aural tests of approximately Grade 8 standard
- General interview with music staff
- Written music theory paper set at appropriate standard
- Interviews with senior staff
- Meet entry requirements to Sixth Form

Expectations of all year groups:
- Demonstrate an enthusiasm for making music
- Demonstrate themselves as being a role model within the Music Department
- Participate fully in the musical life of the School involving themselves in: choirs, orchestras, chamber ensembles according to interest and expertise
- Take a leading role in class music lessons
- With other music scholars, organise and perform in a busy concert programme
- Act as an ambassador for the subject both within the School and in a wider context

Provision:
- Instrumental lessons for one instrument
- Weekly musicianship lessons
- Trips to two professional concerts each year

How can candidates prepare for Music Scholarship assessments?

Candidates should prepare a piece on their primary instrument, and ideally their secondary instrument, that showcases their musicianship and technical proficiency; while memorisation is not required, it is encouraged. They should be ready for ABRSM-style aural tests and demonstrate an ability to discuss dynamics, tempo and style using appropriate technical vocabulary. Sight-reading should reflect a strong grasp of rhythm, pitch, articulation and stylistic interpretation. In the interview, candidates should express enthusiasm for ensemble participation and a commitment to regular recital opportunities, articulating their musical aspirations with an awareness of their strengths and future development. Additionally, they should confidently discuss their musical interests, demonstrating knowledge of different genres, composers and musicians with insight.

BACK TO CONTENTS

YEAR GROUPS: 7, 9 & SIXTH FORM

Criteria:
Scholarships will be awarded to candidates who demonstrate a high level of skill in Art, Design or Technology. Evidence through a portfolio of prior achievement in at least one area.

Process
Candidates will:

- have an interview with the Head of Art/Design Technology to review their portfolio and explore their interests.
- be required to complete a timed assessment set by the Head of Art/Design Technology in their chosen medium
- have a general interview with the Head Master or a senior member of staff to explore general interests and academic studies
- be required to successfully complete the School's entrance assessments

Expectations:
Candidates awarded an Arts scholarship will be expected to:

- Demonstrate an enthusiasm for the Arts
- Participate in the Visual Arts Award tutorial sessions, where they will be given expert guidance in art/design techniques.
- Take a leading role in class art/design technology lessons
- Act as an ambassador for the subject both within the School and in a wider context.

Provision:

- Annual allowance, used under the guidance of relevant Heads of Department
- Appropriate subject visits/events
- Inclusion within other scholarship provision if relevant
- Due to the flexible nature of the award, bespoke programmes of support/opportunity will be created for students receiving this award

How can candidates prepare for Visual Arts Scholarship assessments?
Students will be required to bring an Art portfolio to the Art Awards assessment process. This should include evidence of observational drawing, development work; how ideas visually progress through uses of materials, supportive artists who inspire ideas as well as outcomes of work. This may be shown as one whole project or elements from different projects. These will then be discussed in a short interview with the Head of Art. The assessment will also consist of a timed observational drawing, capturing how students record core observational skills using the formal elements; line, form, tone and texture.

BACK TO CONTENTS

YEAR GROUPS: 7, 9 & SIXTH FORM

Criteria:
Awards will be made to candidates who demonstrate significant ability as stage performers combined with the desire to be extensively involved in the theatrical programme at Ryde School.

Process:
Candidates will:

- Perform two contrasting monologues from professionally published scripts (with a maximum performance time of three minutes per speech). The pieces will have been chosen, prepared and learnt with the aim of showing the candidate's vocal and physical skills to best advantage. Copies of the monologues to be sent to the School ahead of the audition.
- Participate in a group workshop
- Have an opportunity to demonstrate any other performance skills such as Singing or Dance, though these will not form the prime determinant of success.
- Attend an interview with the performing arts staff to discuss their experience and overall interest in performance.
- Attend a general interview with senior staff.
- Successfully complete the School's entrance assessments

Expectations:
Candidates awarded a Performing Arts Scholarship will be expected to:

- Display such personal qualities as enthusiasm, discipline, initiative, imagination and dedication as well as be able to demonstrate their ability to act as a role model to others
- Participate in a range of co-curricular School productions and demonstrate sufficient interest and aptitude to pursue Drama at least to GCSE level for year 7 and 9 entry and at A Level/IB for Sixth Form entry

Provision:

- Annual allowance, used under the guidance of relevant Heads of Department
- Appropriate subject visits/events
- Inclusion within other scholarship provision if relevant
- Due to the flexible nature of the award, bespoke programmes of support/opportunity will be created for students receiving this award

How can candidates prepare for Performing Arts Award assessments?
During the audition, candidates must perform from memory in front of both the panel and fellow applicants. Their contrasting monologues should showcase strong characterisation through voice and gesture, as well as a clear understanding of context. To demonstrate versatility across performance platforms, candidates are encouraged to prepare a song and, if possible, a dance in any genre (music sent ahead of time). During the workshop, they will be expected to respond to panel feedback, displaying adaptability and growth. Additionally, candidates should be ready to discuss their experiences in performance, both as a participant and as an audience member. No prior experience is required – untutored and inexperienced performers are welcome to apply.

BACK TO CONTENTS

McISAAC SCHOLARSHIP

Principle:
To provide the Head Master with the option of awarding an All-Round Scholarship (that may also include bursarial support) to candidates who have much to contribute to life at Ryde School and who would benefit socially and academically from a Ryde School education but might not otherwise qualify for a Scholarship. The award could for example be applied to a candidate who shows strength in a number of areas but just fails to reach scholarship standard in any one field. No direct application can be made for these awards and all awards are made at the discretion of the Head Master.

Provision:
- Dependent on fields in which the Scholarship is awarded.

BACK TO CONTENTS

Timetable for Ryde School Scholarships for entry to Years 7, 9 and Sixth Form in September 2026

Deadline for all applications:	**Friday 31 October 2025**
Entrance tests for entry to Y7 & Y9: (Academic Scholarship applicants will sit extra tests in puzzles and problem solving and creative comprehension)	**Saturday 8 November 2025**
Sixth Form Academic Scholarship exams	**Saturday 8 November 2025**
Interviews, Exams and Assessments*: (Shortlisted academic candidates and all candidates for Sport, Arts and Music) *sailing assessments will be on an ad hoc basis	**17-21 November 2025**
Results sent out (by email)	**Friday 12 December 2025 at the latest**
All scholarship applications should be submitted on the appropriate form on the Scholarships, Exhibitions & Bursaries page of the School website: rydeschool.org.uk/scholarships-and-bursaries	

BACK TO CONTENTS

SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS
2026 ENTRY

Ryde School, Queen's Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 3BE, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1983 617970 admissions@rydeschool.net rydeschool.org.uk/scholarships-and-bursaries