

11+ TOOLKIT

for Year 7 applicants 2025

*A step-by-step guide
to the assessment process*

Including useful information on Bursaries and Scholarships



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This guide will take you **step-by-step** through the **assessment process**, including everything you need to know about applying for **Bursaries** and **Scholarships**.

There are also **key dates** so you can plan ahead and **useful tips** for making the process as painless as possible.





A warm welcome

As a founding school of the Girls' Day School Trust, Brighton Girls has a significance in the history of girls' education. The spirit of the early pioneers, whose names are remembered in our four Houses, Grey, Gurney, Lyttelton and Stanley, is as strong as it has ever been. Today, we occupy a unique position: we are an all-through school in the heart of the city of Brighton; we are as eclectic, enterprising, and creative as the city itself. And we command equal levels of affection.

At Brighton Girls, innovative teaching, reimagined classroom spaces and a keen sense of social responsibility, make this a place where girls can truly learn without limits.

Our girls are courageous, because they know where their strengths lie, they act with kindness, because they appreciate the value of community. Above all, we hope that they will develop the confidence and the character to go out and make a positive difference in the world, understanding that the real impact is felt when courage and kindness combine.



Rosie McColl MA (Oxon), MPhil
Head of Brighton Girls

Our aims and values

As a GDST school

We always put girls First.

They are the focus of everything we do.

We are Fearless.

We act and speak with conviction and commitment and we are not afraid of thinking differently.

We are Forward-thinking.

We stay ahead through purposeful innovation.

We are a Family of schools.

We support each other and share our learning across our unique network.

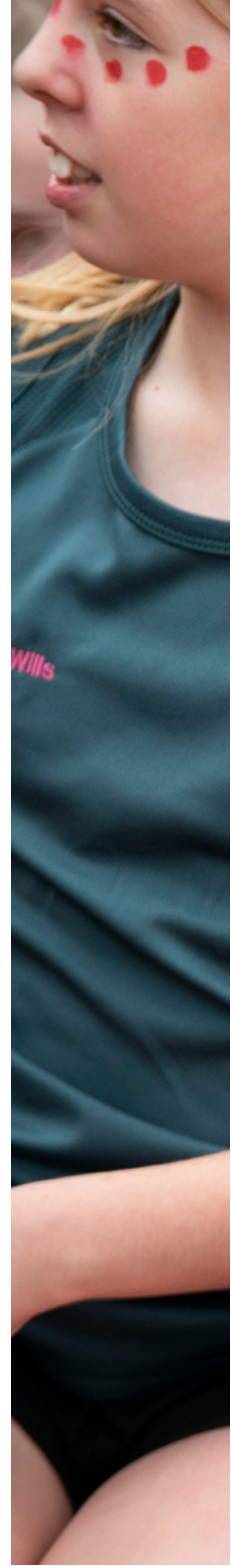
We are proud to be a beacon of the Girls' Day School Trust, a unique family of 25 schools across the country and specialists in girls' education for over 150 years.

Our Aims

At Brighton Girls GDST, we strive to create an environment where students:

- Are fully supported in every endeavour
- Feel free to shine academically and socially
- Are able to discover and develop their own character, strengths and interests, yet also value collective endeavour
- Have a strong sense of community and the responsibilities and opportunities this involves
- Have the confidence to go beyond what they think they can achieve
- Without exception, feel they are nurtured and belong
- Will look back at their school years with happiness
- Learn to be resilient and positive
- Leave school fully equipped to succeed in life

Our vision is of generations of Brighton Girls with the ability to lead and make a real difference in the world and who are both bold and kind.





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The assessment process timeline

A step-by-step guide through the assessment process, including deadlines for Bursary and Scholarship applications.



1

Gather materials

We have an online prospectus and virtual tours of the school that you can view on our website.

2

Visit

Open Doors experiences – tours, tasters, meet the Head opportunities – throughout the year.

3

Apply

Applications are now open, final deadline Thursday 31 October 2024.

Bursary applications:

Bursary applications open in September. Final application deadline Thursday 31 October 2024.

Scholarship applications
Applications are now open, final deadline Thursday 31 October 2024.

[Apply Online](#)

4

Post application

We will arrange an interview with the Head or a senior member of staff and take up references from schools.

5

Assessments

Assessment Day Saturday 7 December 2024

- Verbal + Non Verbal Reasoning
- Maths
- English Comprehension
- Creative Writing



6

Scholarships assessments

Entry into the Academic Scholarships is automatic, but all other scholarships – Art, Dance, Drama, Music and Sport have their own criteria and application forms – These are separate sections of our online application so be sure to complete these and submit personal statements and any references by Thursday 31 October 2024. Assessments take place in November 2024.

November 2024
Scholarship assessments

7

Offers

Offers will be made to applicants on Monday 6 January 2024.

8

Acceptance deadline

All acceptances and associated documents should be returned by Saturday 1 March 2024.

9

Welcome

We hold welcome days in the Summer Term to bring our new girls together. We have an Offer Holder's Event in January, a team building activity in May and an official Welcome Day in June. Our Parent Reps organise get-togethers over the summer.

Key dates

Taster days, meetings with the Head and tours of the School -
we have a full programme running through the Autumn Term.

Timings/attendance of assessments

Saturday 21 September 2024	Whole School Open Day
Friday 27 September 2024	Brighton Girls Rock - 11+ Taster Day
Thursday 31 October 2024	Bursary application deadline
Thursday 31 October 2024	Application deadline
Thursday 31 October 2024	Scholarship application deadline
Saturday 7 December 2024	Assessment Day
Monday 6 January 2025	Offer letters released to parents
Saturday 1 March 2025	Deadline for confirming your acceptance of a place offered

We will, of course, notify you immediately of any alterations to the format or timing of the entrance assessments to ensure that your child's 11+ experience is as smooth as possible.

If, for some reason, you cannot attend our Assessment Date specified, please contact Admissions to make alternative arrangements.

Our full Admissions Policy may be viewed on our website - brightongirls.gdst.net.



Year 7 - 2025 assessments

Written Assessments

- Verbal Reasoning test
- Non-Verbal Reasoning test
- Mathematics
- English

Reasoning Papers

These are nationally standardised tests, factoring in date of birth, deliberately designed so that no prior knowledge or experience is called for other than the ability to read, to write, to think and reason.

Verbal Reasoning (VR) - The Verbal Reasoning test measures a pupil's ability to engage with new information by measuring their ability to engage with language in order to identify their wider reasoning ability and potential.

Non-Verbal Reasoning (NVR) – The Non-Verbal Reasoning test involves no reading, so can provide insight into the abilities of pupils who think more easily in images than words.

You cannot prepare specially for these tests, but practice papers are widely available online and a degree of familiarisation with the format of these papers is often helpful.

Mathematics

The paper is divided into TWO sections: Mathematical Skills and Problem Solving. Girls will be expected to demonstrate confidence in number, including fractions and decimals. Note that there is no formal algebra on the paper. Girls will be expected to show clear, concise working to support their answers. The use of a calculator is not permitted.

Areas of mathematics covered will include:

- Arithmetic of whole numbers.
- Understanding of place value, including ordering of decimals and multiplication and division by 10, 100, etc.
- Simple arithmetic of decimals
- Converting metric units
- Ordering of negative numbers
- Simple fractions and percentages
- Co-ordinates in all four quadrants
- Calculations involving money, weight, time and distance
- Interpretation of charts and scales
- Describing number sequences, and finding the next term
- Finding perimeter and area by counting squares
- Symmetry

English

The paper is divided into TWO sections: Girls will be expected to present their ideas in a coherent manner applying the basic rules of grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Part 1: Comprehension

Passages will be from a twentieth century or modern prose fiction text and will touch on experiences to which students should be able to relate. Candidates will need to show that they can understand and think about what they read.

Part 2: Creative Writing

The topics may be related to the themes of the comprehension and will offer candidates the opportunity to write autobiography, fiction or description. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate an ability to structure their response and to write cogently and coherently. They will be rewarded for imaginative use of language as well as accuracy. Marks are also awarded for creative potential.

Key dates:

Candidates will be invited to an assessment day on Saturday 7 December 2024.

Stage Two

Interviews

During the admissions process every individual applying for a place at Brighton Girls will have an interview with a senior member of staff. No two interviews are the same and we do not have a standard list of questions that we use. We understand that the academic assessments are often something that the students are nervous about, and that the idea of an 'interview' may also seem quite intimidating to the average 11 year old. These one-to-one meetings aren't intended as a test, more an opportunity to get to know one another.

Other practicalities

References

Alongside our admissions process we will also take into careful consideration a candidate's reference from her current school.

Learning Support - SENDCO

The school is committed to the early identification of learners with difficulties and/or disabilities. We continue to assess and adapt our levels of support appropriate to our student's needs. At admission each pupil is looked at as an individual case to see whether the school can effectively meet her needs. Every effort is made to accommodate the pupil's needs where possible. A child would only be refused entry if she was unable to attain the required academic standard or if the school was unable to cope with the child's disability after having taken reasonable steps to do so.

In accordance with our Equal Opportunities Policy, the School will make reasonable adjustments to the admissions process for a particular pupil and, where applicable, to the School's provision for specific learning needs in so far as these can be met given the nature of the School. We ask parents to contact School Admissions to discuss any special arrangements which are required in respect of the assessment process.

Scholarships

Scholarships

Students may apply for any combination of Scholarships. Scholarships cannot be deferred to a later point of entry and are time-limited. Pupils holding these awards are expected to be excellent ambassadors for Brighton Girls and their performance is reviewed annually.

Academic Scholarships

A small number of academic scholarships each year will be awarded to students who perform very highly in our entrance assessments. There is no need to apply for these separately. All candidates sitting 11+ Assessments will automatically be considered.

11+ Temple Scholarships

A small number of Temple Scholarships are awarded to candidates who we believe will make a significant contribution to the life of the school. We are looking for students who will inspire their peers and act as ambassadors both for Brighton Girls and the Girls' Day School Trust.

Areas for particular consideration are Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Sport or any other activity to which the candidate brings a special enthusiasm or interest. Students may apply for up to three areas for consideration.

Candidates will be initially assessed on the basis of a completed Temple Scholarship application form alongside their performance in the Assessment.

TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIPS

Key dates:

Application deadline: Thursday 31 October 2024
Assessment Days will be held between 19 November - 22 November 2024.

TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP: ART

Art scholarships are awarded as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards. Our Art Scholars are expected to demonstrate a passionate commitment to, and genuine interest in the arts. As such Scholars are expected to contribute fully to the artistic life of the school and show real commitment to our extra-curricular programme.

Assessment

- Students will be required to present a portfolio of current work, which should include examples of: drawing; painting; 3D work (in photographic form); and a sketchbook of personal work, completed outside of school or clubs; a written piece about an artist or exhibition (guidance will be provided for the written piece). Portfolios which do not meet size guidelines and any 3D work not in photographic form will not be accepted.
- Applicants will be invited for a short informal interview. Students will be asked a range of questions related to their portfolio and interests in Art, including artists exhibitions recently attended or viewed online. They will also be set a drawing task.

Key dates:

Application deadline: Thursday 31 October 2024
Assessment: Portfolios should be submitted by Friday 15 November 2024. Following consideration of portfolios by the Director of Art interviews will take place at Brighton Girls in November 2024 for September 2025 applicants.



TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP: DANCE

Dance scholarships are awarded as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards. Our Dance Scholars are expected to demonstrate a passionate commitment to, and genuine interest in, dance. As such, our Scholars are expected to contribute fully to dance at school, show real commitment to our extra-curricular programme and inspire their peers.

Applications for Dance Scholarships are welcomed from students who have attained Grade 3 or equivalent in at least one genre but, at this stage, potential is regarded as being just as important. Students who have not yet reached this standard but who exhibit significant potential may be considered for a Dance Scholarship.

Assessment

- Applicants will be invited to an audition workshop, where they will take part in a short Contemporary-based class and will also have the opportunity to demonstrate creativity in response to a choreographic task.
- Dancers will be assessed on their physical, technical and expressive capabilities, as well as their engagement, enthusiasm and ability to work effectively with others.
- The assessment will conclude with an interview.

Key dates:

Application deadline: Thursday 31 October 2024

Assessment: Following consideration of applications by the Director of Sport and Dance and Dance Teacher, assessments will take place at Brighton Girls in November 2024 for September 2025 applicants.



TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP: DRAMA

Drama scholarships are awarded as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards. Our Drama Scholars are expected to demonstrate a passionate commitment to, and genuine interest in drama and performance art. As such our Scholars are expected to contribute fully to dramatic arts at school, show real commitment to our extra-curricular programme and inspire their peers.

Assessment

- Students will be invited to take part in a practical Drama workshop lasting around 40 minutes, along with other applicants. This will consist of read-throughs and improvisational tasks to test your ability to work within the group and your creative and imaginative thinking
- Students will be asked to perform one monologue (no longer than two minutes) – this can either be classical or contemporary, but should be age appropriate and we are looking for natural ability so do not feel that the piece has to be over-staged or choreographed
- The audition will conclude with a short interview

Key dates:

Application deadline: Thursday 31 October 2024

Assessment: Following consideration of applications by the Director of Drama auditions will take place at Brighton Girls in November 2024 for September 2025 applicants.



TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP: MUSIC

Music scholarships are awarded to confident and inspirational musicians as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards. Our Music Scholars are expected to demonstrate sound technique and innate musical ability alongside a passionate commitment to, and genuine interest in, music. As such our Scholars are expected to contribute fully to the musical life of the school, show real commitment to our extra-curricular programme and inspire their peers.

All candidates are expected to offer two instruments, which can include voice, though applications are considered from musicians who show outstanding talent in only one instrument.

Applications for Music Scholarships are welcomed from students who have attained Grade 4/5, but at this stage potential is regarded as being just as important.

Assessment

- Students will be asked to play two pieces - one on their first instrument and another on their second. An accompanist will be available on the day of the audition but candidates are welcome to organise their own.
- Some questions regarding musicianship and general aural skills will be asked.
- The audition will conclude with a short interview.

Key dates:

Application deadline: Thursday 31 October 2024

Assessment: Following consideration of applications by the Director of Music auditions will take place at Brighton Girls November 2024 for September 2025 applicants.



TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP MUSIC - VOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Vocal Scholarships are offered to pupils who show vocal and musical promise, and who may also be interested in composition and songwriting. Applicants will need to show a genuine interest in singing and performance and a willingness to participate in the musical life of the school.

Assessment

- Students will be required to sing two pieces; they may also opt to perform a third piece on an instrument, but this is not a requirement. An accompanist will be available on the day of the audition, but candidates are welcome to organise their own.
- Some questions regarding musicianship and general aural skills will be asked. Candidates may be asked to perform some simple vocal exercise.
- The audition will conclude with a short interview.

Key dates:

Application deadline: Sunday 31 October 2024

Assessment: Following consideration of applications by the Director of Music auditions will take place at Brighton Girls in November 2024 for September 2025 applicants.



TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP: SPORT

Sport scholarships are awarded to pupils showing particular promise or commitment to sports as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards. Candidates applying for a Sport Scholarship would preferably have experience in a variety of sports, although they must perform in at least one of our major sports: Athletics, Gymnastics, Hockey and Netball - other sports may be considered on an individual basis. We are also interested in those who perform at a high level (at least at club level) in a variety of sports including Cricket, Football and Tennis. Other sports will also be considered.

There is a Sports Scholarship Assessment Day in November 2024, for September 2025 applicants.

Assessment

- Students will be invited to complete an assessment session run by our Director of Sport.
- All aspects of an individual's performance will be considered during the session such as ability, attitude and enthusiasm.
- The assessment will conclude with an interview.

Key dates:

Application deadline: Sunday 29 October 2024
Assessment: Following consideration of applications by the Director of Sports the Sports Scholarships Assessment Day will take place at Brighton Girls in November 2024 for September 2025 applicants.



TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP: SPORT - SKATEBOARD SCHOLARSHIP

Sport scholarships are awarded to pupils showing particular promise or commitment to sports as part of our Temple Scholarship Awards.

Candidates applying for a Sport Skateboard Scholarship would preferably have experience in a variety of sports, with Skateboarding as their lead sport. We are interested in students who perform at a high level (at last club level) in a variety of sports including: Athletics, Gymnastics, Hockey, Netball, Cricket, Football and Tennis. Other sports may be considered on an individual basis.

Assessment

- Students will be invited to complete an assessment session run by our Director of Sport and Skateboard Coach.
- All aspects of an individual's performance will be considered during the session such as ability, attitude and enthusiasm.
- The assessment will conclude with an interview.

Key dates:

Application Deadline: Thursday 31 October 2024

There is a Sports Skateboard Scholarship Assessment in November 2024, for September 2025 applicants.



Bursaries

Bursaries – Brighton Awards

Both the Girls' Day School Trust and Brighton Girls were founded by philanthropists committed to making outstanding education available to young women – a legacy we are proud to continue today. We believe every student who is bright and eager to learn should be given the opportunity to fulfil her potential regardless of financial circumstances. We therefore offer a limited number of bursaries to assist students joining us in Year 7.

These means-tested bursaries are called Brighton Awards, and it is essential that families who may wish to explore financial support options contact our Admissions Department well in advance of the proposed date of admission, so that they have the greatest chance of being considered for the limited funds available. We regret that we are unable consider late requests for additional funding support and all published deadlines will be adhered to.

BRIGHTON AWARDS AVAILABLE IN YEAR 7

Year 7 Bursaries are awarded based on performance in our entrance assessment process.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A BRIGHTON AWARD:

- A student must have performed exceptionally well in our Year 7 Assessment Day.
- The student's parents must be assessed as eligible for a Bursary Award by the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) Financial Means Assessment.

GDST FINANCIAL MEANS ASSESSMENT ELIGIBILITY

Bursary applications are assessed by the GDST, but an initial conversation about eligibility should always be had with our Admissions Department.

On receipt of your application we will advise you of the next steps, which will include completing an assessment of your family income and financial means. Bursary applicants will be assessed by the GDST and our staff may also make an appointment to visit you at home.

On completion of this process, the GDST will advise on whether you are eligible.

Bursary awards are then made by the Scholarship & Bursary Committee at Brighton Girls. These

awards vary in scale as advised following the GDST Financial Means Assessment and local availability. Following assessment the percentage of fee remission awarded is non-negotiable. Awards are highly sought after and only a few are awarded each year. Decisions of the Scholarship & Bursary Committee are final.

A student's academic performance will be a key consideration when the School is deciding whether or not to award a bursary.

Key dates:

All bursary applications must be submitted prior to assessment for entry.

Year 7 2024 Bursary Application Closing Date:
Sunday 31 October 2024.

Bursary system opens for applications in September 2024. Date TBC

Bursaries FAQs

What is the difference between a bursary and a scholarship?

The key difference is that a bursary is means-tested and a scholarship isn't. We offer bursaries so that a GDST education is accessible to the best and the brightest girls, including those who are not in a position to pay full fees.

A bursary takes into account academic ability but its value is directly related to the income and financial resources of the pupil's family.

Scholarships are awarded purely on academic (or sporting, or artistic, or musical) merit, as measured in a competitive entrance exam, and take no account of family income or resources.

Who can apply for a bursary or scholarship?

GDST bursaries and scholarships are available to any student aged 11 and over at a GDST senior school. Most bursaries and scholarships are allocated on entry either to Year 7 or to the Sixth Form.

How much is a bursary or scholarship worth?

Bursaries range from 30% to 100% of fees; however, the amount of any bursary depends on local demand and the funding available. Sometimes awards of a

lesser value may be offered. Pupils who get a full bursary may also get help to meet the cost of their uniforms, lunches and travel.

The values of scholarships vary, but are generally small and more about the honour of the award than the amount given. A scholarship may, however, be supplemented by a bursary.

Who is eligible for a GDST bursary?

To assess who is eligible for a bursary we consider a range of objective criteria including the income and capital resources of the families applying. It is anticipated that bursary awards will last for the duration of the student's time at school.

We re-assess every year to take account of significant changes in family income and circumstances. A bursary may go up or down to reflect these. This ensures those most in need receive our support.

Most higher-value bursaries are awarded to pupils from families with a total income of less than £44,000 per year and who have no capital assets other than their home.

It is highly unlikely that a bursary would be awarded to a family whose annual income is greater than £102,000, other than in very exceptional circumstances.

Could a bursary or scholarship be withdrawn?

Very rarely, the school may withdraw a bursary or scholarship if, for example, you provide inaccurate information, or your child's behaviour or work is unsatisfactory.





Scholarship and Bursary - deadlines and awards criteria

We regret that we are unable consider late requests for additional funding support.

All offers for an Award will be made in writing and subject to the terms and conditions included within that offer. The offer will be final and no further adjustments will be made. All award offers are bespoke to each applicant and confidential.

The tenure of any Award is intended to be for the duration of the student's school career at Brighton Girls, provided that her academic progress, commitment and dedication, general conduct and contribution to the School remains at a high level.

On accepting an Award, parents, and where appropriate pupils, will be asked to sign an agreement which will outline in detail their obligations. This agreement will remain in place throughout the time the pupil remains at Brighton Girls.

IN GENERAL:

Pupils in receipt of an Award are required to contribute significantly to the School and the particular areas set out in their offer letter and agreement. They are required to work hard and contribute positively to the life at the School and .set a good example to other pupils

Parents of Award recipients are expected to work in partnership with the School and support and encourage their children to uphold their obligations.

Failure to meet these obligations may lead to the withdrawal of an Award.



For further information, please contact the Admissions Department on 01273 280 280 or via email to admissions@brightongirls.gdst.net

GDST registered charity number: 306983.

