

Dear Parents

Thank you for showing an interest in the 16+ Music Scholarship. This letter aims to fill in some details and answer some questions.

The examination will be held in January and will consist of a number of practical assessments. Candidates are asked to perform a piece/pieces (maximum of three) on the instrument(s) of their choosing. There will also be sight reading, sight singing, and aural tests. Please note that we are happy to consider vocal candidates.

We will also hear all candidates playing/singing together in an ensemble. The music for this will be provided on the day and will be at an appropriate level for each candidate. If candidates are offering an orchestral instrument and piano, we would ask that they play on the orchestral instrument for this session. If candidates are offering more than one orchestral instrument, we will confirm which we would like them to play.

If your son/daughter has passed Grade VI with a merit or distinction that would be a good indication that he or she is about the right standard to consider entering for the Scholarship. Another indication would be having sung in a choir, enthusiastically, for two or three years. These are by no means the only pointers to a good candidate **so if you are unsure, please contact me to discuss whether or not your son/daughter is eligible**. We are looking for the potential for passing Grade VII or VIII with distinction by the time the candidate leaves school.

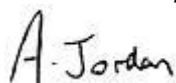
A short conversation about music with myself and Mrs Cooke (Instrumental Studies Co-ordinator) and an interview with the Head Master will also be included during the day. We make every effort to be relaxed and to put candidates at their ease, as we do understand that candidates may well feel very nervous or anxious about the examination.

If you need the services of an accompanist and the accompaniment is particularly tricky, I would be grateful if you were to forward the music to the school at least one week prior to the day of the examination.

In order to help us assess your son's/daughter's ability and potential as well as possible, we would like to read brief written comments from two people who have good knowledge of his/her musicianship. We will write to them asking for these comments, so I would be grateful if you would supply their contact details in the space provided on the application form once you know they are willing to act in this way. Anything they write will only be seen by our full-time music staff and the Head Master, and will be treated as confidential.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at School on 0114 266 8408 or via email at [amjordan@birkdaleschool.org.uk](mailto:amjordan@birkdaleschool.org.uk)

Yours faithfully



Adrian Jordan  
Director of Music