



Fettes College

PIPING AND SNARE
DRUMMING
SCHOLARSHIP



Introduction

from Master in Charge of Piping and Drumming



“

Piping and Drumming is thriving at Fettes College. Our Pipe Band are proud to be the current holders of the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships Junior A Trophy and the CCF Scottish Schools Trio Trophy. We are involved in annual performances at Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace and recently travelled to New York to play in the world famous Tartan Day Parade. Our pipers and drummers perform at every major occasion during the school year.

”

Mr Cameron Drummond
Master in Charge of Piping and Drumming
CR.Drummond@fettes.com



What makes a Piping or Snare Drumming Scholar at Fettes?

A piping or drumming scholar at Fettes will have a passion for their chosen instrument, a drive to improve and succeed. They should aim to use their enthusiasm to elevate the musicians around them and inspire them through sharing their knowledge and skills.

Read more about
Piping and Drumming at Fettes

Piping and Snare Drumming Scholars Programme

For students who perform exceptionally well throughout their assessment and succeed in being awarded a Piping or a Snare Drumming Scholarship, this includes:

- Unique and prestigious performance opportunities
- One free piping or snare drumming lesson each week, in term time, with one of our world renowned experts
- Leadership opportunities within the Pipe Band system at Fettes
- Piping and Snare Drumming Scholars are nurtured and supported by our Instructors and Master in Charge of Pipes and Drums to monitor progress, ensure an even spread of commitments and assist with their musical development.

How to apply for a Piping or Snare Drumming Scholarship at Fettes

To apply for a Piping or a Snare Drumming Scholarship at I3+ or at I6+ please complete this [Application Form](#) by the deadline date (see below).

- I6+ deadline to apply for a 2027 Scholarship
= 2nd November 2026
- I3+ deadline to apply for a 2027 Scholarship
= 13th January 2027
- Late entrants are by exception and this cannot be guaranteed. To avoid disappointment please ensure you meet the deadline.

Candidates can only apply for a maximum of two Scholarships for 2027. We do not recommend applying for the combination Piping / Snare Drumming and Sport or Piping / Snare Drumming and Music as the time commitment to fulfil a student's potential in two of these Scholarships would put an undue burden on the candidate's academic priorities.

Our Master in Charge of Piping and Drumming will be happy to hear from you and answer any specific questions - CR.Drummond@fettes.com

If you have any general questions, please contact a member of our Admissions Team:
admissions@fettes.com

Candidates joining Fettes at I3+ must take an Entrance Assessment in the Autumn Term.

KEY DATES





What to expect on the Assessment Day

At 13+

Candidates entering into our Third Form (Year 9/S2) will first gain an offer of a place at Fettes by attending an assessment in the Autumn Term which will comprise a CAT4 test and 15-20 minute interview with a member of our Senior Management Team.

Candidates sitting Common Entrance will also take the CAT4 test to assist us with setting. Candidates will then return to Fettes for the Scholarship Assessment Day on Tuesday 26th January 2026.

Our 13+ Piping and Snare Drumming Scholarships each fall into **two** components:

1.

Candidates will have an audition of approximately 30 minutes with the Master in Charge of Piping and Drumming. This will include warm up time and performance.

Piping candidates should attempt to tune their own instrument and perform a piece of music (shared in advance) on pipes, as part of their performance. Candidates should aim to display:

- Excellent finger position, posture, technique, and knowledge of embellishments; taorluaths, doublings etc.
- A solid understanding of rhythm and be able to clap/tap tune rhythms to a metronome
- A varied repertoire of around 8-12 tunes from memory, hopefully including Piobaireachd. (they will not be expected to play all of these)
- An interest and experience in exploring piping, out-with the Fettes Community.
- A drive to participate and potentially lead within the Pipe Band system at Fettes, aiming to play in the A Band and take full advantage of all performance opportunities including, concerts, competitions, and tours.

Snare Drumming candidates should use their own sticks and drum (unless happy to play on drum provided) and perform a piece of music (shared in advance) as part of their performance. We welcome pipe recordings to be played along with but are happy to listen to solo snare playing. Candidates should aim to display:

- Excellent traditional stick grip, posture, technique, and knowledge of rudiments; Paradiddles, flams, drags etc.
- A solid understanding of rhythm and be able to clap/tap tune rhythms to a metronome
- A varied repertoire of around 8-12 scores from memory, hopefully including some form of fanfare piece. (They will not be expected to play all of these)
- An interest and experience in exploring drumming and percussion, out-with the Fettes Community.
- A drive to participate and potentially lead within the Pipe Band system at Fettes, aiming to play in the A Band and take full advantage of all performance opportunities including, concerts, competitions, and tours.

2.

A short interview with the Master in Charge of Piping and Drumming.

At 16+

Candidates will attend our Scholarship Assessment Days on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th November 2026 with the Piping and the Snare Drumming Assessments taking place on 10th November.

Our 16+ Piping and Snare Drumming Scholarships each fall into **two** components:

1. Candidates will have an audition of approximately 30 minutes with the Master in Charge of Piping and Drumming. This will include warm up time and performance.

Piping candidates should tune their own instrument and perform a piece of music (shared in advance) on pipes, as part of their performance. Candidates should aim to display:

- Excellent finger position, posture, technique, and knowledge of embellishments; taorluaths, doublings etc.
- A solid understanding of rhythm and be able to clap/tap tune rhythms to a metronome
- A varied repertoire of around 12-20 tunes from memory, hopefully including Piobaireachd. (they will not be expected to play all of these)
- An interest and experience in exploring piping, out-with the Fettes Community.
- A drive to participate and potentially lead within the Pipe Band system at Fettes, aiming to play in the A Band and take full advantage of all performance opportunities including, concerts, competitions, and tours.

Snare Drumming candidates should use their own sticks and drum (unless happy to play on drum provided) and perform a piece of music (shared in advance), as part of their performance. We welcome pipe recordings to be played along with but are happy to listen to solo snare playing. Candidates should aim to display:

- Excellent traditional stick grip, posture, technique, and knowledge of rudiments; Paradiddles, flams, drags etc.
- A solid understanding of rhythm and be able to clap/tap tune rhythms to a metronome
- A varied repertoire of around 12-20 scores from memory, hopefully including some form of fanfare piece. (They will not be expected to play all of these)
- An interest and experience in exploring drumming and percussion, out-with the Fettes Community.
- A drive to participate and potentially lead within the Pipe Band system at Fettes, aiming to play in the A Band and take full advantage of all performance opportunities including, concerts, competitions, and tours.

2. A short interview with the Master in Charge of Piping and Drumming.



What to wear and what to bring with you

We want students to feel comfortable

Please wear your school uniform or alternatively smart comfortable clothing.

We recommend you do not wear a Smart watch of any description, and do not bring a mobile phone. If you do bring these with you, we will ask you to leave these at reception. Please do bring a clear water bottle and clear pencil case.

“

Fettes was the only school in the world to have two piping instructors taking part in the prestigious Glenfiddich Piping Championships at Blair Castle. Only 10 of the world's finest individual pipers qualify to play in this event. Alasdair Henderson and I are proud of our achievements, and thrive in leading piping and drumming at Fettes and in encouraging our Pipe Band to give their very best.

”

Cameron Drummond
Master in Charge of Piping and Drumming



Please note

All Scholarships at Fettes are a mark of significant achievement and are awarded at the discretion of the Head. The maximum fee remission per student is 5%. We do not give detailed feedback on an individual's performance at our Assessment Days and the performance of each Scholarship holder is reviewed annually and is subject to satisfactory progress and behaviour.

Bursaries

Fettes is committed to broadening access to the school by offering means-tested financial support towards the payment of school fees - known as a Bursary. Bursaries can cover 100% of fees payable, depending on the financial circumstances of applicants.

Bursaries at Fettes are not connected to Scholarships. The deadline for applying for a Bursary for entry to Fettes in 2027 is Friday 30th October 2026.

[View our Guide to Bursaries, including how to apply.](#)



Fettes College

If you have any questions, no matter how small,
please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Admissions Team:

Email: admissions@fettes.com

Telephone: +44 (0) 131 311 6744