VERBUM DEI LUCERNA

DEAN CLOSE
KINGHAM HILL
SCHOOL
OXFORDSHIRE

Scholarships

1st & 3rd Form Entry

September 2027

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Overview

Our mission is to provide an excellent all-round education that gives every pupil the opportunity to enjoy outstanding teaching and learning, exceptional pastoral support and a co-curricular programme that offers both breadth and quality. Supported by a special ethos built on Christian principles, at Kingham Hill we aim to produce well-rounded young people of vision and character who are equipped to flourish in their adult lives.

Excellence in its many forms is at the heart of Kingham Hill's success; the kernel of this excellence is our programme of Scholarships. The school recognises and rewards those who display talent, consistently strive for the highest standards and demonstrate servant-heartedness to the rest of the school community.

Each year the school offers a range of Scholarships for pupils joining in the 1st and 3rd Forms. Scholarships are awarded on merit and are not means-tested. They typically range from 5% to 20% remission of day or boarding fees.

All Scholarship candidates are expected to demonstrate communication skills in their written and oral assessments. In addition, there are specific requirements for each of the Scholarship areas. Please refer to the information provided for each type of Scholarship on offer.

Further Information

Please contact us if you have any queries about Scholarships, or the application process for your child.

Telephone: 01608 731884 **Email:** admissions@deanclosekingham.org.uk

Academic Scholarship

Academic Scholars are expected to become leaders in the classroom, inspiring their peers with both the quality of their work and the effort they put into their studies. Once an Academic Scholarship is awarded, it is usually held until the pupil leaves the school subject to maintaining the necessary standards; an existing Scholar does not normally need to reapply for a Scholarship at Sixth Form.

Applicants will be assessed for potential in four areas:

- Vocabulary (word fluency and understanding);
- Mathematics (logical thinking, manipulating numbers and numerical concepts);
- Non-verbal ability (recognising shapes, matching patterns, applying spatial awareness and visual intuition);
- Skills (such as proofreading, perceptual speed and accuracy).

Internal candidates will also be judged on their attitude to learning, as found on their end of term reports. Scholarship applicants are expected to have had a primarily 'Very Productive' or 'Exceptional' attitude to learning in the three key areas of school life (classwork, independent study and mindset) during the previous three reporting periods. School reports from external candidates should provide similar evidence of liberal academic curiosity.

Types of Award

There are two types of Academic Scholarships:

- **School Scholarship**
- **Head's Scholarship** is at the discretion of the Head and awarded to candidates who apply for a School Scholarship but demonstrate an outstanding academic ability and an exceptional attitude to learning.

The award of a Scholarship automatically enrols the Scholar in the Octagon Academic Society. All Awards are reviewed annually, and are maintained subject to the pupil meeting the criteria outlined by the Head of Octagon.

Art Scholarship

Candidates for an Art Scholarship should demonstrate:

- skill, imagination and creative flair in the field of Art and Design;
- a passion for the subject and an eagerness to progress and learn new skills;
- the ability to use a range of materials and techniques;
- the ability to discuss artists they are interested in and galleries they have visited.

The Art Scholarship Assessment is likely to consist of the following:

- the presentation of a portfolio of the candidate's own work in order to demonstrate both depth and breadth of knowledge along with an understanding and ability within the bounds of art, craft and design. Portfolios should include:
  - evidence of a two and three-dimensional understanding in a variety of media;
  - a high level of technical achievement;
  - work that is both observational and experimental;
  - evidence of critical and contextual investigation and thought.
- an observational drawing test in our art studio;
- a short interview with the Head of Art.

A successful Art Scholar will be expected to play a key participatory role in Art Department activities.

Drama Scholarship

Candidates for a Drama Scholarship should demonstrate:

- flair and potential in the fields of dance or drama;
- imagination, enthusiasm and creativity;
- confidence to perform alone and to contribute positively in a group;
- knowledge/interest in theatre, including productions they have seen or been in.

The Drama Scholarship Assessment is likely to consist of the following:

- **Option one:** Presenting a poem or monologue (taken from a play) from memory. A copy of the text must be submitted during the audition.
- **Option two:** Presenting a short dance to music, in the style of the candidate's choice. The candidate must bring a recording of the music to the audition.
- a short interview with the Head of Drama;
- the performance of a scripted piece provided to the candidate at the audition, under the direction of Kingham Hill staff.

A successful Drama Scholar will be expected to take GCSE Drama, participate in LAMDA exams and play a full role in the performing arts extra-curricular programme, including Academy.

The Drama Scholarship includes free speech and drama lessons, plus optional free dance or singing lessons.

Equestrian Scholarship

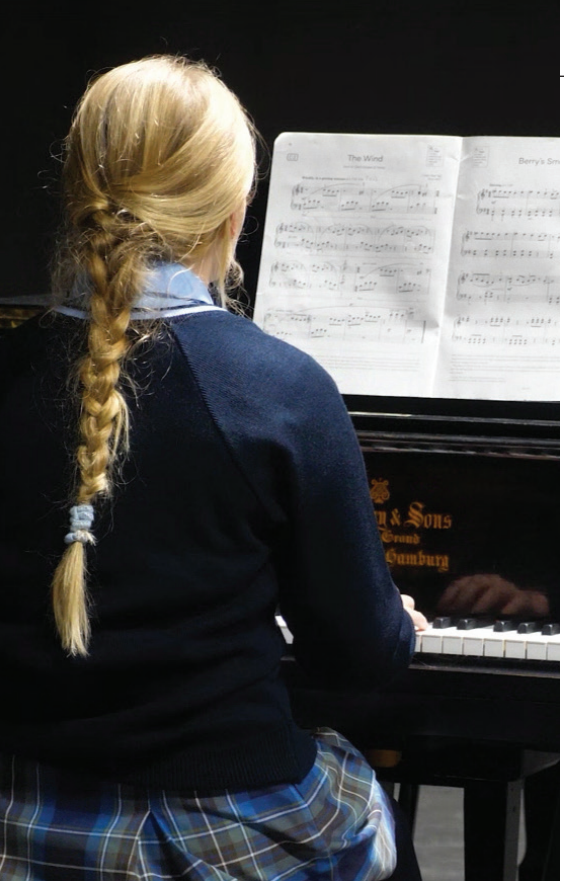
Candidates for an Equestrian Scholarship should demonstrate:

- enthusiasm, commitment and a clear potential within their chosen equestrian discipline;
- the highest standards of sportsmanship and integrity;
- academic engagement and leadership potential.

The Equestrian Scholarship Assessment will be held on Sunday 1st November and is designed to provide applicants with the opportunity to experience the culture of the Dean Close Foundation Equestrian Programme.

Candidates will ride alongside current Foundation riders whilst our coaching team assesses:

- Technical riding ability
- Horsemanship
- Communication
- Coachability
- Confidence
- Teamwork and attitude and commitment.



Music Scholarship

Candidates for a Music Scholarship should demonstrate:

- natural aptitude and passion for all areas of music-making;
- a commitment to developing their talents and willingness to learn;
- an involvement in music-making at their present school;
- achievements, or work towards, at least ABRSM (or equivalent Awarding Body) Grade 2 (for 1st Form entry) or Grade 4 (for 3rd Form entry);
- the ability to read music to a level that is commensurate with their playing ability;
- experience of music theory correlating to their practical experience.

The Music Scholarship Assessment is likely to consist of the following:

- a performance on both a primary and secondary instrument (if one is available).
- an interview with the Head of Music which contains a "viva voce" section where potential and commitment can be assessed. This will include activities like sight-reading, aural response and general musicianship tests.

Successful candidates will be expected to take an active role in a minimum of two of the school's ensembles as appropriate to their instrument or voice. Music Scholars would usually be expected to take GCSE Music.

The Music Scholarship includes free music tuition: single lessons for two instruments or a double lesson for one.

Sport Scholarship

Candidates for a Sport Scholarship should demonstrate:

- strong sporting and leadership abilities;
- experience and a high level of performance (through involvement at club, county or academy level), or potential, in one or more of the major sports in which Kingham Hill participates (rugby, football and cricket for boys; hockey, netball and cricket for girls).

Scholarships may also be awarded to a pupil who is currently competing at a national level in a discipline recognised on the official list of Olympic sports.

The Sport Scholarship Assessment is likely to consist of the following:

- the submission of a portfolio of the candidate's sporting achievements to date, including any testimonials from their sports coaches and current PE teachers;
- an assessment of skills during a sports session at Kingham Hill;
- a short interview with the Director of Sport.

Successful candidates will be expected to contribute to the major sports in all three terms. Pupils will also be encouraged to take the opportunity to represent one of the school's affiliated sports clubs in the local area.

Application Process

Scholarship Applications will **open on Monday 14th September**. To apply for a Scholarship for entry in September 2027, your child must first be formally registered for a place*. To apply for a scholarship, please:

- Submit an application via **kinghamhill.org.uk/admissions/scholarships** from Monday 14th September.
- Email a letter written by your child providing details of their interest in the chosen scholarship and why they would like to be a Scholar, to **admissions@deanclosekingham.org.uk**, alongside two supporting references, appropriate to their scholarship area.

All applications for an Equestrian Scholarship must be received by **Monday 19th October**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a skills assessment day on **Sunday 1st November**.

Applications for all other scholarships must be received by:

- 1st Form (Year 7) - **Monday 2nd November 2026**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an assessment during the week commencing 16th November, and will be informed closer to the time of what is required.
- 3rd Form (Year 9) - **Monday 18th January 2027**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an assessment during the week commencing 25th January, and will be informed closer to the time of what is required.
- Sixth Form - **Monday 25th January 2027**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an assessment during the week commencing 1st February, and will be informed closer to the time of what is required.

If required in support of a potential scholarship, applications for Bursaries (including confidential submissions regarding financial circumstances for means-testing purposes) must be received by the Bursary Team by the end of November 2026.

Please note that to be considered for a Scholarship, candidates must be formally registered for entry to Kingham Hill School and have completed the general entrance assessment prior to participating in the Scholarship Assessment process in November.

Review, Maintenance, and Loss of Awards

Scholarships typically continue throughout a young person's education at Kingham Hill. Scholars are assessed on a termly basis, providing an opportunity to ensure that every pupil in receipt of a scholarship makes the best of the opportunity this offers. At the discretion of the Head, and advice of staff, where a pupil is not meeting the required standard, parent(s)/guardian(s) are informed and given notice that improvements are required within an agreed timeframe. In some cases, the award may be rescinded.

Furthermore, the award may also be withdrawn should the parent(s)/guardian(s) fail to pay fees in a timely manner.

Conditions of Award

1. Grant of the award: An Award is granted at the sole discretion of Dean Close Kingham Hill School (the School).
2. Obligations of the pupil: The pupil who is the subject of an Award is required to work hard, to contribute positively to the life of the School, to be a credit to the School and to set a good example to other pupils. The pupil must adhere to the School's required standards of conduct and progress. These are the Purposes of the Award.
3. Obligations of the parent(s): The parents are required to:

   3.1 Support and encourage the pupil to achieve the Purposes of the Award; and

   3.2 Treat members of the School community reasonably and to up uphold the aims and the good name of the School; and

   3.3 Comply with the School's Terms and Conditions.
4. Means-tested awards: All means-tested awards will be subject to annual review and the parents shall each year be required to complete a financial means questionnaire. After any annual review, the School reserves the right to vary the value of the award with immediate effect and will confirm the new value in writing to the parents.
5. Continuation of the award: Continuation of the award is dependent upon the following conditions being fulfilled:

   5.1 In the case of a means-tested award, the parents satisfy the School's financial requirements each year; and / or

   5.2 In respect of all awards:

   5.2.1 The financial resources allocated by the School to support the award being sufficient to maintain the award; and

   5.2.2 It being in the financial inter interests of the School to maintain the award.

   5.3 Scholarships

   5.3.1 Academic Scholarships require the pupil to continue to perform to a high level academically, achieving above the level of their peers and working towards excellent GCSE or A Level results. Academic Scholars will automatically become members of the Octagon Academic Society, and are expected to play a full role in it.

   5.3.2 Music Scholarships require the pupil to play a full role in the Performing Arts Academy, and in the wider musical life of KHS. In addition, the pupil will engage fully with his/her peripatetic lessons, preparing well for both lessons and any exams for which they are entered.

   5.3.3 Sport Scholarships require the pupil to engage fully with the sporting programme of

the School, playing the three termly School sports to a high standard. In addition, they should demonstrate an excellent attitude to improving their sporting skills in each sport.

5.3.4 Pupils in receipt of other Scholarships should maintain a high level of commitment to their chosen field of expertise, meeting annual targets set by the Co-curricular Deputy.

6. Confidentiality: The value and terms and conditions of the award shall remain confidential between the parents and the pupil and the School.

7. Termination of the award: The award may be terminated if:

7.1 Termination on financial grounds: the School may terminate the award on notice in writing if, in the opinion of the School acting in good faith:

7.1.1 The parents have not satisfied the School's financial requirements under clause 4 and clause 5.1; or

7.1.2 The School is no longer able to continue the award under clause 5.2.

The termination shall take effect from the date set out in the written notice;

7.2 Termination on the grounds of conduct: the School may terminate the award by written notice sent to the parents with immediate effect if, in the opinion of the School acting in good faith, one or more of the following conditions has been fulfilled:

7.2.1 The pupil has not complied with the obligations set out in clause 2 and in the further opinion of the School there has been no significant improvement following consultation with the parents and/or the pupil and the issue of a written warning; or

7.2.2 The parents have not complied with the obligations set out in clause 3; or

7.2.3 The parents of the pupil do not keep the value and terms and conditions of the award confidential in accordance with clause 6; or

7.2.4 The parents withdraw the pupil from the School without a full term's written notice.

7.3 Termination on the grounds of academic under-performance: in the case of Sixth Form Academic scholarships only, the School may terminate the award by written notice sent to the parents by the Easter holidays of Lower Sixth in the following case:

(a) The pupil has underperformed across the first two terms of Sixth Form and is not on track to achieve at least B grades at the end of the year in internal end of year exams. This will be measured in normal grade reports and in the mock

exams, taken after February half term.

(b) In the case of under-performance in the mock exams, parents will be informed and the pupil given warn warning that their performance is below expected standards for an academic scholar. End of term as assessments prior to Easter will be given in all subjects and the results of these assessments used as the basis for determining the continuation or withdrawal of the scholarship award.

(c) Where a scholarship award is withdrawn for under-performance, parents may be eligible to apply for Bursary funding through the normal route, which will be means-tested.

7.4 Repayment of the award: the parents will be required to repay all or part of the benefits received under the award if it is terminated in any of the following circumstances:

7.4.1 Under clause 7.1.1 if the parents have knowingly or recklessly provided false or inaccurate information about their financial position, all benefits received from the date on which the false or inaccurate information was supplied may be repayable; or

7.4.2 Under clause 7.2.1 if the pupil has been found to have committed a serious breach or series of persistent minor breaches of discipline for which the sanction would normally be expulsion or required removal, up to three terms' benefits (if received) may be repayable.

8. Fees in lieu of notice: For the avoidance of doubt, the benefit receivable under an award will not apply to any term for which the School requires payment of fees in lieu of notice.

9. Conditions of award: These conditions of award take precedence over any of the School's Terms and Conditions which are inconsistent with them but in all other respects the School's Terms and Conditions as amended from time to time shall apply and these conditions of award shall be interpreted in accordance with them.

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DEAN CLOSE
KINGHAM HILL SCHOOL
OXFORDSHIRE

Kingham Hill School
Kingham, Chipping Norton
Oxfordshire OX7 6TH

Tel: 01608 731884
Email: admissions@deanclosekingham.org.uk
Visit: www.kinghamhill.org.uk

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