



RUGBY SCHOOL

13+ PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP FOR ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2026

Assessment date: Thursday 26 February 2026

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION FORMS AND BURSARY AUGMENTATION IS
FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 2026**

The Performing Arts Scholarship auditions will take place on Thursday 26 February and will be led by the Artistic Director.

Awards will be made to candidates who are outstanding performers amongst their peers. In addition they will demonstrate excellent physical and vocal control and creative flair as well as ensemble skills, the ability to respond to direction. We will also expect a high level of academic engagement with all aspects of performing arts which will be tested through interview and discussion on texts studied and performed.

Please note that in the academic year prior to audition, candidates may wish to arrange an informal *pre-audition* with the Artistic Director where they can perform a short monologue and get feedback, as well as asking any questions they may have about drama at the school. Please contact the Artistic Director, Dr Tim Coker directly on tdc@rugbyschool.net if you would like to arrange this.

The Audition Process

There are three parts to the audition.

Part 1

All candidates will be asked to participate in a practical group theatre workshop, creating a short, devised performance based on a stimulus given to the group in the morning. They will also be given a short piece of 'unseen' script and/or dance repertoire which they will have time to work on, ready to perform in their practical assessment.

Part 2

During the group workshop, candidates will be invited individually to perform **TWO** contrasting audition speeches of approximately two minutes each, from published plays as well as the 'unseen' extract which they will have worked on individually during the morning session. The prepared speeches should be committed to memory, but the 'unseen' extract will be performed with the script in hand. No costumes are required, but *small* props can be used if helpful. Candidates should be prepared to respond to direction on at least one of their prepared pieces. If you would like to discuss the appropriateness of any particular speech you are more than welcome to contact the Artistic Director in advance of the audition, but the hope is that candidates will select contrasting pieces that reveal their real strengths as performers. And be able to discuss their choices and their own personal approach to the text. They should have read the entire play from which each prepared extract is taken and be able to justify verbally, decisions made on their interpretation. For dance specialism candidates, we will ask to see a short solo (max 2 minutes 30 seconds) in any style. Dance applicants can show two pieces if they would like to show more than one genre e.g. one ballet solo and one modern. Solos can be pieces that have been performed at previous competitions or shows, that the dancers have created themselves, or from work previously prepared for exams. If you would like further direction on

our dance specialism requirements, please contact the Head of Co-Curricular Dance at emf@rugbyschool.net.

Part 3

The last stage of the audition process is to have an informal interview with a member of the Performing Arts department. This is an opportunity for candidates to share with the interviewer their enthusiasm for the subject and offer any evidence they have of their prior commitment to drama. Typically candidates present a portfolio that includes past programmes, production photos, Speech and Drama certificates and so on, although this is not obligatory.

They will also be asked to critically discuss a piece of professional live performance reflecting on key moments in the production as an informed member of the audience. This discussion is an important part of the selection process and we are looking for a detailed recollection of specific moments from a live theatrical production which the candidates are able to analyse in detail from a range of perspectives including:

- Performers' performance skills in specific scenes/moments
- Design elements (lighting, sound, staging, costume, props) in specific scenes/moments.

These analytical skills are crucial for candidates as it is a requirement that all Performing Arts award holders and candidates should be aware that award holders are expected to follow an academic option in Theatre Studies at GCSE/A-Level/IB.

Throughout the audition process we are looking for evidence of candidates who have:

- A genuine enthusiasm for the performing arts
- A desire to develop their theatre knowledge and performance skills in the full knowledge that this takes time and commitment
- A willingness to involve themselves in all aspects of performing arts undertaken at Rugby School
- An academic and critical understanding of the creative processes in, and intended audience impact of, live performance.
- Excellent communication skills
- A commitment to our departmental Core Values: Desire and Determination; Positivity and Playfulness and Team Care

Application

Parents of intending candidates should submit an application by the closing date: Friday 24 January 2025.

Applications should be supported by a detailed reference from the Head of the candidate's current school.

In further support of the application, any additional references from theatre societies or drama clubs that the candidate belongs to are also welcome.

All awards are conditional upon the academic entrance requirements of Rugby School being met. Awards may be reviewed from time to time and are conditional upon satisfactory progress and attitude being maintained. Candidates from overseas or who attend a school that does not prepare for Common Entrance will be asked to sit our entrance tests in English and Maths on the same day as the audition. Lunch will be provided.

Award and Augmentation

If a scholarship is awarded, fees may be augmented by means-tested bursary support up to 100% of the boarding or day fees.

March 2025

Bursary applications are made via an online system, please complete the [Bursary Application Form](#) to start an application. In order for your bursary application to be considered, your child must be registered with the School and the Registration Fee (if applicable) paid in full. Applications submitted after the closing date may not be assessed until after the result of a scholarship application is known.

Additionally, at the Head Master's discretion, exceptional awards with a fee concession may be made where, **during the assessment process**, we identify exceptional potential.