



RUGBY SCHOOL

Sixth Form Performing Arts Scholarship 2026

Assessment date: Wednesday 08 October 2025

Closing Date for applications: 19 September 2025

The Performing Arts Scholarship auditions will take place on Wednesday 8 October, starting at 09.15 and will be led by the Artistic Director. The day will finish at approximately 15.00.

Applications are encouraged from candidates who are outstanding performers amongst their peers as actors, musical theatre performers, dancers or as technicians. In addition they should demonstrate excellent creative flair and ensemble skills, as well as the ability to respond to direction. We also expect a high level of academic engagement in Performing Arts as well as in their wider academic work, which will be tested through interview as well as in the school's entrance tests.

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 or dance solo, or discuss their technical experience and receive feedback, as well as asking any questions they may have about performing arts at the school. Please contact the Artistic Director, Dr Tim Coker if you would like to arrange this.

The audition in October is held in conjunction with the Sixth-form Entrance Examinations. If a Performing Arts Scholarship is awarded, the student will usually be expected to take Theatre Studies as an IB Higher or A-level subject. 16+ Dance Scholars may instead opt to pursue a practice-based research project (e.g. EPQ) which shows a significant academic engagement with a chosen dance practitioner or style.

The Audition Process

There are four parts to the audition.

Part 1

All candidates will be asked to participate in a practical group performance workshop with current Performing Arts Scholars. 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 as part of their practical assessment.

Part 2

In addition to 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/dance repertoire, or for technicians respond to a practical task. For acting candidates, 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. 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. Technicians will be set a practical exercise to complete in their

designated area of expertise. Technical applicants should email in advance to inform us of their chosen technical skill on which they will be assessed, from: Stage Management, Lighting, Sound or Costume.

If Acting/Musical Theatre applicants would like to discuss the appropriateness of any particular speech you are welcome to contact the Artistic Director in advance of the audition, but the hope is that candidates will select contrasting pieces that reveal their strengths as performers and be able to discuss their choices in 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. If you would like further direction on our dance specialism requirements, please contact the Head of Co-Curricular Dance.

Part 3

You will have a formal 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 the Performing Arts. Typically, candidates present a portfolio that includes past programmes, production photos, exam certificates and so on, although this is not obligatory.

They will also be asked to critically discuss a piece of professional live theatre or dance 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 analysis of specific moments from a live theatrical production including:

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

Part 4

The last stage of the audition process is to sit a Theatre Studies OR Dance written exam (45 minutes)

Theatre Studies

- You will be given an extract of script to read.
- Consider how you would perform **one** of the characters to create **impact** for your **audience**.
- You may like to use **quotations** from the extract.

Dance

- You will be asked to describe a dance performance that you have performed in. Please discuss and evaluate the choreographic elements of the performance including:
 - projection
 - focus
 - expression
 - timing
 - musicality

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

- A genuine passion for theatre and the performing arts
- A desire to develop their theatre knowledge and performance skills in the full knowledge that this takes time and commitment
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- A willingness to involve themselves in all aspects of performing arts undertaken at Rugby School
- A commitment to our departmental Core Values: Desire and Determination; Positivity and Playfulness and Team Care

Application

In further support of the application, any additional references from theatre societies, drama clubs or dance schools that the candidate belongs to are also welcome and can be uploaded when applying.

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.

To apply for a Performing Arts Scholarship please submit your [Performing Arts Scholarship Application 2026](#)

For details of the additional benefits and opportunities available to Performing Arts Scholars (including LAMDA, Musical Theatre & Dance tuition, showcase performance opportunities, workshop and masterclasses etc.) please see our brochure or contact The Artistic Director, Dr Tim Coker for further information.

Further information:

Dr Tim Coker
Artistic Director
tdc@rugbyschool.net

Ms Ellen Finlay
Head of Co-curricular Dance
emf@rugbyschool.net

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 for UK residents.

Bursary applications are made via an online system, please complete the [Bursary Application Form](#) to register your interest. You will then be sent an email containing a link to create an account and begin a Bursary 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.