



Battle Abbey School

Entrance and Scholarship Examinations for entry September 2026

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Year 7 and 9 Admissions and Scholarships



All potential pupils for Year 7 and Year 9 entry sit the School's Entrance Assessments. Papers are appropriate for girls and boys from state or independent schools.

We offer Academic and Specialist Scholarships for entry into Year 7 and Year 9. Awards of 5% or 10% are usually made though additional bursary funds may be available in cases of financial hardship.

This booklet is intended to provide a summary of the various Scholarships which are available and to act as a guide for prospective parents and candidates.

For further copies or information please contact:

The Admissions Department
Battle Abbey School
Battle
East Sussex
TN33 0AD

Telephone: 01424 772385
E-mail: admissions@battleabbeyschool.com

Conditions of Scholarship

A Scholarship Fund is available to assist parents to send able children to Battle Abbey School. Not only do Scholarships assist parents and families financially, Battle Abbey Scholarships are quite prestigious and former Abbey Scholars find this very useful in their lives beyond the Abbey walls in Higher Education and beyond. Scholarships are available from the Fund for pupils wishing to enter Years 7 or 9 at the beginning of the Autumn Term 2025. It is school policy to use the Fund to assist as many pupils as possible by granting a number of financial awards each giving a percentage reduction in fees rather than a few large Scholarships.

We ask that parents do not pass on the details of awards offered to their children. This information should be confidential between the parents and the school.

The Scholarship will normally be applicable up to and including Year 13. One-third of the annual value of the scholarship benefit will be credited to the fee account each term. Scholarships are routinely reviewed for all candidates at the end of each Key Stage.

Registration and Entry

To enter your child for Year 7 or Year 9 Scholarship and/or Entrance assessments please complete a Scholarship/Entrance Examination Form. These are available from admissions on request.

Pupils must be registered with Battle Abbey School in order to attend the assessments. A Registration Form is available from the Admissions Department on request.

Entry into Year 7 & Year 9 for September 2026

The Academic Scholarship and Entrance Assessments will take place on:-

Year 9 - Thursday 20th November 2025

Year 7 - Friday 21st November 2025

Candidates wishing to be considered for Art, Music, Performing Arts, Sport, Computing or Drama will also be required to attend on:-

Saturday 22nd November 2025

Please note **Sport Scholarship** applicants will need to attend a comprehensive sport assessment session at the Abbey on the afternoon of **Wednesday 19th November**.

All candidates will be sent a programme for the days nearer the time.

The Academic Scholarship and Entrance Assessments

All candidates sit papers in English and Maths.

English

There are two sections to the paper.

Section A assesses the student's reading skills and comprises:

- An extract taken from either fiction or literary non-fiction such as travel writing
- A range of questions testing the student's comprehension skills as well as the ability to evaluate the effects achieved by a writer's choice of language

When assessing reading skills, we are looking for: developed and insightful answers; the ability to use quotation; evaluation of features of language such as a writer's choice of verb or simile; discussion of how character, tension and setting are created.

Section B assesses the student's writing skills

Students select one written task from a choice of two. These tasks allow students to focus on either creative writing or non-fiction writing.

When assessing the writing, we are looking for a sustained narrative or essay, inventive and confident use of language and the ability to adapt their style to suit audience and purpose. Technical accuracy e.g. paragraphing, sentencing, and spelling will be assessed. The same aspects of language use and style will be assessed for each year group.

Mathematics

Battle Abbey's mathematics entrance examination provides candidates with an opportunity to exhibit their problem solving skills. Reasoning, analysis and evaluation are prized in addition to the more usual checks on number, algebra, shape and measure. The multiple-choice nature of the examinations also promote a process of elimination and deductive reasoning.

Interview

On the assessment day, all candidates will have an interview with a senior member of staff. This will cover their academic and extra-curricular interests and will last approximately ten minutes.

Specialist Scholarships

In addition to Academic Scholarships we also offer Scholarships in Art, Music, Performing Arts, Drama, Computing and Sport. Candidates wishing to be considered for one of these subjects will also need to sit the Entrance Examination papers. Successful candidates will be expected to choose their specialist subject at GCSE and A Level and to be active in the School's Extra Curricular Activity programme.



Art

Candidates must bring a portfolio of art work to the interview. The portfolio should contain a variety of work. Studies from direct observation are particularly important and should show the student's ability to work with a variety of media. Photographs are acceptable to show three-dimensional works. A sketchbook is vital and should show the candidate's interests and at least one study of an historical artist.

The assessment for the Art scholarship will be skills based. During the assessment, candidates will take a drawing exercise for 1 hour where they can showcase their drawing ability, using grids and applying tone to achieve a 3D quality. The second hour will consist of an exercise in colour, colour mixing and application using one or more materials.

Materials will be provided although some students may prefer to bring their own.

Drama

Drama is an important part of school life and a popular subject at GCSE Level. Lessons and extra curricular activities take place in the drama studio. There are extra curricular opportunities for all students to take part in the Drama and Tech club and a major production in the summer term. In addition, there are small scale performances throughout the year .

Candidates will attend a workshop where they will perform a prepared monologue from a play, and then join in a group workshop scenario. The workshop will explore vocal and physical skills and the ability to create characters and to work well with others.

Enthusiasm, commitment and the ability to interact with others are essential. We would expect candidates to have had some theatrical experience and students should not be deterred from applying if they have not had opportunities to take leading parts.

Candidates should wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to work without shoes.

Performing Arts

Multi talented students may apply for a Performing Arts scholarship. These candidates will be assessed on their acting, singing and movement abilities. They will take part in the drama workshop detailed above along with a movement and singing audition.

Candidates should bring with them a brief written account of their involvement in Performing Arts activities.

Music

Battle Abbey School offers music scholarships and exhibitions to gifted and talented young musicians. These are available to pupils entering Year 7, 9 and 12.

The intention of the scholarship is to discover their musical aptitude and promise. The guidelines for entry are outlined below but there are always exceptions. The Director of Music, Mrs. Lucinda Sheppard, is always happy to give advice on music scholarship preparation and to give further details on the workings and expectations of the musical life at Battle Abbey.

Level:

Year 7 Grade 4/5 in first study

Year 9 Grade 5/6 in first study

Year 12 Grade 7/8 in first study

The requirements are as follows:

- Perform contrasting pieces in their first study and one in any subsequent studies
- Respond to aural tests of the appropriate level to the candidate
- Read a short piece at sight

What to bring along to the audition:

- References from their school music teacher and instrumental teacher
- Evidence of exams gained and/or competitions, productions, or concerts
- If an accompanist is required, a scanned copy of the music to be sent ahead of the audition.

All potential scholars are assessed and interviewed by the Director of Music. Scholars are expected to participate in choirs, ensembles, clubs and represent the school for events, services and concerts. GCSE music will be required to be taken and there is an expectation to continue through A level.

Organ scholarship

This is a new and prestigious award in conjunction with Battle Abbey, St Mary's Church and Chichester Cathedral. The successful candidate will be expected to play for choral evensong as well as for other services. They will need to have strong keyboard and sight-reading skills to be considered for this award. The audition will take place in church with the Director of Music, the Dean of Battle and our Organist, Travis Baker.



Computing

The computing scholarship will comprise two sections. The first section will be a computing challenge. During this challenge the students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their competence in adapting the computing skills they currently possess to a range of software. This will involve reading instructions, using prior programming skills and problem solving.

The second section will be a short interview with the Head of Computing about projects the student has undertaken in the past. This is a good opportunity to show off any work of which the candidate feels particularly proud.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate practical or programming skills beyond those studied in a generic computing curriculum. For example: an app that they have developed, or programming done with a Raspberry Pi or similar.



Sport

Sports scholarships are predominantly awarded to candidates who excel in the School's major games of football, hockey, netball, cricket & rounders. We also welcome applications from gifted swimmers.

Successful scholars are expected to contribute to their specialist sport and others, participate in fixtures and take an active role in the leadership and running of teams. They will be acting as role models for their peers and, as such, high levels of motivation and commitment to training and competition are essential.

Candidates will be required to:

- Attend the Sports Scholarship Assessment afternoon.
- Provide a record of their sporting achievements and current references from coaches and/or teachers.

During the assessment candidates may be expected to participate in training sessions for two out of the three major games. The sessions will involve basic skills, progressive practices and game related activities.

All attending candidates should wear full clean kit: shorts / skirt, polo shirt / rugby top, gum shields and shin pads where appropriate and suitable footwear for use on grass for football and astro-turf for all other activities.

Year 7 and 9 Assessment Timeline and Process

The process and time line:

- 
- Get in touch with the school to register your interest in receiving further information RE assessment days and admissions and arrange to visit the school.
 - Register with the school. The Registration Form is available from admissions at admissions@battleabbeyschool.com
 - Submit your most recent school reports.
 - Attend one or both of our Year 5, Year 6 or Year 7 and 8 Enrichment days.
 - Attend the Assessment days and/or specialist Scholarship Days; November 2025.
 - All offers for Year 7 and 9 places should be made by Christmas. In some cases, depending on work load, this process may be completed January 2025.



Sixth Form Scholarships



These Scholarships may be awarded to students entering the School at Sixth Form level. The value of these awards may be up to 50% of the basic tuition fees if candidates are joining from maintained schools.

Scholarships are applicable for the duration of a student's Sixth Form at Battle Abbey subject to his/her continued contribution to the academic departments from which the award has been made. This should be allied to a satisfactory level of performance and good conduct within the School as a whole.

Applicants will be assessed by submitting their most recent school reports, predicted GCSE grades and a letter of application. They will also be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Students applying for an Academic Scholarship are expected to be predicted exclusively Grade 8 and 9 at GCSE.

Scholarships are also available for those candidates who are particularly gifted in Art, Music, Performing Arts, Computing, Drama, and Sport. Please contact the Registrar for details of these assessments.

The following scholarships are available for the Sixth Form:

- The Joanna Lumley Scholarship for the performing arts
- The Maltby Scholarship for History
- Academic scholarships – based on predicted grades
- All-rounder scholarships – based on predicted grades and the ability to support important areas of school life like art, music, drama and sport

Sixth Form Assessment Timeline and Process

The process:

Please send us:

- A letter to the Headteacher of no more than 2 sides of A4 outlining why you think you should be considered for a scholarship.
- A short CV outlining your skills, achievements, passions and hobbies.
- A reference from a trusted adult – outlining your personal qualities.

Then:

- Liaise with the Registrar at Battle Abbey to book a time for an interview.

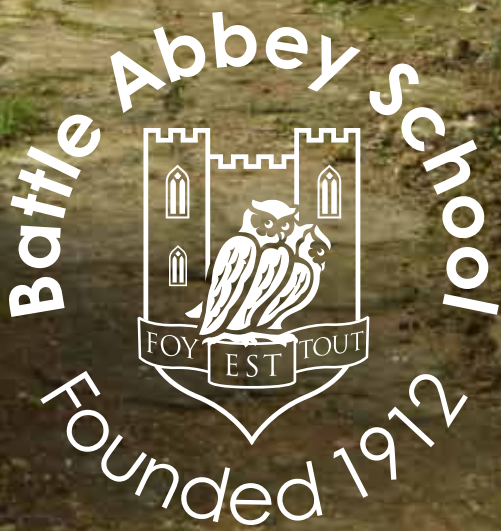
At interview:

- Bring your latest school report and a copy of either your mock GCSE grades or of your predicted grades.

Time-line:

- Register with the school. The Registration Form is available from admissions at admissions@battleabbeyschool.com
- Submit your application for Sixth Form at any time during Year 10 or Year 11.
- Interviews will generally take place during the second half of the autumn term 2024 and the first half of the spring term 2025. Applications after this date may be accepted depending on availability of spaces.
- All offers for Sixth Form places should be made by February half-term.





Battle Abbey School