



Brentwood School

Bursaries



Scholarships

Find out more →

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A place to flourish

We have a longstanding tradition of nurturing talent and academic high achievers. Brentwood is a school where students flourish and apply themselves to develop their full potential during their formative years in education. We provide a range of awards in order to support students who would thrive at Brentwood.

The majority of our available funds are spent on Means-tested Bursaries, which allow talented and ambitious young people the opportunity to benefit from the outstanding education we offer within and beyond the classroom, but whose family circumstances would mean coming to Brentwood would not be possible on financial grounds. Bursaries are available up to and including 100% of tuition fees, with additional support for extras available too. We currently have well over 100 students who are in receipt of Means-tested Bursaries, almost 70 of whom have fully-funded places.

Scholarships are also available and attract a 10% fees discount (which is not Means-tested) but in a small number of cases, this can rise to 20% of tuition fees.

Both types of award – Bursaries and Scholarships – recognise academic potential as well as talent in the areas of Art (16+ entry only), Chess, Dance, Drama, Music and Sport (all 11+ and 16+ entry).

Further details of our awards can be found in this booklet but nothing beats an in-person visit to give a taste of what makes our school such a special place. We hope you will get in touch to find out more.

Michael Bond

Headmaster

Bursari & Schol (for 2027 entry)

Brentwood School offers a range of Means-tested Bursaries and Scholarships. Means-tested Bursaries, which can be up to 100% of tuition fees, are subject to financial assessment and allow talented children from all backgrounds to take up a place at Brentwood School. In addition, modest Scholarships are awarded regardless of financial circumstances. To apply for Bursary assistance with fees, or a Scholarship, you will first need to register for a place here at Brentwood School. When you register you will be asked to select which Scholarships you wish to apply for and these scholarship forms will appear on your personalised applicant profile within the admissions portal.

Scholarship awards usually attract a 10% fees discount but in a small number of cases this can rise to 20% of tuition fees. Such awards remain until the student leaves Brentwood School, including the Sixth Form, subject to satisfactory participation and conduct, and the Conditions of the Award.

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We enable our pupils to
become the best version of
themselves by developing
Virtue, Learning and Manners”

Our School values – Virtue, Learning and Manners – are taken from the School statutes of 1622. The principles of academic achievement within a caring Christian ethos remain a cornerstone of the School’s philosophy today.

Means-tested Bursary Financial Assistance

For entry at 11+ (Year 7) and 16+ (Year 12)

Where a family is unable to afford a place at Brentwood School on the basis of a scholarship alone (usually a maximum of 10%), generous financial assistance is available in the form of Means-tested Bursaries. For Bursary Awards at 11+, candidates must perform exceptionally well in the entrance assessment to be considered for an Academic Bursary. For Specialist Bursary awards, candidates must pass the entrance assessment and be successful in their scholarship application in one or more of the specialist areas featured in this booklet.

The same applies for 16+ Bursary applications – Bursaries are awarded on academic grounds via an academic essay, predicted grades and interview, and specialist grounds via our Specialist Scholarship assessment process.

Where students have performed well (as outlined above) a financial assessment is then undertaken. Where parents wish to be considered for a Means-tested Bursary, they should indicate this by ticking the relevant box within the online registration form. Our Bursary Team will then contact parents with more information about the process and a link to the confidential on-line financial assessment form. This must be completed by 1st November 2026 for 11+ applicants and 6th November for 16+ candidates.

For parents with very limited financial income and assets, Means-tested Bursaries up to 100% of fees are available to ensure that children from a wide variety of backgrounds can benefit from the excellent education delivered at Brentwood School.

For further information and questions about Bursaries, please email:
bursaryapplications@brentwood.essex.sch.uk



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Brentwood School cares about the whole child. It is not just an exam factory. My daughter was perfectly happy at her previous school, but now says ‘she wishes she had been to Brentwood School the whole time.’

Year 10 Parent

A photograph of two students in a science laboratory. On the left, a male student with curly brown hair and safety goggles is smiling and looking towards the right. On the right, a female student with long brown hair and safety goggles is also smiling and looking towards the left. They are both wearing dark blue school uniforms with white shirts and striped ties. In the background, there is an orange bulletin board with a blue poster and a red jacket hanging on a rack.

Academic Bursaries & Scholarships

(for 2027 entry)



Scholarships

For entry at 11+ (Year 7)

All candidates sitting the Entrance Examination are automatically entered for an Academic Scholarship, therefore, no separate application is required. For parents applying for an Academic Bursary, a Bursary application must be completed and submitted by the 1st November 2026 deadline. The top performing candidates in the entrance exam, will be considered for awards.

All candidates will be invited to attend an 'Individual Candidate Meeting' during which we assess a student's intellectual curiosity, potential and flair for learning. The Headteacher's reference from your child's current school will also play an important part in our decision-making process.

For entry at 16+ (Lower Sixth)

Registered students can apply at the point of registration to complete the Sixth Form Academic Scholarship Essay. Alongside an excellent performance within the essay element of the scholarship, there will be a requirement for successful students to achieve at least 64 points from the top 8 grades at GCSE. For parents applying for an Academic Bursary, a Bursary application must also be completed and submitted by the 6th November 2026 deadline.

Specialist Scholarships

For entry at 11+ (Year 7)

We have a range of Scholarships for candidates who demonstrate talent in any of the following areas: Chess, Dance, Drama, Music or Sport. For more information, please see individual pages. Successful shortlisted candidates will be invited to a scholarship assessment at Brentwood School.

Candidates may apply for up to three Specialist Scholarships*

For entry at 16+ (Lower Sixth)

We have a range of Scholarships for candidates who demonstrate talent in any of the following areas: Art, Chess, Dance, Drama, Music or Sport. Successful shortlisted candidates will be invited to a scholarship assessment at Brentwood School. For more information, please see individual pages.

Candidates may apply for up to two Scholarships*

For parents applying for an 11+ or 16+ Specialist Bursary, in addition to the relevant Specialist Scholarship application/s, a separate Bursary application must also be completed and submitted by the 11+ deadline of 1st November 2026, or 16+ deadline of 6th November 2026.

*Please note that it is rare for a candidate to be awarded more than one Specialist Scholarship award. This is to ensure that our Specialist Scholars can comfortably fulfil the obligations attached to the award in their relevant specialism, whilst fully benefiting from the experience.

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*Register
today*



We aim to encourage students to appreciate art and create it for themselves. We want as many 16+ students as possible to take part in and enjoy artistic activities, as well as have opportunities for excellence if they are particularly talented.

The Art Department is located in the Hardy Amies Design Centre, named after the Queen's costume designer who was a former student at the School. We have a large and well-equipped ceramic studio on the ground floor with a Photography studio, and IT suite as well as three kilns, glaze room and a range of printmaking equipment. Upstairs, there are two large and airy open-plan art studios with four teaching areas and a multimedia resources room complete with computers, a colour laser printer and scanners.

An annual residential trip for our A Level/IB Diploma students keeps students enthusiastic and motivated; recent visits have included Tokyo, Venice, Florence, Madrid and New York. We also run weekly after-school art clubs and hold annual art exhibitions showcasing the very best of our students' work.

Please note that successful Art Scholars will be required to study A-Level Art or IB Visual Art.

Application Process

All those interested in applying for an Art Scholarship/Bursary Award will be required to complete the Art Scholarship application form before the deadline of 6th November 2026.

Art Scholarship Workshop: Early December 2026

Successful shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend the morning workshop.

A portfolio submission is required and the work will form the basis of the informal interview.

Portfolios should include evidence of:

- Recording – technical/skill across a range of media e.g. paint, pencil, photography, print, 3D etc. & written annotation e.g. writing about their own project work/justifying their intentions
- Experimentation & Refinement – proof of 'trial and error' with any process e.g. evidence of improving at painting
- Research – evidence of appropriate contextual & cultural references to personal project work e.g. artists, found sources, connections to people/ places/times/ cultures etc.
- Development – ability to travel with a chosen idea for a sustained period of time (avoidance of jumping from one process/technique to another without a conceptual thread tying it all together)
- Outcomes – evidence of at least three completed resolutions (what would you put in a gallery if you were able?)

A minimum of 12 slides (maximum of 25) in any format – PDF, Google Slides, PowerPoint etc. with links to any outside sites (beyond their GCSE, or equivalent, qualification) that showcase a student's engagement with creative practice/ability is encouraged.

Mrs A Roberts, Head of Art



Art

16+
entry

Specialist Bursary & Scholarship

(for 2027 entry)



Chess

Specialist Bursary & Scholarship

(for 2027 entry)

11+ & 16+
entry



The wide-ranging benefits of chess are well established. We have a popular and vibrant chess programme at Brentwood School all students can be part of.

Key aims:

- Compete online and across the board in a range of team and individual competitions to help our players and teams thrive and have fun on the county, national and international stage.
- Encourage as many students as possible to take part in different aspects of our chess programme. This promotes relevant areas of the Brentwood Learner Profile, such as Resilience and Reflection and Communication.
- Support the development of junior chess in Brentwood, Essex and beyond.

Brentwood School is one of the UK's leading chess schools in terms of numbers of players, national success and the ambition of our chess programme.

Brentwood School organise and host a variety of chess tournaments and events. In 2024/2025 these included one-day tournaments for adults and juniors, school competitions on behalf of the English Chess Federation and a She Plays To Win afternoon for girls. This is part of our wider work supporting the development of junior chess in Brentwood, Essex, and beyond. We have a number of chess clubs and separate coaching sessions – led by our Director of Chess, International Master Richard Pert, and Brentwood's Head of Chess Robin Slade – open to all students. Chess available for all students, irrespective of age and playing level.

Chess Scholarship Application Process 11+

All those interested in applying for a Chess Scholarship will be required to complete the Chess Scholarship application form before the deadline of 1st November 2026.

We are looking for our chess scholars to be strong players—some applicants will be at county and national standard. But equally to act as chess ambassadors inside and out of school. Any student can apply for a chess scholarship regardless of their level of play. It is a worthwhile and fun process regardless of the outcome.

Initial 11+ Scholarship Tournament: Early December 2026

Every applicant will be invited to play in an online Chess Scholarship Tournament at www.lichess.org (the site Brentwood School uses for our online chess) in early December 2026. As part of the process, every applicant will get their own permanent student account on the site. From this tournament, a shortlist of 6–8 candidates will be produced.

Final 11+ Scholarship Tournament: Early January 2027

The successful shortlisted candidates will be invited to Brentwood School to play a tournament and explore chess ideas together on a Saturday morning in January 2027 to decide the final scholarship awardees.

Chess Scholarship Application Process 16+

All those interested in applying for a Chess Scholarship will be required to complete the Chess Scholarship application before the deadline of 6th November 2026.

Prospective Chess 16+ Scholarship students should apply online with a short chess CV. This should include details of over the board tournament performances, English Chess Federation ratings and online chess activity (including user names on Lichess and/or chess.com).

16+ Scholarship Tournament: Early January 2027

The successful shortlisted candidates will be invited to Brentwood School to play some chess and explore chess ideas together on a Saturday afternoon in January 2027 to decide the final scholarship awardees.

Mr R Slade, Head of Chess

At Brentwood, we are proud to have a thriving Dance Department offering not only academic study of Dance, but also a wide array of co-curricular Dance opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Dance is taught throughout the Senior School and at every level students have the opportunity to perform in Informal Showcases, Dance Shows and Musicals. Dance Academy classes are also available for all age groups.

During Years 7 & 8, students enjoy an average of one lesson per fortnight, which rises to three a fortnight in Year 9. Students participate in a wide variety of dance activities in solo, paired and group settings. In addition to intensive dance training, this programme provides students with a robust learning environment and cross-disciplinary education, enabling students to develop socially whilst promoting creativity, fitness and wellbeing. As students become performers, they will also develop their confidence, self-esteem and collaboration skills. As they move further up the School they will also train in a broad range of contemporary dance practices and gain an insight into dance histories and contexts. Recently, Brentwood students have been accepted by prestigious Dance institutions such as Tring Park School for Performing Arts, ArtsEd, Central School of Ballet and Performers College. We also have students who are excelling at National level and winning championship titles in Ballroom and Tap, where they're up against some of the best dancers in the country.

Each year the Performing Arts Department stages a Lower School Performing Arts Showcase and the Dance Department choreograph productions at Sixth Form, Middle School and Junior School levels, affording every child a chance to participate as they proceed through the School. Recent productions have, as always, been very varied and have included Les Misérables, Chicago, FAME, Sister Act, West Side Story and Peter Pan.

At Brentwood, we are extremely fortunate in having three dance spaces ideally suited to a range of productions, including three fully equipped dance studios, extensive classroom rehearsal space, IT facilities, a proscenium arch stage in the Memorial Hall and the Wessex Auditorium.

Application Process

All those interested in applying for a Dance Scholarship/Bursary Award will be required to complete the Dance Scholarship application form before the deadline of 1st November 2026 for 11+ and 6th November 2026 for 16+. All applicants (11+ & 16+) must also submit a video submission before the deadline. Your submission should include evidence of solo and group performances.

11+ Dance Scholarship Assessment: Early January 2027

Successful short-listed applicants will take part in group and individual exercises/performances.

16+ Dance Scholarship Assessment: Early December 2026

The 16+ Assessment will be held in December 2026, and will include an interview. Successful short-listed applicants will be asked to perform two solo dance pieces in two contrasting styles. Membership of a significant Dance programme is expected (ENB, RAD, Summer programmes at Laban, Performers, Birds, Masters etc).

Mrs M Carabache, Head of Dance

A photograph of two dancers in a studio setting. The dancer in the foreground is a young woman with her hair pulled back, wearing a dark leotard, looking upwards with her arms raised. The dancer in the background is slightly out of focus, also in a similar pose. The lighting is a deep blue, creating a dramatic atmosphere.

17+ & 16+
entry

Dance

Specialist Bursary
& Scholarship

(for 2027 entry)



11+ & 16+
entry

Drama

**Specialist Bursary
& Scholarship**

(for 2027 entry)

Drama is taught throughout the Senior School and at every level students have the opportunity to be a part of at least two of the thirty-plus shows we stage a year which includes plays, showcases and musicals. LAMDA classes are also available for all age groups and are taught throughout the School week. We visit the theatre four to five times a term, with all age groups.

During Years 7 & 8, students enjoy a lesson a week, which rises to three a fortnight in Year 9. Students participate in a wide variety of activities in solo, paired and group settings. They are encouraged to grow in confidence, work effectively as part of a group and to acquire a range of fundamental theatrical skills. Many of our Year 9 students select to continue this subject at GCSE. Those who opt for this popular course will devise their own drama performance, develop a portfolio about it, perform a section from a scripted play and sit a written exam on a text they have studied as well as a piece of live theatre they have seen.

Our Sixth Form A Level and IB Diploma students also gain outstanding results and often choose to continue studying the subject (singly or in combination with another subject such as English) at university level. Recently, a number of our students have been accepted by the National Youth Theatre (for which we run an audition day in school) as well as prestigious Drama schools such as The Guildford School of Acting and E15 well as Oxford University to read English and we have a number of Oxbridge candidates currently heavily involved with the subject.

Each year the Drama Department stages five major productions at Sixth Form, Middle School and Junior School levels, affording every child a chance to participate as they proceed through the School. Recent productions have, as always, been very varied and have included West Side Story, Guys and Dolls, Wendy & Peter Pan, Pride and Prejudice, The Jungle Book, Our Country's Good and many more. Each year we take part in the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival with our Y10 students. We feel that we are the leading Arts school in the region and this is evidenced by not only the quality of our output, but by the quantity of students who contribute to our extensive programme.

Application Process

All those interested in applying for a Drama Bursary/Scholarship Award will be required to complete the Drama Scholarship application form before the deadline of 1st November 2026 for 11+ and 6th November 2026 for 16+. All applicants (11+ & 16+) must also submit a video submission before the deadline.

11+ Drama Scholarship Workshops: Early January 2027

Successful short-listed 11+ applicants will be invited to perform an individual monologue and take part in group exercises as part of the Scholarship Workshop.

16+ Drama Scholarship Workshops: Early December 2026

Successful short-listed 16+ applicants will take part in a Scholarship Workshop, which includes an interview and monologue.

We are looking for children with an outstanding aptitude for solo performance and, later, collaborative creativity. Vocal and physical skills will be nuanced and advanced.

Mrs S Hermosa, Head of Drama

Brentwood School is proud of its musical reputation as one of the leading music departments nationally sustained by six full-time music staff and supported by over twenty-five visiting music specialist instrumental teachers.

We are a Steinway School, which enables our students to learn on the very best-made pianos in the world, as well as some rare instruments otherwise unavailable to them. Further to this we enjoy close partnerships with the Guildhall School of Music Drama, The Arch Sinfonia, The Jazz Fix and Clare College Cambridge.

The Music Department has an annual performance schedule of over 70 concerts, recitals and services annually allowing our students to perform across a variety of genres. Every week we enjoy over 40 rehearsals travelling through choral, orchestral, jazz, rock and close harmony ensemble music. The School's strong musical reputation is augmented by its close association with the Chelmsford and Brentwood cathedrals and over a number of years has actively encouraged and supported students and staff to sing in their choirs. Recent choral performances have included Belshazzar's Feast by Walton, Requiems by Mozart, Verdi and Fauré, Gloria by Poulenc, and The Crucifixion by John Stainer.

The world famous Brentwood School Big Band has established a reputation over many years of providing high quality jazz and ensemble playing raising thousands of pounds for charity every year. Recent tours in Europe have seen memorable performances being given in such venues as Salzburg Cathedral, the Piazza del Campo Siena, Prague, Bavaria and Slovenia.

Application Criteria

All those interested in applying for a Music Scholarship/Bursary Award will be required to complete the application form by the closing date of 1st November 2026 for 11+ and 6th November 2026 for 16+.

11+ applicants: On the application form we will expect to see evidence of attainment not less than Grade 4 in the main instrument offered, with attached references from instrumental teachers. We will also be interested to read of other instruments played (or classical singing/theory exams taken). Sixth Form applicants: On the application form we will expect to see evidence of attainment not less than Grade 8 (or equivalent) in at least one instrument. We also expect to see an experienced performer who has a wealth of performing in multiple settings.

Although being at such a standard is advised, it is not the defining aspect of the application process. Rather, we are looking for young musicians with potential, a love for music, and therefore, the capacity to contribute to and further the successes of our already thriving department.

Music Scholarship Auditions:

All Year 7 candidates who have reached the required standard will be invited to take part in individual auditions in early January 2027, where they bring their instrument(s). Refreshments will be provided. Sixth Form shortlisted candidates will be invited to take part in individual auditions in early December 2026, where they bring their instrument(s).

Chris O'Leary, Head of Music

A photograph of two young musicians, a girl and a boy, playing violins in a school orchestra. The girl in the foreground is wearing a dark blazer and a striped tie, looking towards the right. The boy behind her is wearing glasses, a white shirt, and a striped tie, also looking towards the right. They are both holding violins and bows. The background is slightly blurred, showing other orchestra members and stage lights.

*11+ & 16+
entry*

Music

Specialist Bursary & Scholarship

(for 2027 entry)


A male football player with dark hair and a beard, wearing a blue jersey and dark shorts, is in the middle of catching a white and blue football. He is on a green artificial turf field with a goal and a brick building in the background. A pink circle is overlaid on the top left of the image.

11+ & 16+
entry

Sports

**Specialist Bursary
& Scholarship**

(for 2027 entry)



Brentwood School enjoys a strong sporting tradition and an excellent national reputation across a variety of sports. The purpose of our scholarship scheme in sport is to attract the best young sports people in the local area and beyond.

The Sport Department has a very successful track record in academic courses including GCSE PE, A Level PE, and BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport. The quality of our delivery throughout our sports programme is of the highest quality, with many of our staff having played professionally or represented their country at their respective sports.

A diverse range of co-curricular activities extends the students' experience and it is usual for Brentwood School teams to tour within the UK and abroad. Recent tours have included South Africa, Dubai and Portugal. Our teams perform in a variety of local, regional and national competitions and we frequently have students gaining representative honours. Recent achievements include students representing England for U19 Athletics, U17 and U19 Cricket, U17 Football (including six players signing professional contracts in the past six years), U19 Netball, U18 Rugby, U19 Water Polo and Great Britain at Fencing.

Application Process

All those interested in applying for a Sport Bursary/Scholarship Award will be required to complete the Sport Scholarship application form before the deadline of 1st November 2026 for 11+ and 6th November 2026 for 16+. Applicants should also submit video evidence of their performance and provide details of their level of performance and regional / national age group ranking if applicable. A reference from a coach or teacher is also recommended and should be submitted by the deadline. When submitting the video, please make sure your child is identifiable throughout the footage.

11 + Applicants: Students who can excel in a range of different sports, so an understanding of the sports that we offer at Brentwood should be noted. These include athletics, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rugby, swimming and tennis. Whilst certain sports have different pathways, evidence of county or regional representation in the chosen sports is expected.

16+ Applicants: Evidence of regional or national representation in the chosen sport is expected, and applicants should expect to make a significant contribution to our Saturday programme, notably in either cricket, football, hockey, netball, rugby and tennis.

11+ Sport Scholarship Assessment Day: Early December 2026

Successful short-listed will be split into groups and take part in a range of sports during the day.

16+ Sport Scholarship Assessment Day: Early December 2026

Successful short-listed applicants will join a Senior training session and have an interview with a member of the Sports Department.

Mr N Gamester
Director of Sport (3-18)

How to apply for Bursary & Scholarship

To apply for a Bursary or Scholarship, interest must be indicated during the 11+ or 16+ registration process. Our online registration form can be found on our School website at brentwoodschool.co.uk/admissions/admissions-process.

Bursary Applications

We offer a number of transformational Bursaries to bright, deserving students each year in accordance with the School's charitable purpose.

Please ensure you indicate 'Yes' on your child's profile if you wish to apply for a Bursary. You will then be contacted by our Bursary Team with further instructions, please ensure you check your emails for these notifications which will include your completion of the confidential Bursary form.

Following the 11+ and 16+ assessment and Scholarship process, the families of high achieving Bursary applicants will have a financial assessment in their home or via Zoom. This will be sensitively carried out by an independent, specialist assessor from BAL (Bursary Assessment Limited).

For information regarding Bursaries please contact:
bursaryapplications@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

Apply for Scholarships



Scholarship Applications

- Tick the relevant Scholarship(s) you wish to apply for within the online Registration Form (please be reminded that entry is automatic for the 11+ Academic Scholarship, you do not need to apply).
- Complete the relevant Scholarship form(s). These forms will appear under your Checklist items on your child's OpenApply profile.
- Upload any required documents/video evidence to your child's profile – please see relevant Scholarship forms for more information.
- Please ensure all form(s) and evidence are completed and submitted by the relevant deadline.
- Music Scholarship applicants will be asked to provide a music reference from their school or music teacher. A drama reference will be required from the Drama Scholarship applicant's current school or drama club.
- Shortlisted Specialist Scholarship applicants will be invited to the relevant Workshops or Assessment Days. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of a candidate's performance at these events, although a judgement will be made about their potential.
- Completed Scholarship applications must be received by 1st November 2026 for 11+ entry and 6th November 2026 for 16+ entry.
- 16+ Academic essay titles will be sent after 6th November 2026 deadline, to candidates who have applied for a 16+ Academic Bursary/Scholarship.

A white outline of a shield is centered on the right side of the page. Inside the shield, the letters 'VLM' are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the letters, the words 'Virtue Learning Manners' are written in a smaller, white, cursive script font. A vertical white line runs down the right side of the page, passing through the center of the shield.

VLM

Virtue Learning Manners