



WESTHOLME



Unleash your potential as a...

SCHOLAR



CONTENTS

Scholarships at Westholme	4
Academic Scholarships	6
Dance Scholarships	9
Drama Scholarships	14
Music Scholarships	19
Sports Scholarships	24

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Westholme School is proud to offer a limited number of scholarships each year to students of exceptional merit and potential.

Our coveted scholarships programme is open to both external applicants and existing Westholme students who can demonstrate excellence in academia, dance, drama, music or sport. Those who are accepted onto the programme will benefit from exemplary support and guidance, designed to nurture their talent and help them excel in their education.

Scholarships are designed to recognise our students' talents and to enable them to access our outstanding educational provision and facilities here at Westholme.

The scholarships available apply for the duration of the student's time at Westholme, as long as the student continues to perform at a high level and uphold our school values and our expectations.

Scholars should make a strong contribution to, and participate fully in, school life. Showing a wholehearted commitment to their school, they are ambassadors for Westholme, both inside and outside the classroom. Therefore, scholars should maintain an excellent performance in their field and in their studies, leading by example in order to inspire and motivate others.

If you believe that your child shares our values and has a burning desire to succeed, we look forward to receiving your application.

Paul Taylor
PRINCIPAL



SCHOLARSHIPS AT WESTHOLME

So, you're ready to embark on your scholarship journey here at Westholme. With an array of academic and co-curricular-focused scholarships available, the choice of application is yours. After that, all that is left is to apply! We hope that by the end of this brochure, you have a sense of what scholarships are on offer for specific age groups.

BURSARIES AT WESTHOLME

Bursaries are means-tested and are awarded each year, subject to available funds. Bursary assistance can be accessed in addition to a scholarship. Full details of the Bursary application process information are available on request from the Admissions team.



IMPORTANT SCHOLARSHIP DATES

DEADLINE TO APPLY

Deadline for all scholarship applications: **Friday 31 October**

11+ ENTRY

Thursday 20 November

Academic scholarship assessment day
(invitation only, based on the entrance assessment results)

Thursday 20 November

Performing Arts scholarship assessment day
(Dance, Drama & Music)

Saturday 22 November

Sports scholarship assessment day

16+ ENTRY

Wednesday 19 November

Sports scholarship assessment day

Thursday 20 November

Performing Arts scholarship assessment day
(Dance, Drama & Music)

Academic scholarship interviews are ongoing from the autumn term.

SECOND ASSESSMENT DAY

Friday 27 Feb 2026

Performing Art and Sport assessment day

Academic assessment day

(invitation only, based on the entrance assessment results)

Deadline for second scholarship day applications: **Friday 6 February**

* In the summer term of Year 8, a review of scholarships is carried out by the Deputy Head (Academic), Head of Performing Arts and Sports Scholars Lead to ascertain if there are any students who have developed to a level whereby they might now be eligible for a scholarship. We are acutely aware that students can develop their skills and experiences substantially between Year 6 and Year 8. Recommendations for scholarships are submitted by teachers and coaches based on their observations of student participation, attainment and conduct in their chosen discipline. A scholarship review will take place during the Year 8 summer term.

Throughout Year 11, students are reviewed by the Deputy Head (Academic), Head of Performing Arts and Sports Scholars Lead to ascertain if there are any students who have developed to a level whereby they might now be eligible for a scholarship. Internal Year 11 students do not need to apply for scholarships. Academic scholarships are discussed in individual meetings with the Head of the INSPIRED Sixth Form.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

An academic scholarship means we are committed to supporting your child's pursuit of academic excellence and providing a programme that gives them the scope to develop key academic skills such as critical thinking, debate and curiosity, that will undoubtedly benefit their studies and skill set.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME

11+ PROGRAMME

Our academic scholarship pathway includes access to the following opportunities and experiences, to help develop scholars' passions, academic strengths, and to ensure that each student has access to a wide range of academic enrichment activities, mentoring and support.

The Academic Scholars Programme is by invitation only and is based on the entrance assessment results.



- Invitation to our academic lecture series.
- Opportunities to gain additional academic qualifications and skills through our enrichment programme.
- Access to UniFrog – a tailored programme to support students with the next steps in their education, offering access to FE courses as well as guidance into university courses and the application process.
- The opportunity to act as a Subject Mentor to younger students, further developing communication and leadership skills, as well as supporting subjects in wider events such as World Book Day and whole school assemblies.
- Numerous opportunities to take part in wider academic competitions, including but not limited to representing Westholme in national competitions from UKMT and Senior Kangaroo Challenge, Biology Olympiad, to BBC Young Writer's Awards and Blackburn Chemicals Science essay competition.
- Academic trips which scholars have benefited from are far ranging but have included MEM Masterclasses for Maths at Liverpool University, trips to the Institute of Physics branch lectures and lectures at UCLAN, alongside an observatory visit.

“EDUCATION IS NOT THE LEARNING OF FACTS, BUT THE TRAINING OF THE MIND TO THINK.”

– Albert Einstein

16+ PROGRAMME

Our INSPIRED Sixth Form academic scholars are given a specialised programme of events over the duration of the Sixth Form, focused on developing their 21st-century skill set and ensuring they have the opportunity to showcase the results of their hard work.

Students can volunteer to take part in a number of specialised activities, each of which gives students focused tuition and opportunities to practise and hone skills in debate, public speaking, analytical thinking, financial awareness and much more. All of our INSPIRED Sixth Form enjoy regular debates about news items but our scholarship students will prepare and lead an assembly, deliver lectures to a unique audience, take part in and run academic societies and so much more. Academic scholars are also given the opportunity to take part in our Mentoring Programme, teaching students the skills of becoming a mentor for younger students, enabling them to deal with sensitive issues in a mature manner or become an academic support in a particular subject.

Senior scholars are all ambassadors for their A Level subjects, acting as a support for staff, helping with departmental initiatives,

events and clinics throughout the year. These initiatives ensure our academic scholars are pushed to demonstrate why they have been granted such a prestigious award to study at our INSPIRED Sixth Form.

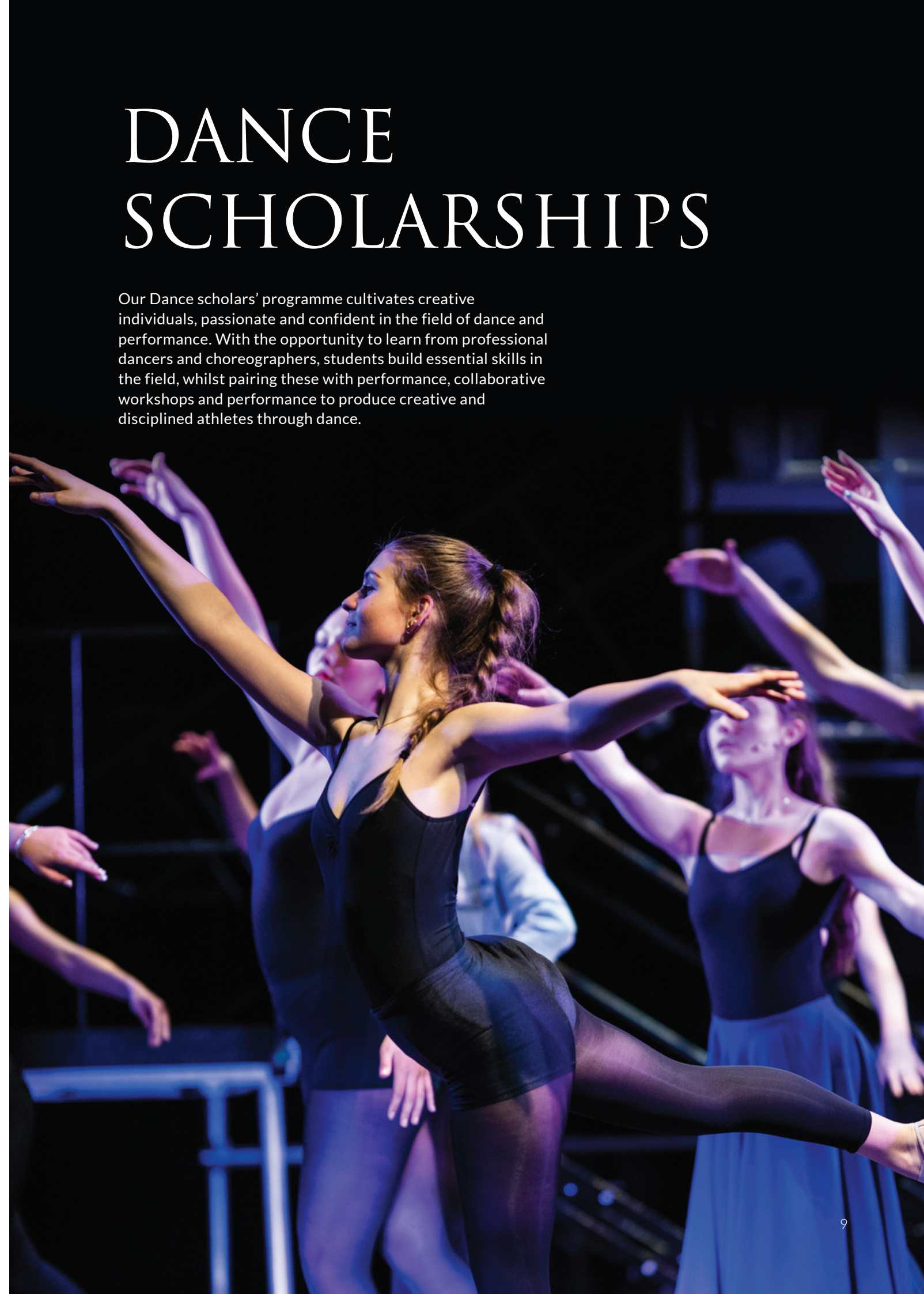
The minimum academic requirement is achievement of 8 GCSEs at 7-9, of which four are 8 or above. Students must also meet the requirements for entry for their chosen A Level subjects. Applicants will be invited to an interview where further discussion about their application and aspirations will take place.

FORMAL REVIEW

We have high expectations of our academic scholars and their achievements and approach. Performance is reviewed in students' termly reports and grades and attitude to learning feedback is tracked by the Deputy Head (Academic) and discussed with each scholar on a one-to-one basis, alongside wider discussions around their current aspirations and the measures being taken to realise them.

DANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Our Dance scholars' programme cultivates creative individuals, passionate and confident in the field of dance and performance. With the opportunity to learn from professional dancers and choreographers, students build essential skills in the field, whilst pairing these with performance, collaborative workshops and performance to produce creative and disciplined athletes through dance.



DANCE SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME

Dance scholars are expected and encouraged to play a key role all aspects of dance and lead and inspire other pupils in both academic and co-curricular Dance.

ACADEMIC STUDY

16+ Dance scholars are encouraged to take the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts.

—
“EDUCATION IN THE ART OF DANCE IS EDUCATION OF THE WHOLE MAN – HIS PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL NATURES ARE DISCIPLINED AND NOURISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN DANCE.”

– Ted Shawn



DANCE TRIPS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS

Dance scholars will have the opportunity to work with professional dancers and choreographers throughout the year. Students will have the opportunity to attend workshops from current West End performers, professional ballerinas and Faculty members from top vocational colleges. These provide our scholars with the chance to train with the most elite of teachers, work on their audition technique as well as having the opportunity for question and answer sessions with our guests. Our dancers take numerous trips to the theatre to see works from a huge variety of styles; from Rambert's take on *Peaky Blinders* to *Aladdin*. We have travelled to prestigious venues, where our dancers were part of a half-time show at the Tottenham stadium and have danced on the stage at Disneyland Paris. We also have strong connections with numerous local and national dance companies, working closely with The Lowry, Company Chameleon and Sadler's Wells.

PRODUCTIONS

Students are also expected to take part in major co-curricular productions, our Junior Production in the summer term (Years 7-9), our Senior Production (Year 9-13) in the autumn term and our summer play. Involvement shall be as a performer and dancer. We offer scholars many opportunities to be involved with all aspects of productions and expect them to lead the way and model the hard work and focused creativity that showcases their scholarship prowess.

FURTHER CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

We provide chances to explore new styles through our lunchtime dance clubs, which take place four times a week. The styles covered change half-termly, with students improving their technique, as well as learning a routine to perform in our showcase. We also focus on choreographic skills, allowing dancers to explore their own creativity.



WESTHOLME DANCE COMPANY

Scholars will gain a place within our Westholme Dance Company. This is where dancers will train in a variety of styles, working on technique, strength and flexibility. Our Dance Company are given the opportunity to perform at showcases throughout the year, both at school and other local and national venues. We also enter a number of competitions, with both groups, duets and solo performances.

FORMAL REVIEW

Each scholar has a formal review with the Director of Performing Arts once a year. This is to ensure that the pupil is meeting the expectations of a scholar and to ensure also that the pupil is happy with their own progress and development.

RECENT SUCCESSES

Our students have had the opportunity to take part in a huge variety of performances. We successfully auditioned to be part of a record-breaking performance at the Tottenham Stadium, dancing for over 60,000 fans. We also successfully applied to dance on stage at Disneyland Paris, with our dancers being chosen to lead the parade around the park. We have been chosen out of thousands of schools to partner with Sadler's Wells, and had regular workshops with a highly regarded choreographer to create a new and unique piece of dance. Not only do we provide school-based opportunities, but we also guide our students to the best available training to help them achieve their goals. We currently have students as part of the associates' schemes at highly-regarded institutions as the North West Dance CAT scheme, Company Chameleon, Performer's College and Emil Dale. We are also incredibly proud to have current World Champion Sienna as a scholar and part of our dance company. We have also helped our students prepare to audition for their degree-level qualifications, with recent past students gaining places at Bird, Emil Dale, Performer's College and Laine Theatre Arts.



CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR APPLICATION

11+ APPLICATIONS

All applicants must submit a completed application form, submitting at least one reference. Video/recorded evidence will also be required in the format outlined below:

- A recording of two contrasting dance solos/styles. Please note these are individual – please do not send group performances.
- The need for recorded evidence at application stage helps with shortlisting. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to take part in our assessment day.

Assessment Day details

- Applicants are required to take part in a 5 minute warm-up and stretches.
- Applicants complete a 5-minute technical assessment of skills incorporating 5 classic technical exercise moves selected from the ISTD syllabus. This will be demonstrated by our Dance Captain and performances are assessed by our Dance Department.
- Applicants are required to perform two contrasting dance styles of their own choice (costumes can be used). The performance should total no more than 5 minutes. Performers need to wear appropriate dance wear and bring appropriate shoes. Music for the performances needs to be sent 1 week prior to the assessment date.
- Applicants will also take part in a short discussion about their dance involvement, experiences to date and what they love/enjoy about dance and how they would contribute to the Performing Arts Department and wider school.

16+ APPLICANTS

Expected minimum standard: intermediate or equivalent dance level.

Applicants will have an audition with the Director of Performing Arts. During this they will be required to perform two contrasting solos. These can be from within the same genre; but must show a difference in performance quality and technique (for example a classical and contemporary ballet would be acceptable). These solos will be assessed for physical skills (flexibility, strength, technical accuracy) and expressive quality. We will also take into account the potential of the applicant.

The equivalency of at least Intermediate level should be achieved in the dancers' preferred styles, although we will also be looking for performance, competition and choreographic experience. Dancers will have a chance to display these skills and interests during a short technique class and interview with the Director of Performing Arts.

DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS

Utilising the Croston Theatre stage, support from professional performers, and multiple opportunities for performance and showcase throughout the year supports Westholme Drama scholars as they embark on their journey in the arts.



DRAMA SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME

Drama scholars are expected and encouraged to play a key role in all aspects of theatre and lead and inspire other pupils in both academic and co-curricular Drama.

ACADEMIC STUDY

All 13+ Drama scholars are encouraged to take Drama as an option in Year 9 and at GCSE. 16+ Drama scholars are encouraged to take A Level Drama and Theatre or the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts.



LAMDA

Drama scholars are strongly encouraged to take part in the LAMDA programme (Acting, Musical Theatre, Verse and Prose or Public Speaking examinations) to further enhance their acting skills and abilities. Like peripatetic Music lessons, these lessons come as an additional expense. However, for those with a flair for acting, free LAMDA tuition could be offered in place of a fee remittance, within the terms of a Drama scholarship award at 11+, 13+ or 16+.



PRODUCTIONS

Students are also expected to take part in major co-curricular productions; our Junior Production in the summer term (Years 7-9), our Senior Production (Year 9-13) in the autumn term and our summer play. Involvement shall be as a performer and/or designers (lighting, stage and sound) and/or supporting directors. We offer scholars many opportunities to be involved with all aspects of productions and expect them to lead the way and model the hard work and focused creativity that showcases their scholarship prowess, as well as their infectious enthusiasm for making theatre.

—
“WE MUST ALL
DO THEATRE – TO
FIND OUT WHO
WE ARE, AND TO
DISCOVER WHO
WE COULD BECOME.”

- Augusto Boal

THEATRE TRIPS, TALKS & WORKSHOPS

All Drama scholars (13+) are given the opportunity to be coached for auditions for places in the National Youth Theatre (NYT). In Year 13 scholars are supported through the audition process for Drama Schools, with our 2025 cohort successfully achieving places at Italia Conti, LIPA, Wilkes Academy, BIMM and many more. Scholars attend a variety of theatre trips, talks and workshops over the course of the year, often with leading industry professionals.

DRAMA FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

At the heart of Westholme is our professional Croston Theatre providing an amazing, real-life West End experience for all students to develop their confidence and essential communication skills. Equipped with state-of-the-art stage lighting and incredible sound, students regularly have the opportunity to study all aspects of theatre; perform; learn technical skills; stage manage; design sets and make costumes. The theatre is breathtaking and our students are fortunate to utilise it every day.

FORMAL REVIEW

Each scholar has a formal review with the Director of Performing Arts once a year. This is to ensure that the pupil is meeting the expectations of a scholar and to ensure also that the pupil is happy with their own progress and development.



RECENT SUCCESSES

Our productions have won NODA awards in the categories of Best Musical, Ensemble and Director. We have been shortlisted for a National School Theatre award and in 2025 the Performing Arts department was shortlisted for Independent School of the Year award for contributions to performing arts and the opportunities Westholme provides its students.



WESTHOLME ALUMNI

Westholme has a proud tradition of nurturing creativity and our alumni continue to shine on stage and screen. Their achievements provide real inspiration for our current pupils and Drama Scholars.

Rumi Sutton (Alumni 2018)

Mutiny, Casualty, The Importance of Being Ernest, Miss Saigon, Mayflies and Hex

Amelia Kenworthy (Alumni 2015)

Featured in My Fault: London, The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power and Messenger

Liz Singleton (Alumni 2007)

Starred in Les Misérables in the West End and the film adaptation

These talented performers show the incredible journeys our students can take after leaving Westholme. They highlight how passion, dedication and a Westholme education can open doors to the very highest levels of the performing arts.

CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR APPLICATION

11+ APPLICATIONS

All applicants must submit a completed application form, submitting at least one reference. Video/recorded evidence will also be required in the format outlined below:

- Video footage of drama performances, can be as a soloist or lead within a production and/or include a recorded monologue/performance of their choosing. Footage should be no more than 5 minutes.
- The need for recorded evidence at application stage helps with shortlisting. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to take part in our assessment day.

Assessment Day details

- Applicants are asked to perform from memory a short monologue of their choice from a selected group of pieces chosen by the Director of Performing Arts. All monologues are LAMDA recognised.
- Applicants will be expected to take part in warm up games and improvisations led by the Head of Drama, Director of Performing Arts and Drama Captains.
- Following the student's performance there will be a short 5-minute discussion about their drama involvement, experiences to date and what they love/enjoy about drama and how they would contribute to the performing arts department and wider school.

16+ APPLICANTS

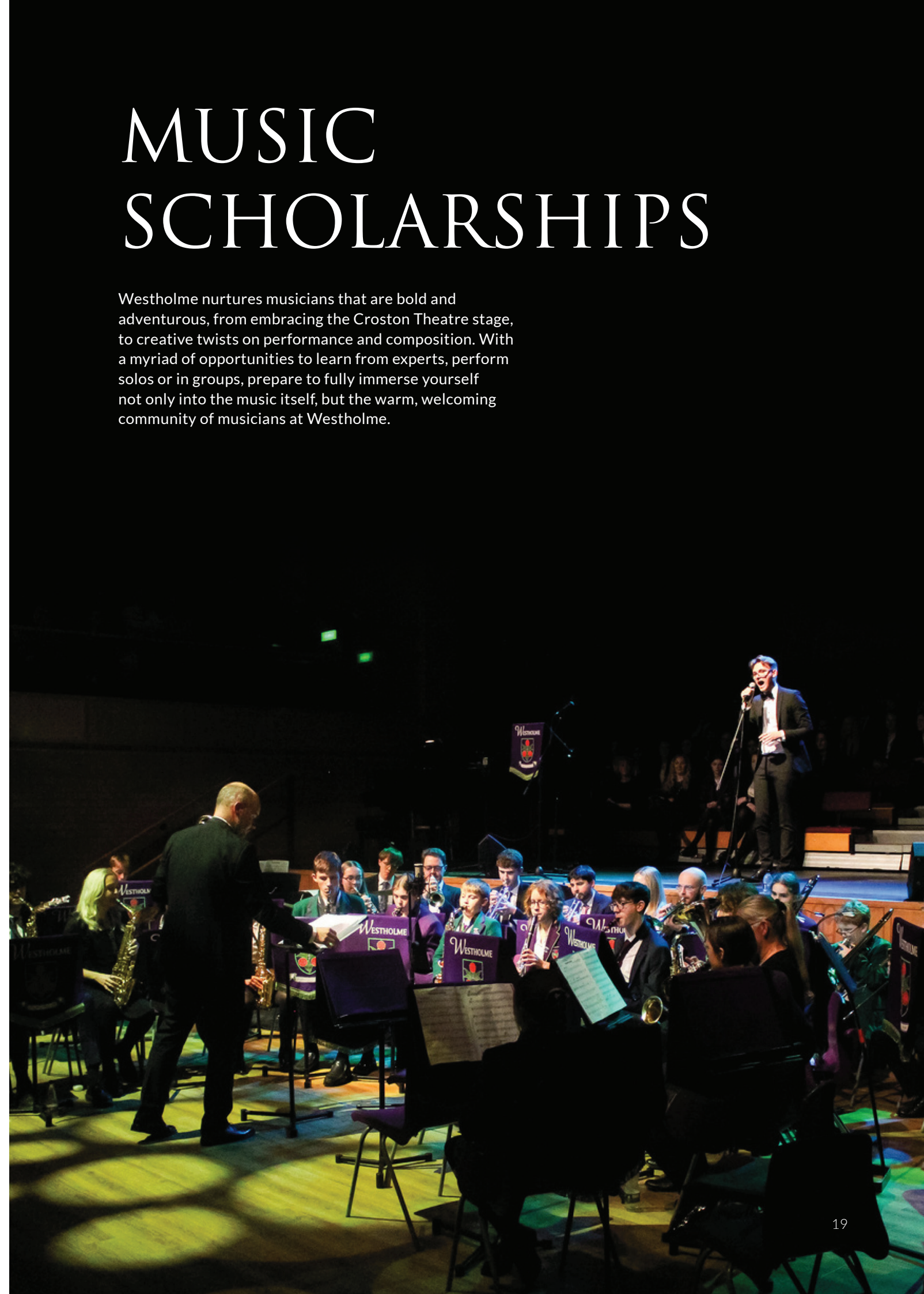
Applicants will have an audition with the Head of Drama and Director of Performing Arts, where they will be required to perform two contrasting monologues. These auditions aim to assess a student's acting ability, potential, creativity and passion for the subject.

- Applicants must choose one Classical Monologue: this allows assessors to see how well students handle complex language, rhythm and character development. Timing: 3 minutes or under. Examples can be from: a Shakespeare play, Greek theatre (for example Sophocles's *Antigone*), Oscar Wilde.
- Applicants must also choose one Contemporary Monologue: students need to perform a modern monologue to showcase their ability to work with contemporary language and themes. This gives insight into their versatility and range. Timing: 3 minutes or under. This can be anything from a published play written 1950 onwards.
- Applicants will then have a chance to display their skills and interests during an interview.

The use of costume and props are encouraged but not essential.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Westholme nurtures musicians that are bold and adventurous, from embracing the Croston Theatre stage, to creative twists on performance and composition. With a myriad of opportunities to learn from experts, perform solos or in groups, prepare to fully immerse yourself not only into the music itself, but the warm, welcoming community of musicians at Westholme.



MUSIC SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME

We run a vibrant, growing and personalised scholars' programme, the aim of which is to stretch, challenge and inspire our finest musicians, whilst helping them to reach their goals.

INDIVIDUAL MUSIC PLANS

Each scholar is assigned a musical mentor within the department, with whom they meet at the beginning of each term to discuss aspirations, plan for development and exchange musical ideas. This personalised support plan enables every music scholar to set their own targets and to achieve the standards of musicianship they aspire to reach.

MUSIC SCHOLARS' WORKSHOPS

Our Music scholars attend these sessions weekly. They range from being improvisation based, to focusing on performance practice or masterclass style sessions. These sessions take place during our lunchtime Music scholars club with our Head of Music. Students are encouraged to share musical opinions, and to develop their ability to create detailed and colourful performances. Within these sessions students will also have the opportunity to develop their music theory and aural skills, and prepare for graded music theory exams where appropriate.

TERMLY CONCERTS

This is a showcase for the very best musicians at Westholme to perform as soloists (and sometimes in small ensembles). Our Carol Service in Blackburn Cathedral is also a highlight of the performance calendar, along with pupils regularly having the opportunity to perform alongside professional musicians in the orchestra in our wider performing arts productions.



—
“MUSIC IS ABOUT COMMUNICATION, CREATIVITY, AND COOPERATION, AND BY STUDYING MUSIC IN SCHOOLS, STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD ON THESE SKILLS, ENRICH THEIR LIVES, AND EXPERIENCE THE WORLD FROM A NEW PERSPECTIVE.”

- William J. Clinton

MUSIC FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Our Music Department, equipped with a new recording studio, alongside well equipped practice rooms and the opportunity to perform in our orchestra pit in the Croston Theatre, enables students to perform using professional facilities. Our stunning ensembles include our impressive swing band, orchestra and multiple choirs alongside a variety of smaller ensembles bespoke to individual talents.

FORMAL REVIEW

Each scholar has a formal review with the Director of Performing Arts and Head of Music once a year. This is to ensure that the pupil is meeting the expectations of a scholar and to ensure also that the pupil is happy with their own progress and development.



CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR APPLICATION

11+ APPLICATIONS

All applicants must submit a completed application form and provide evidence that they meet the expected minimum standard of Grade 3 in their principal instrument and they will also need to submit at least one reference. All shortlisted applicants will then be invited to take part in our assessment day.

Assessment Day details

- Applicants are required to perform two contrasting vocal and/or instrumental pieces of their choice.
- Applicants complete a short rhythmic and music aural test, led by the Head of Music.
- Applicants are interviewed by the Head of Music and Director of Performing Arts and given the opportunity to talk about their musical tastes, specialisms and aspirations for the future, and how they will contribute to Music at Westholme School.

RECENT SUCCESSES

Music scholars play a central role in the Music Department. They perform before assemblies, at concerts, lead sections and act as role models within the school. Current students are part of the Junior Royal Northern College of Music programme where scholars gain access to high-level opportunities to advance beyond what could ordinarily be expected.

Recent Music scholars who have achieved notable success include Darcie Dewhurst, who accepted a place at the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music to study cornet. During Darcie's time at Westholme she performed cornet and trumpet on the Croston Stage as well performing leading roles in productions such as Cosette in *Les Misérables* and Sandy in *Grease*.

Other notable Music scholars include Ben Middleton who is currently embarking on a Masters Degree at the Royal School of Speech and Drama, after enjoying performances singing with our Swing Band, as a vocal soloist and also as Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*.

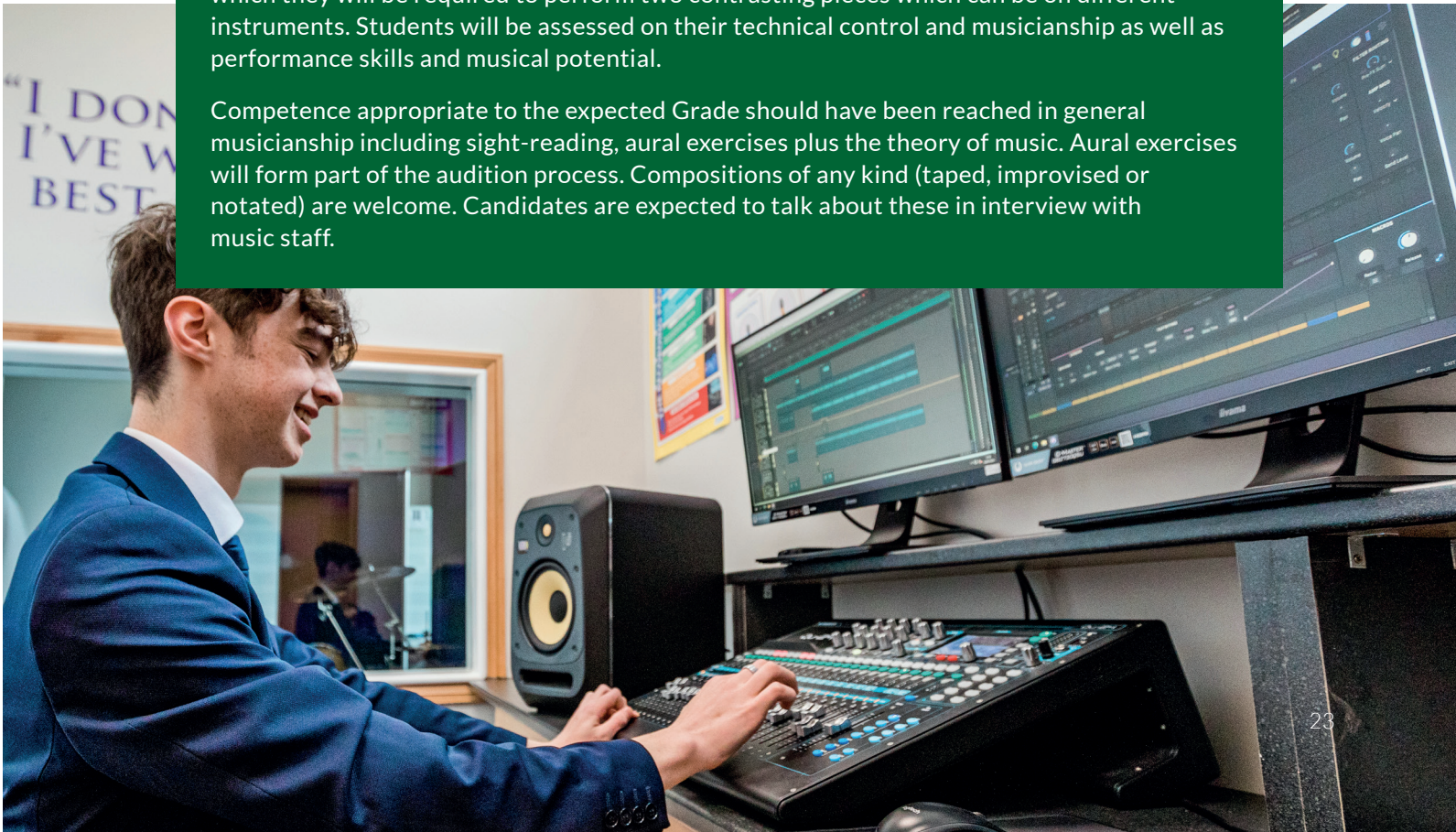


16+ APPLICANTS

Expected minimum standard: Grade 7.

Applicants have an audition with the Head of Music and Director of Performing Arts, during which they will be required to perform two contrasting pieces which can be on different instruments. Students will be assessed on their technical control and musicianship as well as performance skills and musical potential.

Competence appropriate to the expected Grade should have been reached in general musicianship including sight-reading, aural exercises plus the theory of music. Aural exercises will form part of the audition process. Compositions of any kind (taped, improvised or notated) are welcome. Candidates are expected to talk about these in interview with music staff.



SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Our goal is to create a nurturing environment where students can thrive academically and athletically.

Scholarships value outstanding potential in a specific sport; they also recognise the importance of all-round sporting ability. This suggests a balance between specialisation and a broader range of athletic skills.



SPORTS SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME

Our sports scholarships offer exceptional athletes the opportunity to combine their academic pursuits with their sporting passions. Scholarships are available across a range of disciplines, including football, swimming, athletics and cross-country running for both boys and girls, as well as hockey and netball for girls, and cricket for boys.

MENTORING

Sports scholars will be allocated a member of staff as their mentor.

The mentor will meet with the scholar formally once a term to map out the individual needs of the scholar and how Westholme can best support them along their sporting journey. This will be based around performance profiling of strengths and areas that require improvement in the following areas of their sport:

- Skill/techniques
- Fitness requirements
- Tactical awareness
- Psychological/mindset

An action plan that sets realistic goals and scheduled timelines will then be put together. This is all designed around motivating the scholar to develop a deeper understanding of their own performances and a strong awareness of what and how improvements can be made.

It is also vital that a scholar also has additional support in balancing academic work with sporting commitments. This will be monitored by the mentor and discussed with scholars and additional support can be offered where there is coordinated collaboration with the scholar, mentor, form tutors, subject staff and parents.

The scholars' mentor will be in contact with the scholar once a half-term but will also check in with them throughout the term. Scholars will be encouraged to keep the mentor informed of how they are performing and inform them if they feel they need additional support.



COMPETITION

Friendly fixtures are arranged on Saturday mornings and midweek in a wide variety of sports throughout the academic year. The school also enter Regional and National competitions. The competitive programme is designed to provide a balance of challenging and achievable competitions, ensuring all students are adequately prepared and motivated.

Sports scholars will be encouraged if appropriate, to compete at higher levels; sporting academies or on National Governing Body player performance pathways.

Partnerships have also been formed with local clubs in a wide variety of sports, where our scholars gain access to specialised coaching and more playing opportunities.

—
“SPORT IS AN
ESSENTIAL
ELEMENT
OF EDUCATION.”

- Dr George Sheehan



SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

External specialist coaches are regularly invited to deliver sessions.

Within the staff body there is a wealth of experience and expertise in a wide variety of sports. In addition external coaches are also invited to work with our students. Staff and external coaches collaborate with each other to ensure the programme works effectively in the best interest of the scholar. Staff also have opportunities to attend courses, workshops, seminars, or conferences for professional development.

Throughout the academic year a variety of events will take place that provide valuable information on various aspects of sports performance and development. This is aimed at offering support to all students, sports scholars, parents, staff, alumni, and our wider community partners. These events will be engaging, informative, and beneficial for all students and essential for sports scholars. These will be delivered as workshops, practical sessions, in-person elite guest speakers and online guest speakers, utilising our Croston Theatre, as well as providing an online resource library.

FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL

Sports scholars are encouraged to adopt a multi-sport approach in the younger years as the transfer of skills and decision-making within activities is often hugely beneficial to improving performance. The advantages of delaying specialism can also help prevent burnout and allow for a more balanced development. Students are also encouraged to improve their leadership skills through officiating, coaching or in the Sixth Form pursuing a sports leadership course. All of these opportunities will help students to deepen their understanding of tactics, rules and skills needed within game play.

FORMAL REVIEW

Mentors will meet their scholars once a term to set and review goals in the form of a performance development plan with the aim to enhance students’ performances. As well as this, mentors will encourage scholars to be confident to communicate with them on their performances and when they feel they may need support.

RECENT SUCCESSES

It has been a year of outstanding achievements across our Sports Scholarship Programme. Our football teams shone, with the U12s reaching the Blackburn and Darwen Cup Final and several players gaining representative honours and academy places, while former student Jonathan Brindle signed a professional contract with Preston North End.

In netball, our U14 team placed 3rd nationally in the Sisters in Sport tournament after topping the northern stage, while the U12s remained undefeated all season. We also secured district championship titles across three age groups, with several players earning County and Elite Academy honours.

Further success came in hockey, with excellent performances at U14 and U16 National Schools competitions, and in athletics where Westholme students dominated the Lee Town Sports and reached national finals.

Inspirational visits from Olympic champion James Guy, GB basketball player Kofi Josephs, and Paralympian Mark Tompsett provided further motivation, encouraging students to set ambitious goals and pursue

sporting excellence. Further success was achieved in hockey, with outstanding performances at the U14 and U16 National Schools competitions. Both teams were crowned Lancashire Champions in their respective tournaments and went on to represent the County at the Regional Finals, where they acquitted themselves well against some of the strongest hockey-playing schools in the North.

In addition, there was a significant increase in the number of students selected to train and compete in Lancashire squads — the highest in recent years. Along with this 4 of our students were also selected to attend the Talent Academies set up to support players with exceptional talent with the focus to represent the region against the best players in the country. It has truly been a phenomenal year of hockey development, improvement and success.



CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR APPLICATION

While the scholarships value outstanding potential in a specific sport, they also recognise the importance of all-round sporting ability.

Ultimately, all assessments are about assessing potential and not about assessing a finished product.

We can only award sports scholarships to students who compete in the core sports in which the school competes regularly:

For both boys and girls: Football, Swimming, Athletics, Cross-Country Running

For girls: Hockey, Netball

For boys: Cricket

11+ & 16+ APPLICANTS

Applicants will be asked to submit a comprehensive list of sporting achievements, stating the sport/s, date, competition, placing, and times if applicable. They will also need to send two references from sporting professionals from different organisations, stating their role. This information is vital as it will provide us with a detailed account of each student's sporting experience, enabling us to make an informed decision based on all their sporting experiences and achievements to date.

Assessment Day details

- Candidates will take part in a practical assessment that will incorporate a series of fitness tests. Participation in several different sports will also take place. The activities they will participate in will include hybrid games that will look at spatial awareness, movement and teamwork.
- We will also take into account each candidate's previous experience when assessing the different sports. We are looking at a student's ability to learn new skills and how they approach this challenge and work with others.
- Applicants will be interviewed by one of the sports scholarship mentors during the practical assessment.

EXPECTATIONS OF A SPORTS SCHOLAR

11+

11+ scholars must also show they can work with others in a positive environment that promotes a culture of developing teamwork and outstanding sportsmanship. Commitment and dedication to attending practices along with maintaining a positive mindset, overcoming challenges, and persevering in the face of adversity are also imperative. At this young age they may also be of a level where they play for their District, County, Regionally or Nationally.

16+

16+ scholars should be consistently delivering top level performances and achieving outstanding results having ability that sets them apart from their peers, and have gained representative honours at County, Regional or National level. The expectation will also be to represent the school in midweek and Saturday school fixtures where possible, having discussed playing commitments during the mentoring meetings to set out a planned playing programme, in advance of school fixtures.



SOME ADDITIONAL
CONSIDERATIONS:

Whilst not a formal requirement, there is an expectation that scholars will remain at Westholme for the entirety of their education.

Once a pupil has been awarded a scholarship, it will be reviewed annually. Continuity of the scholarship is dependent on a successful review.

Pupils may apply for a maximum of two scholarships.

READY
TO APPLY?



—
ACADEMIC
DANCE
DRAMA
MUSIC
SPORT



WESTHOLME

PREP | SENIORS | SIXTH FORM

westholmeschool.com

WESTHOLME SCHOOL, WILMAR LODGE, MEINS RD, PLEASINGTON, BB2 6QU