



SAPERE AUDE

DUNDALK GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS





AN EXCITING AND UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY!

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

The new position, ... 'Organ Scholar', shall provide the opportunity for aspiring organists to develop their skills in a supportive and creative environment.

Dundalk Grammar School is offering organ scholarships from the 2021/22 academic year onwards. To this end it has recently installed an organ (Viscount Vivace 90).

One of the key objectives of this endeavour is to enhance the live beauty of church services through allowing both choirs and congregations in general to be excellently accompanied by the existing church organs to the Glory of God.

So much wonderful music currently goes unheard by populations at large and this is an utter travesty depriving the soul of much succour. It is hoped that this endeavour may assist in addressing this void, and through enhancing the beauty of services thereby bring increased attendances.

The purpose of the scholarships is to promote and encourage organ playing in the school, to provide the recipient with both playing, choir accompaniment and music-directing experience, and to provide organists to play at services in local churches and throughout our island.

The Organ Scholar will operate under the guidance of the Head of Music and a specialist Organ Tutor. The scholarships will be awarded for the duration of the recipient's studies in Dundalk Grammar School, renewable each year subject to the scholarship criteria being met.

It is envisaged that once a Scholar has been selected that a second scholarship will come into play for a younger candidate prior to that existing Organ Scholar graduating so that continuity may remain established. The number of these scholarships at any one time will for the present therefore not exceed two.

The school governors consider that they shall be able, through their many contacts, to enhance each scholar's experience through providing wide-ranging opportunities to play varied organs throughout Ireland and even further afield as each candidate's experience builds. They are determined that the opportunities coming with the scholarships shall be exceptional, and be of a standard that shall, perhaps, open distinguished-career opportunities in the music field.

THIS ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS



ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Each organ scholarship will offer a wealth of experience and opportunities to the appointed individual and the recipient is expected to play a prominent role in the musical life of the school.

They shall be expected to be enthusiastically committed to this position which will provide them with the opportunity to develop their playing skills, ability for choir accompaniment, choir directing, musicianship and other relevant areas of skill.

The recipients of the organ scholarships will receive a Dundalk Grammar School Bursary to cover half of their school fees, whether they are a Day or Boarding Student. This shall fluctuate annually or otherwise in the normal way with the levied school fees as set by the Board of Governors.

Additionally, as well as 50% of the cost of their organ tuition with a specialist Organ Tutor (the remainder, €650, will be payable by the recipient). See *Appendix I* (pg. 8).

Annual tuition will consist of 2 x 30 minute classes per week over 30 weeks, and will cover both organ playing and the theory of music. Lessons will take place outside of timetabled lessons where possible to avoid pupils missing class time, and the Organ Scholar is expected to attend all normal school lessons.

The cost of music exam fees and relevant books will also be payable by the Scholar.

See Appendix I - The Mathematics (pg. 8).

The Organ Scholars will be expected to prepare for and undertake one graded organ practical exam as well as one theory of music exam per year. They shall also be expected to take part in the organ competitions and master-classes at Newry Feis each year or wherever the tutor shall decide.

A fund shall be available to subsidise the cost and travel expenses of courses which will benefit the scholar. The exact size shall depend on the totality of the programme decided upon.

Once a level of competency is achieved each Organ Scholar will play a full part in school-music activities accompanying such functions at the school as Prize Day, Harvest Festival Service, Healing Services and the Carol Service. It is likely that they will also be asked to perform at annual school drama presentations as and when scheduled. The accompaniment may not necessarily be on an organ, but on another keyboard instrument.

The Scholar will be expected to play at two church services per month, as directed by the Head of Music, after having had lessons for two months. The scholar's appearance at these services shall be through arrangement with the school's Head of Music and local clergy.

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Churches shall be chosen taking into account the travel distances involved, the complexity and condition of the church organs available, the presence of a choir etc. The object shall be at all times to build up the Scholar's experience and confidence at a pace commensurate with their growing abilities.

It is hoped that the appointed student will hold the scholarship until they complete their school education in Dundalk Grammar School. This shall depend on their continued commitment to the position.

The Organ Tutor will regularly report to the Head of Music on the Scholar's progress. The Head of Music will be informed if there are concerns over the commitment of the Organ Scholar to the position. Such concerns may arise, for example, if the Organ Scholar misses two or more lessons or if they are not making the expected progress on the instrument. The Head of Music will contact parents/guardians in this instance and if the situation persists, it will be referred to the Organ Scholarship Committee. That committee may withdraw the scholarship at any time if the recipient's commitment, progress or attendance is unsatisfactory.

In the event of the Scholar not continuing with the scholarship, full school fees will be payable from the date of termination of the scholarship programme.

BENEFITS TO THE RECIPIENT

An Organ Scholarship provides a unique opportunity for young aspiring organists to develop their skills through engaging in music-making at a high level. It offers invaluable training, experience and unparalleled opportunities for musicians and will prepare them for a future career as an Organ Scholar or for Director of Music positions at secondary, third level and beyond. At the very least the challenge for all involved is to facilitate the Organ Scholar with developing a skill that shall give them untrammelled pleasure throughout their lives.

During school vacations, at weekends and in general when such commitments do not conflict with regular school work, the Organ Scholar may be invited to perform at weddings, christenings, funerals, and other important events, and may be directly reimbursed for this. The Organ Scholar must consult and seek permission with the Head of Music, and or Organ Tutor in these cases to ensure no conflicts shall exist. The general concept at work here is to build the experience, competence and confidence of the Organ Scholar through playing under as many different circumstances as possible.

The Organ Scholar will have preferential access to the school's organ and can book practice times in the organ diary.

AUDITION PROCESS

Interested candidates will be asked to audition. The judging panel will consist of the Head of Music, the Organ Tutor and a member of the Organ Scholarship Committee.

Candidates shall be asked to prepare two pieces for examination on the piano. One shall be supplied (Organ Grade 2 standard), and the other shall be their own choice and of no longer than 2 minutes duration.

Details of the first piece will be notified at the time of registration for the audition.

In addition to performing the two pieces, candidates will be given a short extract to perform as a sight reading exercise, also on piano (grade 5 sight reading standard), and a short theory paper (5 questions, grade 3 standard).

There shall also be a short interview. The object of the interview is firstly to establish a friendly and relaxed rapport between the prospective candidate and judging panel, and also to ascertain the suitability of the candidate to the course.

To register:

Initially, to register for an audition for the position of Dundalk Grammar School Organ Scholar, please e-mail organscholarship@dgs.ie. Alternatively, please complete the application included herein. The Music Department will then revert to each prospective candidate with a view to selecting a mutually suitable venue

and time for their audition. A candidate should state on their application whether they are an existing or prospective Dundalk Grammar School student.

For further information:

Please contact Ms. Aisling McGuire, Head of Music – organscholarship@dgs.ie

For more general information about Dundalk Grammar School and entry thereto please contact: admin@dgs.ie

SUMMARY:

Dundalk Grammar School
Organ Scholar Audition Process

- 1 Prepared piece on piano**
Organ Grade 2 standard.
- 2 Own choice piece (or part of a piece) on piano**
No longer than 2 minutes.
- 3 Sight reading on piano**
Grade 5 Piano standard.
- 4 Theory**
5 questions at Grade 3 standard.
- 5 Short interview**
Why candidate would like the position, and can he/she commit until they leave the school, etc.

APPENDIX I – THE MATHEMATICS

Fees per annum	Total amount	Payable by the School	Payable by the Student
School Fees	€3990 (day)	€1995 (day)	€1995 (day)
	or €9330 (boarding)	or €4665 (boarding)	or €4665 (boarding)
Organ Tuition	€1,300	€650	€650
Books, organ shoes, exam fees (estimated)	€300 approx.		€300 approx.
Annual maintenance and servicing of organ	€300 approx.	€300 approx.	
Annual Cost	€5890 (day)	€3245 (day)	€2945 (day)
	€11230 (boarding)	€5915 (boarding)	€5615 (boarding)

NB 1: Tuition fees may vary from year to year, and the above fees and costs are for indicative purposes. *fees have been updated for 2023/2024

NB 2: Exam fees vary depending on the grade being entered.
See <https://www.riam.ie/riamexams> for current information on Royal Irish Academy fees per grade.

The Board of Governors of Dundalk Grammar School CLG, is pleased to acknowledge that their initiative in establishing these scholarships has been substantially assisted through funding and advice from a number of charities in Ireland including the school itself.



Organ Scholarship Application form

Please fill out the following details and return to: Administration Office,
Dundalk Grammar School, The Crescent, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91 FH00 Ireland.

Are you currently studying in Dundalk Grammar School ☐ Yes ☐ No

Pupil information

Surname of pupil: _____

Forename of pupil: _____

Date of birth: _____

Nationality: _____

P.P.S. number: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Piano grade achieved to date: _____

Exam Board: _____

Music teacher/piano teacher name: _____

Present class/year group: _____

Comments you may wish to add relevant to your experience and aspirations:

Mother's name: _____

Father's name: _____

Correspondence Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Mobile number: _____

Email: _____

Have you any previous connection with Dundalk Grammar School
(e.g. sibling, past pupil etc.) _____

Mother's occupation *(optional)*: _____

Father's occupation *(optional)*: _____

Where did you hear about Dundalk Grammar School? _____

Parent/Guardian Signature 1: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature 2: _____



Dundalk Grammar School
The Crescent, Dundalk
Co. Louth, Ireland
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