



Birchwood High School

your dreams, your future, our challenge

16 May 2025

HMS Bursary Award Scheme

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have received the attached letter from Hertfordshire Music Service in respect of the HMS Music Bursary Award Scheme.

Please be aware that Birchwood High School is unable to offer any funding in respect of school support for this bursary. Therefore, in the event of a bursary being offered by HMS, the remaining 50% will have to be self-funded by parents/carers.

Students currently receiving 25% school subsidy for orchestral instruments at Grade 2 and above and those taking GCSE (Y10 & Y11) and A level will continue to receive the 25% discount irrespective of their instrument.

With kind regards

Deryk Bull

Head of Finance

Principal, Mr Sam Griffin

Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 5BD

Telephone: 01279 655936 | Email: admin@birchwoodhigh.org.uk | Website: www.birchwoodonline.co.uk

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Dear Birchwood High School, Bishop Stortford (204)

From **1 September 2025**, HMS financial support will transition to the **HMS Music Bursary Award Scheme**. The aims of the new **HMS Music Bursary Award Scheme** are to:

- Provide financial support to more students who may not otherwise afford access to music provision.
- Motivate students to continue their musical education through different stages.
- Further support students who achieve higher levels of proficiency.

The **HMS Music Bursary Award Scheme** will be available as a bursary at a **maximum of 50%**, pending funding availability. The new bursary award scheme will be structured in **three stages** to align with a young person's musical development:

- **Stage 1** – In-school 30-minute group lessons (one year) - available from September 2025 pending funding availability.
- **Stage 2** – Individual 20-minute lessons (subject to completion of Stage 1)
- **Stage 3** – Advanced 30-minute individual lessons (subject to completion of Stage 2)

Supporting families to apply

- Families of students currently receiving financial support has been recommended for a **Stage 2 HMS Music Bursary** (50% bursary for Individual 20 minutes lessons). **HMS will contact these families and will provide them with the information on how to apply for the HMS Music Bursary.**
- **Those who will be confirmed as in receipt of a HMS Bursary award will need to confirm the 50% remaining funding, by either self-funding or school support and have a lesson in place.**
- If an HMS Bursary award has been confirmed, parent/carer will need to confirm the remaining 50% funding, by either self-funding or school support.
- An instrumental lesson must be in place.

Stage 1 bursary applications

- Available from September 2025 – pending funding availability
- More information, including eligibility criteria, can be found on our HMS Music Bursary Scheme page.
- For any queries, please contact HMSBursary@hertfordshire.gov.uk

We appreciate your support in ensuring students and families are well informed about these changes. Please see the webpage for further information: [Help with music fees](#)

Thank you,
HMS Bursary team

Hertfordshire Music Service | Children's Services | Hertfordshire County Council
Central Office, Mid Herts Centre for Music & Arts, Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield, AL10 0PS
T: 01438 844851

W: www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk | [@HertsMusic](https://twitter.com/HertsMusic)

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