DACF Deryck and Annette Chant Medical, Dentistry and Nursing Fund

January 2026

Born in 1930, Deryck Chant was the eldest of four children from a relatively poor family who lived in Kilmington. He obtained a place at Gillingham Grammar School during war time and because of the lack of public transport between Kilmington and Gillingham, he stayed in digs for the whole of his school career. From the School, he won a scholarship to Guys Hospital to study Dentistry where he met Annette, and after his period of National Service they got married and together set up a dental practice in Wareham until they retired. Deryck enjoyed his School years and appreciated the start it had given him, and the friendships he made there which endured for the rest of his life, because his life could have been very different. When Deryck and Annette died, their daughter Mary Ritchie wished to recognise the contribution the School made to her father's life by providing some financial support for current and former students, for whom a career in Medicine or Dentistry or Nursing may be a financial struggle.

The Deryck and Annette Chant Medical, Dentistry and Nursing Fund is part of Gillingham School Foundation, charity registration 306212. Although not part of the George Butler Scholarship Fund, DACF shares the same ethos and criteria and is administered in the same way at the same time. Applications are welcomed from needy former pupils with financial concerns who seek assistance with, for example, accommodation and maintenance costs, payment of university fees or the acquisition of books or equipment. The terms of reference emphasises 'assistance for needy former pupils'. It is not the intention that applicants give precise details of their financial circumstances (such as would be necessary for any Government or Local Authority supported schemes) successful applications tend to provide good information. The more detailed the financial status, the easier it will be for the need to be quantified. This is the first occasion that the DACF invites applications, therefore it is not possible to indicate the amount which could be available. Awards are considered annually in June for each separate year.

How to apply

Letters of application should be written by the applicant only, preferably typed, and include:

- postal and email address
- details of the applicant's background
- dates of attendance at Gillingham School (with exam results achieved or expected)
- full details of the courses of study applied for, and
- how the DACF would support the applicant

Please bear in mind that the Fund was set up specifically for financial assistance for 'needy applicants with financial concerns'. If the applicant is unable to show this need then the application will be deemed 'need not proven'.

Written applications should be directed to
Deryck and Annette Chant Medical, Dentistry and Nursing Fund (2026-27)
c/o 1 Knapp Cottages, Wyke Road, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4NQ
If submitting by email, please attach your file to your email to
phenderson@gillingham-dorset.co.uk

DO NOT SEND YOUR APPLICATIONS DIRECTLY TO GILLINGHAM SCHOOL.

The deadline for applications is Thursday, 30 April 2026. Late applications will be deemed ineligible.