



GEORGE BUTLER SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR FORMER PUPILS OF GILLINGHAM SCHOOL DORSET

January 2026

Introduction

George H Butler was a former scholar of Gillingham School but as a local farmer he continued his association, particularly with the running of the old school farm in the 1960s and 1970s. After his death in 1999, his Will left part of his estate to establish a fund, the income from which would be used to give financial assistance to needy former pupils to continue with further/higher education. Trustees of The George Butler Scholarship Fund invite applications from present or former pupils of Gillingham School who wish to attend university, college or similar educational establishments in the academic year 2024–25. The Trustees are indebted to George Butler for providing this assistance for pupils to meet the considerable costs and fees now involved in continuing studies.

The Trustees welcome applications from **needy pupils with financial concerns** who seek assistance with, for example, student maintenance costs, and/or payment of university or college tuition fees and/or the acquisition of books or equipment. The Trustees are mindful of the terms of reference which emphasise assistance for '**needy former pupils**'. So although it is not the intention of the Trustees to require applicants to give precise details of their financial circumstances (such as would be necessary for any Government or Local Authority supported schemes) any information relating to this aspect is crucial and could include details of siblings in full-time education, parents' occupational background and financial position and of any paid employment undertaken by applicants to support their studies. Successful applications tend to give good information so if an applicant or the applicants' family is in receipt of family or other benefits this should be stated. The more detailed the financial status, the easier it will be for the Trustees to recognise the needs and ensure they are within the objects of the Charity.

The Fund is sizeable but must also take into the account the current return on investments. Accordingly, at this stage, the Trustees are unable to indicate the possible amount which would be available. The Trustees meet annually in June to consider the applications and then decide how to allocate the awards for each separate year.

Outcome of Awards 2025

Six applications were received last year for awards from present and past pupils of Gillingham School intending to commence university or college courses in September 2026. Based on the applications, the Trustees decided on support ranging from £1,250 up to £2,000 for those applicants who best met the criteria.

The Trustees also encourage students to enquire from their university or college what charitable or scholarship funds might be available to them as students in attendance there; many such institutions have considerable specific awards for this purpose which only become available to students once they have started courses there.

How to apply

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact Mr Mat Lake at the School (telephone 01747 822222).

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

- postal address
 - email address
 - details of the applicant's background
 - dates of attendance at Gillingham School (with exam results achieved)
 - full details of the courses of study applied for, and
 - how the George Butler Award would support the applicant
- If the applicant has previously received an award from the GBSF, please tell the Trustees how much the award was and how it helped 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

George Butler Scholarship 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.