

GEORGE BUTLER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For former pupils of Gillingham School, Dorset *January 2025*

Introduction

George H. Butler was a former scholar of Gillingham School, and as a local farmer, he maintained his association with the school, particularly with the running of the old school farm in the 1960s and 1970s. After his death in 1999, his will specified that part of his estate be used to establish a fund, the income from which would provide financial assistance to needy former pupils wishing to pursue further or higher education.

The Trustees of The George Butler Scholarship Fund invite applications from current or former pupils of Gillingham School who wish to attend university, college, or similar educational establishments during the academic year 2025–26. The Trustees are indebted to George Butler for providing this valuable assistance to help pupils meet the considerable costs and fees now associated with continuing their studies.

The Trustees welcome applications from needy pupils with financial concerns who are seeking assistance with, for example, student maintenance costs, university or college tuition fees, or the acquisition of books and equipment. The Trustees are mindful of the terms of reference, which emphasize assistance for 'needy former pupils'. While it is not the Trustees' intention to require applicants to provide precise details of their financial circumstances (as would be necessary for government or local authority supported schemes), any information relating to this aspect is crucial. This could include details of siblings in full-time education, parents' occupational background and financial position, and any paid employment undertaken by applicants to support their studies. Successful applications typically provide good information, so if the applicant or their 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 understand the applicant's needs and ensure they align with the objectives of the Charity.

This is the 21st occasion on which the Fund has invited applications. The Fund is sizeable but must also take into account the current return on investments. Accordingly, at this stage, the Trustees are unable to indicate the possible amount that will be available. The Trustees meet annually in June to consider the applications and decide how to allocate the awards for each separate year.

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 must 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
- How the George Butler Award would support the applicant

GBSF 2025

If the applicant has previously received an award from the GBSF, please include details of the amount awarded and how it helped.

Please bear in mind that the Fund was established specifically to provide financial assistance to 'needy applicants with financial concerns'. If the applicant is unable to demonstrate this need, the application will be deemed 'need not proven'.

Written applications should be directed to:

George Butler Scholarship Fund (2025)

c/o 1 Knapp Cottages

Wyke Road

Gillingham

Dorset SP8 4NQ

If submitting by email, please attach your file and send it to: phenderson@gillingham-dorset.co.uk

DO NOT SEND YOUR APPLICATIONS DIRECTLY TO GILLINGHAM SCHOOL.

The deadline for applications is **Friday, 25 April 2025**.

Late applications will be deemed ineligible.

Charity Registration No. 1088505

Secretary to the Fund: Mrs P Henderson

1 Knapp Cottages, Wyke Road, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4NQ

Telephone: 01747 825718

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