

MUSIC



BOARD: WJEC
ACCREDITATION: GCSE

The Music Department at Greenhill School has enjoyed an outstanding reputation for excellence not only in Pembrokeshire but throughout the U.K. Results at GCSE have continually been amongst the highest in Greenhill, with a pass rate of 100% A* to C, well above the national average. The majority of students who take GCSE Music achieve a higher grade than in their other subjects.

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into three sections: Performing, Composing and Appraising.

Performing: The preparation for this section of the course is overseen by the peripatetic tutors. All students are encouraged to gain a standard between grades three and four by the end of year 11. Two performances are required, with at least one as a member of an ensemble. The total performance should last between 4-6 minutes. One of the pieces performed must be associated with a chosen AREA OF STUDY. All students must participate in extra-curricular activities for it is in these areas of work that students gain the best experience.

Composing: All work in this area of the course is undertaken both at school and at home. Over the two-year course students must produce two compositions that are between 3-6 minutes in total.

One composition must be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The briefs will be released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken.

The second composition is a free composition for which learners choose their own style.

Appraising: Work for this paper is an extension of listening and theory tests set in years 7, 8 and 9. There are eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study:

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of study 3: Film Music

Area of study 4: Popular Music

Two of the eight questions are based on prepared extracts set by WJEC.

ASSESSMENT

Performing (35%):

Section A (30%): One practical exam lasting 4-6 minutes (35%).

Section B (5%): Programme notes about one of the pieces performed. Internally assessed by teaching staff.

Composing (35%):

Section A (30%): Students complete a folio of two contrasting compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by WJEC. This is assessed by the Music Staff and moderated externally.

Section B (5%): An evaluation of the piece composed in response to the brief set by WJEC.

Appraising (30%):

One listening paper lasting one and half hours.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Students who are already musically inclined will find this course interesting and enjoyable. The majority of the course is practically based which does demand a lot of commitment outside of lessons for Choirs, Orchestras, bands and other rehearsals.

All students will be guided through the music theory during lessons, which will be aimed at an appropriate level for individual ability. Any student wishing to take music must learn an instrument or have some formal tuition if they sing.

Outside of school there are also County Orchestras and Choirs for students wishing to expand their experiences.

