



South Hampstead

High School

G D S T

# 11+ (Year 7) Music Scholarship

Music Scholarships may be awarded at Year 7 (for seven years). They are prestigious awards which provide talented young musicians with a broad range of outstanding musical opportunities which support and develop their musical progression. Our Music Scholars are expected to participate fully in the musical life of the school. They should be members of all ensembles appropriate to their instrumental speciality and will have plentiful solo performance opportunities, including performances at lunchtime recitals and teatime concerts. Their musical development will be supported with free weekly coaching sessions with one of our piano teachers. These can be used for practising pieces with piano accompaniment and for musicianship and general coaching. They are expected to take a lead in all musical activities and they should set a good example in participation, punctuality and general conduct.

Music Scholarship appointments will be made on the basis of current playing ability as well as potential and likely contribution to the life of the Music Department.

Whilst the approximate level of Grade VI (ABRSM or Trinity) is a rough guide for interested applicants, the audition panel are looking for candidates who have achieved distinctions in any exams they may have taken on their first instrument. A distinction at Grade IV or V level, for example, is more valuable an achievement than a pass or merit at Grade VI or VII.

Successful candidates will present polished performances demonstrating a high level of musical sensitivity and understanding (regardless of whether or not they have undertaken exams in the past).

Development Awards may be granted to candidates who are not awarded a scholarship at audition, but who play what the department considers to be a rare instrument (for example, double bass, bassoon, etc.) which we would like to encourage and nurture. These awards constitute payment of lessons on that instrument up to the value of the amount charged by our visiting teachers (£378 per term for 2025/2026). The instrument can be studied either with a teacher at school or outside school and payments will be made directly to individual teachers.

The auditions will be conducted by the Director of Music and the Assistant Director of Music, who may be assisted by an external consultant. Candidates will be asked to perform two contrasting pieces on their first instrument (and, if they like, a further piece on a second and/or third instrument). Candidates offering three instruments should bear in mind that we may only hear the third study if time permits.

It is not necessary to offer more than one instrument, though a commitment to a range of musical activities may count in the applicant's favour. Singing does, of course, count as an instrument and many of our scholars have been first-study singers.

There will be some aural tests, of approximately ABRSM Grade V standard, consisting of a melody to sing back and some brief discussion of the musical aspects of a short piece of piano music.

In Year 8, Music Scholars embark on studying GCSE Music, which they complete by the end of Year 9. This is an optional fast-tracking scheme which allows Scholars to attain GCSE Music before they undertake any other GCSE subject choices and has proven very popular. Study takes place during timetabled lessons, including one after school session each week.

The Music Scholarship Application Form, together with a musical reference (to be submitted on the candidate's behalf from one of her music teachers or from someone else suitably qualified to comment on her musical ability), should be submitted online by the 11+ application deadline. The auditions will take place in January.