

Teacher Profile



GATEWAYS
SCHOOL

Mr Lenihan



Mr Lenihan teaches Music to High School and heads up the Music department. He joined Gateways in 2017 and has overseen many fabulous music events.

What made you want to be a teacher and have you always been a teacher?

I have a real passion for music and I love getting the opportunity to share that enthusiasm with young people.

I took a couple of years out after University and did a lot of gigging and working in the arts. I also tried teaching and secured a job teaching in a primary school and loved it. I knew teaching was for me and applied for a PGCE qualification.

What are your favourite things about teaching at Gateways?

The best thing by far is the pupils. We have so much fun in lessons and there is laughter every day in my job. The pupils are so polite, motivated and full of enthusiasm. I also love the location and the fact that I can look out at the rolling hills on my way to and from the music terrace.

What was your favourite subject when you were at school and why?

I loved music and English and I studied these two subjects at university in a combined arts degree. There are so many reasons why I enjoyed these subjects. If I had to sum it up, I would say I love the way a piece of literature or music can make you feel. It can fill you with joy or break your heart.

Fun Fact

Mr Lenihan speaks Irish (Gaelic) fluently and loves Irish dancing!

How is Gateways different to other schools you have taught in?

Gateways is my 4th school and every school I have taught in has gotten gradually smaller and smaller. I love the intimate feel at Gateways; I know everyone and am able to adapt to their individual needs.

Do you have any advice for pupils (or teachers) thinking of joining Gateways?

Embrace every opportunity, get the most out of every experience. Relish and celebrate the chance to be unique. Do your best and you will reap the benefits.

What is your favourite book?

This is an impossible question as it changes regularly depending on what mood I am in. I'm always reading a book or two. One book that I like to dip into again and again is 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse' by Charlie Mackesy. It is very simple and wise at the same time!

Do you have someone who has inspired you (or is still inspiring you)?

My year 6 teacher in primary school was a great influence on me. He taught me to strive to be my absolute best and have high expectations. This is how I try to live my life. My son inspires me now. He has a significant disability but is still able to be full of vitality and joy and teaches everyone in my family how to be resilient.