

Music

What is this course about?

GCSE Music is designed to allow the study of music through the integration of performing, composing, listening and appraising with opportunities to use music technology. It recognises that we live in an age of cultural diversity and the areas of study cover a wide range of music: classical music, world music, and popular music. This flexibly structured course allows students to capitalise on their different interests and caters for a wide spectrum of musical abilities. It gives students the opportunity to make music, both individually and in groups, to develop a life-long interest in music and to progress to further study.

What skills will students gain?

GCSE Music provides students the opportunity to gain self-confidence and develops team-working skills through performing with others, extends students' creative skills through composing music and encourages the understanding of the importance of continuous evaluation and refinement in any process. The course provides a solid foundation for progression to music related courses, including A-level Music, and a career in music professions.

What skills are needed?

- An ability to play an instrument or sing to a reasonable standard.
- You have already listened to a variety of music in class and these skills are developed as you study some set pieces taken from the classical, 20th Century, popular and world music Areas of Study.
- You have been introduced to creating music of your own choice in class and this is developed on the GCSE course as you choose two topics for composition. For example you could compose a song, a piece of classical music or some world music.

How is this course assessed?

Component

PERFORMING (30%)

1. Perform a solo piece
2. Performing an ensemble piece

Either the solo or the ensemble piece must come from the same area of study as composition one. The other performance can be any style/genre.

COMPOSING (30%)

Composition 1

Based on one of the Areas of Study

15% Coursework

Composition 2

Composing to a brief outlined by the Exam Board – controlled assessment.

15% Coursework

LISTENING AND APPRAISING (40%)

Written paper 1hour 45 mins at the end of the course answering questions on the set works studied in the four Areas of Study:

- Instrumental Music 1700-1820
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions

Qualification Received: GCSE

Grade Range: 9 - 1

What career or further education opportunities does this course lead to?

If you enjoy the GCSE Music course then you can consider an:

- AS and A2 in Music

Your listening skills will enhance the aural perception needed in language examinations. Your performing skills will give you confidence in playing to an audience – useful if you intend to pursue a career that involves presenting regularly, for example, law.