

GCSE MUSIC

What Will I Be Studying?

GCSE Music is the perfect way to immerse yourself in learning a musical instrument or perfecting your vocal technique. You will receive 1:1 instrumental lessons with a specialist teacher and perform as a soloist, as well as part of a group. PERFORMING is a large part of the course so you really need to enjoy it!

You will also work creatively to COMPOSE two pieces of original music. You can do this on the computers with SoundTrap or Sibelius, or acoustically if you prefer. You may be good at writing songs or pieces for your instrument, if so, although this takes patience, dedication and a lot of creativity, this would be a good course for you!

Finally, there is one LISTENING exam and you will improve your ability to analyse a whole range of musical genres. Some of them you will like and some of them may be a new type of music to you. The key thing here is that you appreciate the music for what it is!

How Will I Be Assessed?

Performances are done in year 10 when you are ready and they are all recorded at school with your teacher. If you don't get it right first time – we do it again, until we get the best recording that we are both happy with. You will get the chance to perform to each other so you can learn how to mark performances together.

One of your original compositions will be marked by your teacher and the other one will be sent away and marked by an external examiner. You will have to include some written work about both of your pieces to explain them and what inspired you in each. These are written on the computer with SoundTrap or Sibelius.

The only exam in Music GCSE is the listening exam. This happens in the dance studio. You listen to 8 musical excerpts - 2 set works and 6 other random pieces, you will have to answer musical questions on what you can hear. The set pieces are 'AFRICA' by the band, TOTO and an older piece by JS Bach called 'BADINERIE'. You will study these 2 pieces in great depth.

Who Would Enjoy This Course?

Q- Do you already have to learn an instrument? A- NO!

If you already have lessons on an instrument, or if you like to sing, you should absolutely consider Music. However, if you don't already learn an instrument, but you want to, then you should also consider music. You need to be able to practise regularly so that you can master pieces that demonstrate your improving skills and ability. You are not too late to start, but you must be committed!



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You need to be able to work independently and be creative. Above all, you must be able to appreciate and enjoy a wide variety of musical styles, including film music, classical music, vocal music and world music. If this sounds like you, then Music GCSE would be a good choice for your options.

How Will This Course Help Me In The Future?

Music is a very practical subject. It's not always easy, but it is incredibly enjoyable. How far you get depends on how hard you work. Come and look at our 'Careers in Music' display in M5! It will also improve your ability to work independently and as part of a group. You will learn how to manage your time, how to be resilient and how to strive for excellence.

GCSE Music will prepare you for A Level Music and college Level 3 courses in the performing arts. It is the perfect subject for students wishing to pursue further study in teaching or the performing arts.

You will develop your communication skills through a range of media, as well as your ability to work independently and solve problems to a high standard. Being a musician is a skill for life!