

Music GCSE

What do you study?

This is a highly practical course which allows you to develop your understanding of music through performance and composition.

Component One -Understanding Music: You will study a variety of pieces ranging from Haydn to The Beatles and analyse how composers and songwriters create their own style. We will perform these pieces on the instruments that you play and gradually learn about their musical features. This is assessed through an exam in which you have to identify instruments and time signatures as well as describing various musical features, such as melody and rhythm.

Component Two – Performing: In Year 11, you will perform a solo and ensemble piece on your chosen instrument, or voice. You can also DJ if you wish. This is just in front of your teacher and is recorded. You can record the piece as many times as you like in order to ensure you submit your best performance.

Component Three: Composition: You will learn to develop musical ideas and compose music that is musically convincing. You will submit two compositions, one which is to a brief, and one which is a free choice. Students frequently compose songs or pieces for their own instrument.

Significant differences from KS3?

The biggest change is that the class is made up entirely of people who are motivated and have the interest and ability to create music. This opens new opportunities to make musical partnerships, high quality performances and encourages participation in wider school events. GCSE Music students are encouraged to take part in the musical life of the school and are also involved in workshops and visits to concerts or shows.

Why Study Music?

Music is a highly creative subject that develops many transferable skills such as: leadership, independent learning, decision making, analysis, research, creativity, flexibility, logical thinking and cultural awareness. As well as being a great fun and an excellent way to relax, there is plenty of evidence that supports how music helps improve memory and attainment across the curriculum.

How is the course assessed?

Understanding Music exam: 40%; Performance – 30%; Composition – 30%

Exam board link:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271>