

MUSIC GCSE**What qualification does this course lead to?**

GCSE (Grades 9-1)

**What topics will I study?**

A love of music is essential and you will learn about a wide of variety of music from different genres. You will be expected to develop your musical performance skills through instrumental lessons and participation in extra-curricular music. Much of the first year of the course will be spent developing and refining your performance, composition and aural discrimination (listening) skills. You will focus on Set works from four areas of study including The Western Classical Tradition. Other options could include popular and world music.

What understanding and skills will I develop?

- Instrument specific performance techniques
- A solid understanding of musical theory
- Instrumental/vocal music composition skills
- A developed musical vocabulary

How will I learn/how will I be taught?

Students will

- ... Participate in a 20 minute instrumental lesson every week with a specialist tutor.
- ... Attend regular rehearsals as part of the department's extra-curricular timetable.
- ... Develop aural discrimination and composition skills through timetabled lessons.
- ... Perform in concerts in school and the surrounding area.

How will I be assessed?

The majority of the course is assessed through practical music making; performing and composing. Theory plays an important part in the development of these two areas and your contextual understanding and aural discrimination skills will be assessed in a final listening paper worth approximately 40% of your final grade.

Your performance skills will be assessed on one chosen instrument. You will need to be able to perform as a soloist (with or without an accompaniment) and as part of an ensemble. This must be completed by the end of the spring term in Year 11. Composition skills are assessed through the completion of two pieces of original music, one of which will be in response to a brief set by the exam board. Again both pieces must be completed by the end of the spring term in Year 11. Pupils have the opportunity to use both modern and traditional methods of composition.

What can this course lead on to?

Those who study GCSE Music can further their studies by taking AS or A-Level Music. Students can also opt for an extended diploma in Performing Arts, specialising in music or a BTEC course in Music or Music Technology. Typically, students who take music tend to go on to become performers or teachers (of all subjects). However, music is also a valuable option for those who wish to pursue other careers including arts administration, media and journalism, medicine, finance... the list is endless!

Who do I need to contact for more information?

Miss K Dawson