

Music

GCSE



Head of Department : Mr Zwanzig



Course Aims



To allow the students to:

Investigate, analyse and evaluate music and its features

Develop confidence in performing, composing and appraising music.

Perform, compose and appreciate different types of music, develop critical and creative thinking, cultural, aesthetic and emotional awareness, Develop a holistic understanding of Music and use this knowledge to perform and compose music.

Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity

Make music individually and as part of a group.

To appraise music from a variety of styles and periods of music including Classical Music, Rock, Musicals, Film Music, and Fusions of two or more styles of music.

Support progression to undergraduate level Music.

And so much more!



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Course Outline



Component 1 Performing

2 performances
30% of final grade

Solo performance - minimum 1 piece and minimum 1 minute
Ensemble performance - minimum 1 piece and minimum 1 minute

Together total minimum of 4 minutes across the solo and ensemble pieces

Component 2 Composition

2 Compositions
30% of final grade

1 Set brief – minimum 1 minute
1 Free Composition – minimum 1 Minute

Together total minimum of 3 minutes

Component 3 Listening and Appraising test

1 hour and 45 minute
exam
40% of final grade

The exam is based on 4 Areas of Study with 2 Set Works each:

- Area 1: Musical Forms and Devices
- Area 2: Music for Ensemble
- Area 3: Film Music
- Area 4: Popular Music





Links to other subjects

Many of our students choose to study Music with other Arts subjects such as Art and Media Studies but can also have links to other subjects including Maths through the use of patterns; Science through the understanding of how pitches are created and manipulated; and English through the structuring of melodies and songs.

We recommend that you are taking Music with another essay based subject to further refine your skills in structuring excellent answers that are effective in applying knowledge, accurate in detail and draw on continuous knowledge taught throughout your lessons in preparation for the exam.



Holcombe Habits

- Wonder and awe is developed through the continual layering and gathering of new knowledge about music from a variety of styles and periods.
- Persisting is developed through practicing for your solo and group performances and creating and developing your compositions.
- Creative thinking is developed through your compositions and your performances.
- Continuous learning is developed through the constant addition, development and expansion of previously gained knowledge about different styles of music and the use of this knowledge to compose and perform your music.
- Taking responsible risks is developed through the creation of your compositions and your performances.



Skills needed to succeed in Music



- Have good organisation.
- Have perseverance and enthusiasm.
- Be creative.
- To be able to meet deadlines.
- To work independently and with others.
- To have effective communication skills – from active listening, oral and written communication, and your ability to work as a group to perform music.
- To have good time management skills.
- To be able to listen to and evaluate a variety of types of music.
- To be dedicated to learning an instrument.
- To have the discipline to practice and improve your performance and compositions.
- To have an inquisitive mind-set.



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Career Pathways



There are many different careers you can enter with a qualification in Music including:

If you like to perform: Musician; session musician; conductor/ musical director; actor; instrumental teacher; teacher; DJ

If you like to create your own music: composer; game and film composer; songwriter; producer; music arranger

If you are interested in sound: live sound technician; recording engineer; Tv or film sound technician; broadcast engineer

Other areas of the industry: Artist manager; instrumental teacher; teacher; A&R coordinator; Music journalist; tour manager; concert promoter; booking agent; music publicist; Record producer



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Top 10 Universities For Music



- University of Durham
- University of Manchester
- University of Cambridge
- University of Southampton
- University of Birmingham
- University of Glasgow
- University of Oxford
- University of Leeds
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- University of Edinburgh



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