

MUSIC

QUALIFICATION	GCSE Music
EXAMINING BOARD	Edexcel
CONTACT TEACHER	Miss Graham
LESSONS PER FORTNIGHT	5

What will you learn?

Performance

- Pupils will develop performance skills and techniques through attending a weekly instrumental lesson on an instrument of their choice
- Understanding how expression and articulation can improve performances.
- Solo Performance skills such as performing with an accompaniment
- Ensemble performance skills such as balance between instruments and following a leader.

Composition

- How to write (compose) music for a range of styles / genres
- Understanding a wide range of instruments and their pitch range
- How to use music technology to compose music through a range of different software such as *Cubase*, *cakewalk* and *noteflight*.

Appraising

- Music Theory for reading and writing music
- Key terminology linked to 8 set pieces of music and information about a range of musical features within each piece.

Course Overview

Students will develop skills, techniques and theory aspects related to an instrument/voice of their choice to develop their performance abilities and confidence. 2 out of 5 lessons a fortnight are practically based, with pupils having opportunity for solo rehearsal and ensemble practice both of which teach pupils different performance skill sets.

For composition pupils are introduced to several different approaches to writing their own music from handwritten notation to virtual instrument sounds on computer software. Pupils do not need to be able to perform on a range of instruments however they need to have an awareness of features of different styles and genres which they will learn about throughout the course.

The listening and appraising component involves pupils learning key information about 8 pieces of music for 4 areas of study;

1. Instrumental Music 1700–1820
2. Vocal Music
3. Music for Stage and Screen
4. Fusions.

Pupils will also study music dictation and general music theory, This knowledge and understanding of music terminology and key features will be demonstrated in an externally assessed exam at the end of year 11.

Assessment

All pupils will complete 3 components of performing, composing and appraising music

Performance (30%)

Pupils will rehearse and record performance pieces throughout the course. In year 11 pupils must record a solo performance and an ensemble performance each worth 15% of their final grade. Pupils can complete performances on different instruments and in any style. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Composition (30%)

Pupils will compose two pieces of music each lasting at least 1 minute in length and jointly a minimum of 3 minutes. Pupils must complete their final compositions in year 11. One composition is completed in any style the pupil chooses, the other is in response to a set brief released in year 11 from the exam board. As well as the sound recording pupils must also produce a form of score and write-up explaining about the music they have composed. Each composition is worth 15%. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Appraising (40%)

Throughout the two year course pupils will learn about a wide range of music keywords, techniques and features linked to 8 set works as well as learning how to identify music notes and rhythms by ear (music dictation) and also how to identify key features in music they have never heard before. Theory knowledge and understanding will be assessed in a 1 hour 45 minute exam at the end of year 11. This exam is out of 80 marks. 68 of these are from short answer questions relating to 6 of the 8 set works, a music dictation question and an unfamiliar listening question. 12 marks are from an essay questions where pupils will compare and contrast a particular feature e.g. instrumentation from a set work with a piece they have not previously studied. Externally assessed.



What students say?

Positives:

“Instrumental lessons provided to aid musicianship.”
“75% coursework.”

Be aware of:

“The importance of independent work and progress.”

Qualities needed to do well:

“You need to be able to complete practice independently and be able to attend instrumental lessons.”

Careers

- A-levels in music, music production, performing arts
- Music teaching
- Music therapy
- Composer
- Music performer
- All aspects of the music industry
- Creative industries
- Music production