

MUSIC



What is GCSE Music all about?

GCSE Music is about making and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles – popular music, classical music, experimental music and world music. There are numerous opportunities to use music technology such as sequencing and recording.

CASE STUDY

Kaliyah, Year 11

I chose this subject because I love playing different instruments and I love listening to different types of music.

My favourite part of the courses so far is the group performing. I have also enjoyed learning about the different eras of music and the anthology and theory behind music.

I want to be a family lawyer however I love music with a passion, and I would love to be a musician so if I change my mind and decide to become a musician I would have the tools to become one.

If you are going to pick GCSE music you need prepared for a change, there is a lot more to learn it is not a simple subject it is quite complex, but it is the best subject ever.



Performing

You will perform a recital on your instrument(s) of choice, lasting at least 4 minutes in length.

Composing

You will compose two pieces of your own original music.

Listening and appraising

In this paper you take a written examination lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. You respond to questions based on recorded extracts of music on a CD. The questions are based on music in a variety of styles and traditions and are set works, which you have studied, so you know what to expect.

Will I enjoy this course?

You will enjoy this course if you enjoy:

- Performing music on any instrument or voice
- Listening to different kinds of music
- Creating your own music
- Using music technology
- Playing music as part of a group

How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

In Key stage 3 music you studied many of the musical styles and genres which are included on the GCSE music syllabus. At GCSE, you study Music in much more detail and are given the opportunity to perform much more as classes are smaller and you have five hours of lessons over two weeks, instead of one hour per week.

NB: You need to be attending instrumental lessons at the time of starting the course.

CASE STUDY

Thomas, Year 11

I chose Music as a GCSE because I enjoy listening to and analysing music as well as playing a musical instrument. Also, I like the composing and performing aspect of music so I thought that this subject would be the best to choose.

I really enjoyed it when the whole class played skyfall together, it was a lot of fun.

In the future I plan to do more songwriting and composing and this subject will teach me how to write sheet music better and use many more things to make my music sound better (e.g. accents and dynamic markings).



What about exams?

There is one examination at the end of Year 11. This exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes long and you will listen to extracts of music on a CD and answer questions about them.

Is there any coursework?

Yes. You will compose (create your own) two pieces and perform pieces of your choosing, on any instrument. These are recorded in school and then marked by your teacher.

What other skills might I develop?

As well as covering Music at GCSE level, the course will enable you to develop other key skills which are often looked for by future employers.

Examples of these are:

- Listening skills
- Creative thinking skills
- Independent learning skills
- Team-work skills
- IT skills
- Citizenship skills

What could I do next with GCSE Music?

GCSE Music is a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the A Levels in Music and Music Technology as well as BTEC National Diplomas (in Music, Popular Music and Music Technology) and the Applied A level in Performing Arts.

You may wish to take a GCSE in Music because you enjoy music and this is absolutely fine! As detailed above, it develops key communication and creative skills which are required in many jobs today. Alternatively, you may wish to pursue a career in the music or entertainment industry or even as a teacher! Whatever you choose, your love and appreciation of Music will always be an asset.

EXAMINATION BOARD: Edexcel

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:	Performing	30%
	Composing	30%
	Listening and appraising	40%

For further information contact: Miss Hughes