

GCSE Music

Is it all classical music?

No, we study a mixture of different styles from 1600 to the present day.

I have never composed my own music before, is this a problem?

No; but actually you have composed your own music in Years 7-9! We build on these skills and teach you some more techniques.

Do you have to play an instrument?

Yes, you need to be having instrumental or vocal lessons either with Durham Music Service or privately, as this forms 30% of the course.

Do you need to have a certain grade on voice/ instrument?

No, although the standard for a good pass at GCSE is roughly merit standard at grade 3-4, so if you are just a beginner now, then this might not be for you. You don't need to have passed the grade, but you need to be playing pieces at that standard.

Do you need to be able to read music?

Yes, you do, but remember that you all have learned the basics of reading music in Years 7-9 and we build on this at GCSE. It is worth noting that people generally do well at GCSE if they have done some 'ABRSM Theory in Practice' workbooks – we can help you to get started with these.

What is 'Pre-school Music'?

We offer 'Breakfast Music' for people who are already quite advanced musicians, who want to do music but have already used all their other options. See the table below for a comparison of the 'Pre-School' and 'Curriculum' options.

Pupils who are interested in exploring taking music via this way will need to contact Mr Holmes for a brief discussion before applying.

Curriculum MUSIC	'Pre-school' MUSIC
Both classes follow the same course, leave with the same qualification, and require the full amount of work for a GCSE, however there are a number of differences between the two classes;	
3 hours of lessons per week	2 hours of lessons per week
Lessons during the school day	Lessons 7.40am Tue and Wed
No lunchtime lessons necessary	Some lunchtime lessons
Help and support to improve theory and note reading (it is helpful if pupils are at least Grade 2 theory standard at the start of the course)	Need to read bass and treble clef fluently already (pupils should be at least Grade 3 theory standard at the start of the course)
Time to develop performance skills (it is helpful if pupils are at least Grade 3 instrument/voice standard at the start of the course)	Performances recorded early on in the course (pupils should be at Grade 4+ instrument/voice standard at the start of the course)
One of your options	An extra GCSE