

# GCSE Music – Y9 Transition



***Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,  
flight to the imagination, and life to everything. (Plato)***

In GCSE music you will learn how to improve your performing skills and through work in composition you will gain an insight into how music is constructed from initial ideas to the finished product. You will also learn how to analyse music in a variety of styles, through both score analysis and listening, and discover the social context in which music has been composed over the last 400 years. The areas of study cover a wide range of Music, including; classical, world and popular.

<b>Preparation</b>	<p>To be well prepared to study GCSE Music, you should,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ be having regular instrumental tuition,</li><li>✓ be at least grade 3 standard on an instrument/voice and about grade 3 standard in theory at the start of the course,</li><li>✓ practise regularly, and</li><li>✓ be an active musician.</li></ul>
<b>Overview of the course</b>	<p><b>Examination Board: Edexcel</b></p> <p><u>Component 1: Performing (30%)</u></p> <p>Students produce at least one solo and at least one ensemble performance. This part of the course is marked by the teacher and moderated by Edexcel.</p> <p><u>Component 2: Composing (30%)</u></p> <p>Students produce two compositions, one which responds to a brief set by the exam board and a second that is 'free' i.e. does not respond to an external brief. This part of the course is marked by the teacher and moderated by Edexcel.</p> <p><u>Component 3: Appraising (40%)</u></p> <p>At the end of the course students will take a 1 hour 45 minutes examination which will assess their understanding of music from four areas of study, each of which has two set works, in a variety of ways. The paper is marked externally by Edexcel examiners.</p>
<b>Short Term Focus – Half-term 1</b>	<p>In the first term we begin with an 'Introduction to Composition' to review and build upon the theoretical information from KS3. We begin two of the eight set works,</p> <p>J S Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major, and</p> <p>S Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of Wicked)</p>
<b>Why study Music?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ It enables creative learning</li><li>✓ It allows communication in a unique language</li><li>✓ It enables students to express themselves</li><li>✓ It broadens horizons</li><li>✓ It is varied and interesting, and a journey of discovery</li><li>✓ It has links to real life</li><li>✓ It is academically rigorous</li><li>✓ It is well respected by top universities</li><li>✓ It is fulfilling and challenging</li></ul>